



Edna L. Wenger

April 17, 1927 - November 17, 2020

Edna Wenger, 93, of Bluffton, passed away on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at Christian Care Retirement Community.

She was born on April 17, 1927 in Vera Cruz to Ervin and Frances (Moser) Walter. She was a 1945 graduate of Bluffton High School. She graduated from Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in 1949. Edna married Fred, “Freddie”, Wenger, Jr. in Vera Cruz on May 24, 1949. They shared 63 years together until his passing on September 26, 2012.

Edna was a private duty nurse and a long-term care nurse for many years. She also worked 10 years as the public health nurse for the Wells County Department of Health. Edna enjoyed being an active member of several United Church of Christ congregations. She shared her nursing skills with many organizations, including the AIDS Task Force, Crossroad Children’s Home Board of Trustees, and volunteered for the Panos Free Clinic and Focus on Health events. In addition, Edna was a champion for the underdog and will be remembered as a mentor to many.

An avid Bluffton Tiger fan, Edna attended every home basketball game when possible. She loved hats and created unique black and crimson ensembles, becoming the Tiger’s most recognizable supporter. In 2000, she received the Tiger Spirit Award. Upon hearing of Edna’s passing, a family friend observed that she will now have the best seat in the house.

As a lifelong Wells County resident, she enjoyed sewing, family gatherings, playing games, and walks in the park and on the greenway. She liked to

travel, visiting many states, including Alaska and Hawaii. She also ventured to several foreign countries.

Edna is survived by her children: Susan (Dennis Shipley) Wenger of Fort Wayne, Mark (Sheila) Wenger of Bluffton, Elaine (Dale) Wenger-Roesener of Las Vegas, NV, Fred (Patricia) Wenger, III, of Annandale, VA and Judith (Tim) Schaffter of Roanoke, along with 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a brother Raymond Walter of Fort Wayne.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Fred, Jr., her siblings Charles, Kenneth and Eileen, and beloved grandson, Benjamin.

A private family celebration of Edna's life will take place at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends wishing to watch Edna's service can do so from the safety of their home, utilizing a Zoom Meeting. You can login using the Zoom Meeting I.D. # 813 7368 1256 at 12:45 P.M. on Monday, November 23, 2020.

Private family burial will take place at Six Mile Cemetery, following the private family service.

Due to the private family service, the Wenger family requests memorials be given instead of flowers. Memorials may be made to the Crossroad Child & Family Services or Wells County Food & Clothing Bank and should be mailed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Wenger family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Six Mile Cemetery

4795 SE State Road 116
Bluffton, IN

Previous Events

ZOOM LINK TO WATCH THE FUNERAL SERVICE

NOV 23. 12:45 PM.

ZOOM MEETING ID # 813 7368 1256

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Edna L. Wenger*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 23, 2020 at 12:36 PM



“ *Edna L. Wenger*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Elaine and family, What a lovely service for Mom! My first experience with Zoom. She'd have been so pleased.*

Thinking of you. May God comfort you in the days ahead. Valerie Jackson

Valerie Jackson - November 23, 2020 at 05:53 PM



*Val,
Thank you so much for your comforting words.
I appreciate your thoughtfulness and sympathy.
Elaine*

Elaine Wenger-Roesener - November 25, 2020 at 03:16 PM

LF

“ *Wenger Family: I will miss your mom very much. Her smile & her hats were priceless. Your family is in my thoughts & prayers. And thank you for taking care of everyone @ Christian Care. Luann Fahl, Dietary, Christian Care*

Luann Fahl - November 23, 2020 at 04:42 PM

RW

“ *Edna was a very dear friend. We had many wonderful conversations and her words were always challenging. We kept in touch over the years and always looked forward to hearing from Edna. Blessings and peace to ALL her family. Giving thanks to God for Edna.*

Pastor Neil and Donna Wilson

Rev. Neil and Donna Wilson - November 23, 2020 at 01:13 PM

GB

“ *We had the pleasure of sitting next to Edna at Bluffton basketball games for several years. She was always decked out in her black and crimson attire and had her do-it-yourself scoreboard on her lap! We had many great conversations about Tiger basketball. I will always remember her as a wonderful lady and one of BHS's number one fans.*

