



Joan M. Swartz

March 2, 1929 - August 15, 2024

Joan M. Swartz, 95 of Bluffton, passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday morning, August 15, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Joan was born on March 2, 1929, in Garrett, Indiana to Ralph W. and Tressie M. (Newman) Zimmerman. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 1946. She worked for Caylor-Nickel Clinic in the Psychiatry and Surgery Departments from 1962 to 1985. She was a longtime member of First Church of Christ in Bluffton, where she taught Youth Group, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, along with playing the piano and organ, and she worked with the choir. Joan made it a point to choose Joy every day. She shared her joy with others through her music. She started playing piano at church at the age of 12. She played for local rest homes for many years. Joan enjoyed traveling to the Smokey Mountains and Myrtle Beach after retirement. She was a member of Tri Kappa.

Joan first met Ervin Swartz, Jr. on a blind date, set up by Bob Skiles, before Ervin entered the service. They were married on September 7, 1946, in Garrett, IN. They shared 64 years of marriage before his passing on May 29, 2011.

Joan's greatest joy in life was her family. She is survived by her daughters, Rebecca Jo (Michael Koken) Swartz of Fort Wayne and Julia Ann (Richard) Hinshaw of Bluffton. She was a cherished "GiGi" to four grandchildren; Christine (Bill) Land of North Webster, Laura (Ryan) Thomas, Rebecca (Mack) Stewart and Katherine (Travis) Brown, all of Bluffton, eight great-

grandchildren; Joe Feldman of North Webster, Caitlin (Derek) Ellard of Galway, Ireland, Lucas & Logan Stewart, Brooklyn & Addison Thomas and Caven & Ryker Brown, all of Bluffton and one great-great-grandson, Oliver Feldman of North Webster. She will be missed by her beloved cat, Posey Eloise Swartz.

Joan is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ervin Swartz, Jr., and a daughter, Kay Lynn Andrews.

Visitation will take place from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at First Church of Christ in Bluffton. Funeral services will take place at 2 P.M. on Wednesday at the church, with Pastor Mike Jefferson officiating.

Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to First Church of Christ Generations Campaign and may be directed to the funeral home.

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

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

3101 East Division Road
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-2832
<http://www.themonumentcenter.com/about/cemeteries/>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Funeral Service

AUG 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Church of Christ
909 W Spring St
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Joan M. Swartz*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 21, 2024 at 02:04 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 21, 2024 at 01:05 PM



“ *142 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - August 20, 2024 at 03:17 PM

CS

“ Dear Julie and Becky, I am so sorry for your loss. Joan was a very special lady who often accompanied me at church. I wish I could be with you tomorrow to say goodbye to a very special lady. God bless,
John and Carol Schreiber

Carol Schreiber - August 20, 2024 at 01:19 PM

TF

“ The Beggs family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joan M. Swartz.



The Beggs family - August 20, 2024 at 10:31 AM

TF

“ The Beggs family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joan M. Swartz.

The Beggs family - August 20, 2024 at 10:31 AM



“ What wonderful memories I have of Joan, Evelyn and my mom Doveanna playing piano and organ for worship and special events. May you all feel the arms of God holding you during this time

Michelle Fisher - August 17, 2024 at 07:56 PM

NM

“ What fond memories we have of Joan, Evelyn and all that have gone on to their eternal homes. We loved our years at Bluffton First Church of Christ.

Nolan and Suzanne Markley - August 17, 2024 at 08:33 AM

JS

“ Julie Studebaker lit a candle in memory of Joan Swartz



Julie Studebaker - August 16, 2024 at 08:59 PM

TS

“ Aunt Joan was a special lady who exuded love, joy and grace all the time! We loved it when she and Jr. came to Florida and spent time with us at our lake house. We enjoyed visiting with her every time we came to Bluffton, most recently just a few weeks ago. Her vibrant smile, her genuine love of her family, and her interest in our family, kids and grandkids. It goes without saying we will miss her playing the piano and mostly miss her beautiful loving smile. Rest in peace dear Joan! 🙏❤️

Terry and Mary Lynn Swartz - August 16, 2024 at 06:59 PM



“ Such a wonderful lady and former neighbor. She and her music will be missed.

Kathy Gardner - August 15, 2024 at 01:33 PM

DG

“ We are so saddened to learn of Joan's passing. She was such a talented lady. She loved playing the piano in church along with Mrs. Sprinkle when they would do their duets. She will truly be missed as one of the very long time members of First Church of Christ. The Swartz family will be in our prayers. Dan and Darlene Gerdom



Dan Gerdom - August 15, 2024 at 01:14 PM