



## Mary Jane Fester

January 8, 1937 - January 11, 2025

Mary Jane Fester, 88, passed away on January 11, 2025 at Meridian Village in Glen Carbon, IL.

Born January 8, 1937, she was the daughter of Paul and Laura (Grove) Wood of Louisville, IL, the seventh of nine children. Growing up, Mary Jane played piano and sang with her sisters, both at her home church and surrounding churches. After receiving her BA in Music Education from Asbury College, she met her husband, Rev. William (Bill) Fester at a church camp where he was preaching, and she was playing piano. After their marriage in 1961, she and Bill were posted to churches in Grand Tower, Cairo, Granite City, and Alton through the Southern Illinois conference of the United Methodist Church. Mary Jane and Bill raised three children while she continued a thirty-year career teaching elementary school music in the Granite City School district. She also took an active role in the music life of the church playing piano or organ, leading various choirs, or holding down the alto part in the sanctuary choir. She enjoyed traveling, playing cards with friends, shopping, and spending time with family. Mary Jane is survived by her three children; Douglas (James Sie) Wood of Los Angeles CA, Bradley (Maria) Festen of Northwoods IL, and Michelle (Chris) Meyers of Eureka MO; her three grandchildren; Benjamin Sie, Christina (Matthew) Prechter, and Kylie Festen; her three great-grandchildren; Immanuel, Raphael, and Salomé Prechter; and her sister; Virginia Behrens of Eugene, OR. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and seven brothers and sisters (Paul Jr., Margaret, Barbara, Joan, Elizabeth,

John, and Jim). A memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at Main Street United Methodist Church. Rev. Ed Weston will officiate with a visitation following. To view the service, please go to: <https://youtube.com/live/QEAXqU3eHYU?feature=share> In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested for the Rev. William Fester Benevolent Fund at Asbury Village. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 18. 3:00 PM (CT)

Main Street United Methodist Church  
1400 Main Street  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall

WR

“*Doug, Brad & Michelle. I have many wonderful memories of your Mom and Dad when they were appointed to MSUMC. Debbie and I greatly enjoyed all the many anniversaries we shared together. The stories and games we shared and played were priceless. Mary Jane was a proud Mom and talked about you all during our events. Live on with the good memories. She was a beautiful lady indeed.*  
Wayne

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**Wayne Ruppert** - January 23, 2025 at 11:29 AM

MA

“*Doug, Brad, and Michelle,  
May your happy memories give you peace and comfort during this  
challenging time. We will miss your mother.*  
Love ,  
*Mark, Shelley, and Sydney Schrader*

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**Mark** - January 18, 2025 at 10:56 AM

MA

“*Doug, Brad, and Michelle,  
May your happy memories give you peace and comfort during this  
challenging time. We will miss you mother.*  
Love ,  
*Mark, Shelley, and Sydney Schrader*

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**Mark** - January 17, 2025 at 10:12 PM

BP

“*Doug, Brad, and Michelle,  
Mary Jane was such a wonderful and caring  
friend. We will always treasure our 56 years of  
friendship and all of the special memories that  
we shared...family vacations, shopping trips,  
regular get-togethers, and our long phone conversations. Mary Jane  
was always full of fun, enthusiasm, and compassion for others. We  
will miss her greatly, but she will never be forgotten. God bless you,  
Mary Jane.*

*Love,  
Bob & Carolyn Pulliam*



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**Bob and Carolyn Pulliam** - January 17, 2025 at 09:30 PM

MP

“*Mary Jane has always been a dear friend.  
She will be forever missed.*

*Love,  
Melissa Pulliam*



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**Melissa Pulliam** - January 17, 2025 at 09:12 PM

AH

“*I will miss playing Canadian Salad with Mary Jane. She was the  
best amount of sass and support. I am thinking of the surviving  
family and wishing you all the strength and care I can muster.*

*Much love to all,  
Allison & Family*

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**Allison Hildestad** - January 17, 2025 at 08:31 PM

AF

“ Allison Sie Hildestad and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jane Fester.

Allison Sie Hildestad and Family - January 17, 2025 at 08:25 PM

AF

“ Allison Sie Hildestad and Family purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Mary Jane Fester.



Allison Sie Hildestad and Family - January 17, 2025 at 08:25 PM

TF

“ The Virginia Beherns Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Jane Fester.



The Virginia Beherns Family - January 17, 2025 at 01:09 PM

JM

“ I have so many fond memories of your Mom, as I spent a great deal of time at your house growing up and living across the street. When you moved in, Michelle and I became friends, and we spent a lot of time at your house on Benbow. She was such a nice person. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you! Sincerely, Judy (Johnessee) Mitchell

Judy Mitchell - January 17, 2025 at 10:46 AM

VF

“ *Virginia Shive and Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mary Jane Fester.*



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**Virginia Shive and Family** - January 16, 2025 at 11:23 PM

GF

“ *Greg and Karen Fordyce and Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Jane Fester.*



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**Greg and Karen Fordyce and Family** - January 16, 2025 at 09:44 PM

FF

“ *Felicia Roher and LeRoy Fordyce purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Jane Fester.*



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**Felicia Roher and LeRoy Fordyce** - January 16, 2025 at 09:36 PM

MW

“ Doug, Brad & Michelle. I have so many wonderful memories of you Mom at Nameoki. She was such a special lady! She was active in all aspects at Nameoki including United Methodist Women and EMB Circle.

You 2 boys will remember me as your Dad's secretary at Nameoki.

Many prayers for you and your families as you grieve the loss of you loving Mom!

Marsha Watson

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Marsha Watson - January 15, 2025 at 07:26 PM

NH

“ Nancy Hull purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Mary Jane Fester.



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Nancy Hull - January 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM

NM

“ I was fortunate to work with Mary Jane at Parkview School. As our vocal music teacher, she worked with every student. Each year she prepared a Christmas program to be presented by the second grade students. She had the ability to make every parent feel like their child was the star of the program. She was a wonderful teacher.

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Nancy Marti - January 15, 2025 at 04:24 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jane Fester.*



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January 14, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ *John Sie & The Sie Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Mary Jane Fester.*



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**John Sie & The Sie Family** - January 14, 2025 at 06:24 PM



“ *John Sie & The Sie Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jane Fester.*

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**John Sie & The Sie Family** - January 14, 2025 at 06:24 PM