



Esther Marie Heatwole

December 25, 1929 - January 12, 2021

Esther Marie Heatwole, 91, Goshen, formerly of La Junta, Colorado died 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at Goshen Hospital. She was born December 25, 1929 in Goshen, to Alvin Dale and Celesta Marie (Smucker) Bixler.

Surviving are 4 sons, Steven (Bonnie) Heatwole of Archbold, Ohio, Douglas (Theresa) Heatwole of Garden City, Kansas, Roger (Jane) Heatwole of Marshalltown, Iowa, James (Elizabeth) Heatwole of Peoria, Illinois, 10 grandchildren, 12 Great-grandchildren, brother, James (Thelma) Bixler of Elkhart, 2 sisters, Rachel (Ruperto Jr) Guedea, Lois (David) Martin both of Goshen and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death are her parents, husband, C. Franklyn Heatwole, brother, David Bixler, 4 sisters, Elizabeth Bixler, Ruth Reeser, Mary Hardin, and Joanna Bixler.

Esther was a faithful member of Emanuel Mennonite Church, La Junta Colorado.

Esther was dearly loved by her husband, sons, and their families. She had been an active member of Rocky Ford Mennonite Church earlier. Esther graduated from Goshen College and the Mennonite School of Nursing in La Junta, Colorado with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She remained involved in nursing until her retirement at Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center with many of the years as charge nurse on the OB ward. She was a founding member of the Arkansas Valley OcuVites Vision Support Group. Esther volunteered at CrossRoads MarketPlace, Arkansas Valley Hospice, Cancer Society, and Casa del Sol for many years. She loved to travel.

Visitation will be Monday, January 25, 2021, from 10 – 11 a.m. at Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Home 311 S Main Street Goshen, IN 46526. The service will be livestreamed at 11 a.m. Monday through the funeral home website, www.rrefh.com. Go to Esther's tribute page and click on photos and videos. Memorial donations may be directed towards MCC or donor's choice.

Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Home, Goshen, is handling arrangements and online condolences may be sent at www.rrefh.com

Events

JAN **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes
311 S Main Street, Goshen, IN, US, 46526

JAN **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes
311 S Main Street, Goshen, IN, US, 46526

Comments



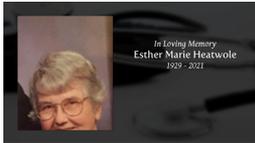
“ A webcast video has been added.



Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes - January 25 at 08:59 AM



“ An external video has been added.



Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes - January 24 at 02:31 PM



“ Rachel Guedea is following this tribute.

Rachel Guedea - January 26 at 12:41 PM



“ Esther was my aunt - my mom's big sister. She was a loving, wonderful person who reached out. Really appreciated hearing the memories of her today at the online service. Thank you.

Emily Riesser - January 26 at 01:36 AM



“ Mim Miller, Colorado here: I met Franklin and Esther Heatwole and family June, 1967 when I moved to Colorado. Esther and Franklin and I remained friends for life and I felt privileged to be considered a part of their family by them. I would frequently stay at their home when I attended MCC sales in that area. We had many a laugh and great discussions. Your mom and dad are greatly missed. May your family feel the warm embrace of our Lord, especially at this time.

Mim Miller - January 25 at 04:54 PM



“ This is Steve's friend Allen Stuckey who was only there at the start of visitation. Steve is the pastor of my childhood and youth church, Lockport. I watched the wonderful funeral service that you as a family gave online (Covid). It was all very meaningful for me.

I and my wife live at Greencroft, and I am sure that I met Esther at one or more meetings at the Community Center; (esp. after looking at all the family pictures).

From what I know of Steve , and now have seen of your extended family: I believe both

your family and mine were blessed by The Lord our God in many of the same ways. Fun and laughter , blessed in good and difficult times , and surrounded by an extended church family that was formative in our character, values, and devotion to Gog, Jesus as our Lord and friend, and the comfort and guidance of the Spirit.

And with wishes for safe travel (snow/ice /rain) for some of you.... here endeth my too long "sermon" ... OK Steve (:
Allen

Allen J Stuckey - January 25 at 02:53 PM



“ Beautiful!

Dianne Rizzuto - January 25 at 11:38 AM



“ Esther lived her faith sweetly. She loved her Franklyn with all her heart. She was the best OB nurse in the world to new mothers, answering all questions bluntly and gently. She always had a smile on her face, a warm hug to share, a chuckle in the day. She unfailing sent birthday cards to....everyone! One visit here at the ranch, after attending to a fawn, we shared a hike across the Purgatoire River in Higbee without a return back across due to a suddenly flood of the river. Her spirit and spunk a great example to the grandchildren with us on how to face an unexpected adversity as an adventure. Her love and friendship made me a better person and my life happier. She was a blessing to all that knew her. We will miss her dearly. Our love, hugs and prayers to the family. Brenda and Dave Daniher

Brenda and Dave Daniher - January 25 at 09:37 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I have known Esther since I was about 9 years old from the Rocky Ford Mennonite Church and grew up with her children. Steve and I are the same age. I know she will be missed by you all, but will live on in the many wonderful memories you have of her.

Regina (Bender) Rice

Regina Rice - January 24 at 11:17 PM



“ Thanks to Esther's many many hours of volunteer coordination, she kept the CrossRoads Marketplace store supplied with willing workers. Lynn Horner

Lynn D Horner - January 24 at 01:07 PM



“ Esther was such a kind and beautiful woman with a generous heart. She was the supervisor on OB when I gave birth to my first son. I will never forget her kind words of encouragement and excellent care she gave to me. She was very loved and respected in La Junta, CO. She touched many lives through the years with her dedication to the Lord, her nursing career and her volunteer work. May you rest in peace dear Esther. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time. May you find comfort and peace in the Lord and cherish your precious memories of Esther.

Rob and Colleen Oquist

Colleen Oquist - January 22 at 09:21 PM



“ Hello, dear Heatwole family. I am greatly saddened to hear that Esther is gone. What a fine woman she was! Of course there's the biological relationship we have. Esther was a cousin to my mother with some shifting of generations. She and my mother were very close and I felt ushered into that closeness with Esther. She was a committed church member which I very much appreciated, but what I appreciated the most was that she was a thinking, discerning church woman. Ahead of her time sometimes. We could have such interesting conversations. I always looked forward to this whenever it was possible. Esther is on my list of the women who have been influential and encouraging in my life. I am richer for having known her. Though I am sad that she is gone, I also celebrate the inquisitive, curious, faithful, humor-filled, tenacious life she lived. With love, Betsy Headrick McCrae

Betsy H. McCrae - January 22 at 11:58 AM



“ I met Esther while working at Crossroads. She was a creative efficient scheduler. I always loved seeing her in the store or around town. She was happy smiling and sharing an interesting part of her life. She was a bright light. I was blessed to have known her. Darlene Derbigny

Darlene derbigny - January 21 at 03:52 AM