George and Jan Babcock

George abd Jan Babcock - November 23, 2020 at 12:44 PM



“ 39 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 23, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ 10 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Elaine Wenger-Roesener - November 22, 2020 at 02:42 PM

CB

“ Dear Susan, Mark, Elaine, Fred, and Judith and families, Your wonderful Mother and of course, your Aunt Eileen, were in my life for so many years. I can't begin to tell you how her words of wisdom and of encouragement helped shape my life. She taught me to stand up for what I believe and to help those who are less fortunate. These two lessons have been with me for years. I think of her so often and now know she is organizing a Pep Rally in Heaven for all the Tiger Fans who are there. She will be missed by so many. You are in my thoughts and prayers. With Sincere Sympathy and Love
Connie Wolfcale Bade

Connie Wolfcale Bade - November 22, 2020 at 02:32 PM

EW

Connie,
Thank you so much for sharing such beautiful memories of my mom and your mention of Aunt Eileen.
Memories that are indeed very comforting.
I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Elaine

Elaine Wenger-Roesener - November 25, 2020 at 03:07 PM

SG

“ We have many memories of your mother and grandmother always being dressed up and wearing her special hats which she wore with grace and class!

She would always be willing to help others and was a true hero in the health care industry.

Mark and Sheila and Matt, our thoughts, prayers, and special sympathies go to you as coworkers, neighbors, and special friends to our son, Zach. Fred, we are also sending special sympathies and prayers as well, as we shared many memories in school together as the class of 1973 at BHS.

Susan, Elaine, and Judy... you also have our prayers and sympathies during this time of loss. Your entire family holds a special place in our hearts! May God comfort all of you!!

In Love and Sympathy,
Stan and Cindy(Rauch) Geisel

Stan and Cindy Geisel - November 20, 2020 at 10:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Edna L. Wenger.



November 20, 2020 at 09:05 PM



“ 68 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - November 20, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories of Grandmother*



Kate Curless - November 20, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ *Visiting grandma for Christmas 2019*



Karla Zepeda-Wenger - November 20, 2020 at 11:35 AM

JS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judith Schaffter - November 20, 2020 at 05:16 AM

KC

“ To the Wenger family, Your dear mother took care of my dad at the Wells County Hospital after he had suffered a stroke. She would come in for the afternoon shift and stay till midnight. My dad was in a coma for almost two weeks. However, your mom would talk to him just as if he was carrying on a conversation with her. He loved fishing. So, your mom would talk to him about fishing. I will never forget the wonderful care and encouragement she gave him and our family during that time. I'm sure there are many other families that could share a similar memory. You have my deepest sympathy.

Karan Clark - November 20, 2020 at 04:34 AM

PS

“ Dear Wenger Family,
Edna chose my son, Mark, as her “man of the year” during his senior year of Bluffton basketball. She brought him treats to every game and encouraged him. How could your dear Mom have known that Mark’s dad, Rick Bowman, would pass away mid season? That only spurred Edna to step up her game of encouragement. She attended Mark’s graduation party with separate bags of coins and sat him down to ask him if he knew what each bag meant. She scolded him when he did not, while Mark’s sister, Gina, giggled. Each bag represented the number of blocked shots, free throws, points, etc. Before she left, she handed Mark a two dollar bill with her phone number, telling him he could call her if he ever needed anything, UNLESS he called her from jail!!! This mom choked back tears of appreciation for the kindness your beautiful Mother showed my son that brutal year and she will remain embedded in our hearts forever. The world was blessed to have her on this earth for a time.

P.S. Mark carried that two dollar bill tucked away in his billfold until his wallet was stolen in the Atlanta airport on a business trip. He was more upset about losing the gift from Edna than anything else in his billfold.

*Sending love,
Peggy (Zello Bowman) Schamerloh*

Peggy Schamerloh - November 19, 2020 at 09:48 PM

JS

“ Fred, sorry to hear about your Mom. Prayers to your family.



