

The Bilka/Balmer/Gorman family thanks you for the gift of your presence today and for every expression of kindness. Following the service, the family cordially invites you to join them in the Christian Education Building for a time of fellowship and refreshments prepared by the Presbyterian Women of Northwood and the Kitchen Krew.

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Northwood Presbyterian Church, "Scholarship Fund"
2875 State Rd. 580, Clearwater, FL 33761*

Obituary of Loisanne Bilka

Loisanne Pfeifer Bilka, passed away on September 1, just short of her 93rd birthday. She was born on September 28, 1931 to Lyla (Wirth) and Elmer Pfeifer in Pittsburgh, PA, where she and her two sisters were raised. Loisanne was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother as well as an accomplished educator.

After graduating from South Hills High School in 1949, she married the love of her life, William (Bill) Bilka, with whom she raised two daughters, Betsy and Bonnie. While raising her family, Loisanne attended the University of Pittsburgh and earned a bachelor's and master's degree. In 1971, she (with the help of her two young research assistants) earned a PhD in Education.

Her professional career spanned from being a second-grade teacher to becoming a college professor and teaching at the University of Pittsburgh, the California University of Pennsylvania, Carlow College, and Duquesne University. After leaving higher education, she established her own consulting business, serving school districts throughout the Pittsburgh area and extending her impact as a specialist in reading education. She also tutored children individually.

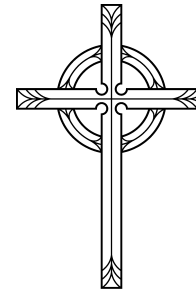
Though a trailblazer professionally, Loisanne prioritized her family. Her love for Bill, the girls, and later her grandchildren, was fierce. It was important to her to have a comfortable home, a place where dinner was routine (she was a great cook) and where friends and family could gather. She also loved to sew, making the girls' prom dresses and wedding gowns. Later in life, she embroidered hundreds of faces on teddy bears made by women from her church to donate to various charities.

Loisanne was active in the Presbyterian church throughout her life. She taught Sunday School, led various youth groups with Bill, and was active in Presbyterian Women. After she and Bill moved to be closer to their grandchildren, they joined the Northwood Presbyterian Church in Clearwater, FL, and over the years, she served as an Elder and member of the Schools and Scholarship Committees.

Loisanne believed the old adage that "there is no free gate to anything worthwhile." She had high standards and an unmatched determination to accomplish whatever she set her mind to. Her soft spots were good books, teddy bears, and ice cream.

Loisanne is survived by her two sisters, Phyllis (Edgar) Bates and Lyla (Harry) Healey; her daughters, Betsy (David) Balmer and Bonnie (Hugh) Gorman; her grandchildren Melissa (James) Brown and James Balmer; and, her great grandson, Bruce Brown. Her husband, Bill, preceded her in death.

Rev. Dr. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Paul D. Means, Associate Pastor
David Furr, Organist



A Witness to the Resurrection



**To the Glory of God &
In Loving Memory of**

Loisanne Pfeifer Bilka

September 28, 1931– September 1, 2024

Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761-3231
727-796-8090
www.northwoodpc.org

Saturday, September 28, 2024
1:00 P.M.

PRELUDE “Dawning of the Day”
Ralph Bates, Bagpipes

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Chris Curvin

INVOCATION

HYMN #1 Holy, Holy, Holy NICAEA

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the Saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Through the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see.
Only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
Psalm 121
Hugh Gorman

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE
Betsy Balmer and Bonnie Gorman

SPECIAL MUSIC “In the Garden” Mark Hayes
Stephanie Carson, Soloist

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS (*selected verses*)
Matthew 6:25-33; 2 Timothy 2:15

David Balmer

MEDITATION

Rev. Chris Curvin

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN #829 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” OLIVET

**My faith looks up to thee, thou the Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all of mu guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me;
O may my love to thee pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day;
wipe sorrow's tears away; nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When end's life's transient dream, when death's cold,
sullen stream shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then, in love, fear
and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

***BENEDICTION**

*RECESSIONAL “Amazing Grace”
Ralph Bates, Bagpipes

(Please remain in the pews while the family is escorted from the Sanctuary.)

**Please stand if able.*