Julie (Stout) Studebaker - November 19, 2020 at 09:46 PM


DO

“ *My thoughts and prayers to your family.*

Dave and Barb (Fair) Oswalt - November 19, 2020 at 09:40 PM

BJ

“ *Dear Elaine, Mark, Fred and Wenger Family so very Sorry to hear about your Mother Edna! Such a very Kind and Sweet lady! May all of are Prayers give u Peace, Grace, and Comfort during your Grieving time for your Mom! 🙏 I can still remember her Faithfulness at all the Bluffton Basketball games for the Boys and Girls! Also the last Birthday Party we had for her at Christian Care with some of the class of 1972 classmates! Great Memories we had! God be with u the Wenger Family! God Bless u all! Love, Barry and JoEllen Crosbie!*



❤️

Barry and Jo - November 19, 2020 at 03:57 PM

EW

*Barry and Jo,
Thank you so much for your kind words and shared memories.
I appreciate your thoughtfulness and sympathy.
Elaine*

Elaine Wenger-Roesener - November 25, 2020 at 03:03 PM

KF

“ *Elaine & family -I'm sorry to hear of Edna's passing. I remember visiting Elaine at the farm and meeting the family; may you find comfort in the coming days and share many happy memories of the past.*

Kathy Reiff Foreman

Kathy Foreman - November 18, 2020 at 03:33 PM

EW

*Kathy,
Thank you so much for sharing comforting memories.
I appreciate your sympathy and kind thoughts.
Elaine*

Elaine Wenger-Roesener - November 25, 2020 at 02:38 PM

MP

“*Dear Elaine, Mark, and Fred, Please accept my prayers and thoughts for your family. We rode the bus together, bailed hay, played football and I appreciate the support and comfort of growing up around the Wenger Family. Your mom lived a great life and you guys provided her comfort and support until the end. Amen. May God be all of your family during this time. Sincerely, Mike and Carol Pettibone*

Mike Pettibone - November 18, 2020 at 11:58 AM

PS

Dear Wenger Family,

Edna chose my son, Mark, as her “man of the year” during his senior year of Bluffton basketball. She brought him treats to every game and encouraged him. How could your dear Mom have known that Mark’s dad, Rick Bowman, would pass away mid season? That only spurred Edna to step up her game of encouragement. She attended Mark’s graduation party with separate bags of coins and sat him down to ask him if he knew what each bag meant. She scolded him when he did not, while Mark’s sister, Gina, giggled. Each bag represented the number of blocked shots, free throws, points, etc. Before she left, she handed Mark a two dollar bill with her phone number, telling him he could call her if he ever needed anything, UNLESS he called her from jail!!! This mom choked back tears of appreciation for the kindness your beautiful Mother showed my son that brutal year and she will remain embedded in our hearts forever. The world was blessed to have her on this earth for a time.

P.S. Mark carried that two dollar bill tucked away in his billfold until his wallet was stolen in the Atlanta airport on a business trip. He was more upset about losing the gift from Edna than anything else in his billfold.

Sending love,

Peggy (Zello Bowman) Schamerloh

Peggy Schamerloh - November 19, 2020 at 07:24 AM

KL

To the Wenger family,

You have my sympathy. I have included your family in my prayers.

Keith and Paulette Lindsey

KEITH LINDSEY - November 21, 2020 at 08:59 AM

LW

For the beloved family of my forever memorable FRIEND, Edna:

We at Plum Tree UCC had the privilege of meeting some of you during the time we were Blessed by Edna's presence.

Even as she became less able to be there regularly, her lap throw and her special things remained at "her" place in the sanctuary until we were forced to surrender to time and circumstances finally to close Plum Tree as an operating place of worship.

Many times, as her regular attendance was lessening at the Church, we would gather with her at her residence.

I well remember the first time Nancy and I went to visit - we asked at the front desk, don't remember the specific query, but no further info was needed - the lady knew EXACTLY whom we wanted and immediately gave directions. No need to look in any register to get us to where we were going!

May you have a lifetime of Blessed memories and celebrate the presence in our lives of your Precious Mother and our Friend!

I am sure she is having a great time renewing friendships and making new ones!

Respectfully in God's Love,

Larry Whinery

-from near Brown's Corners, and Plum Tree

P.S. If there is a pair of Purdue socks, she wore them for Nancy and Me.

Larry Whinery - November 22, 2020 at 11:04 PM