



Mary T. Munson

January 14, 1928 - October 15, 2022

Mary Thorp Munson, 94, of Manchester, Michigan passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 15th, 2022 with her family by her side. Mary was born January 14th, 1928 in Sentinel, Oklahoma to Margaret (Mikels) Thorp and George Dewey Thorp.

Mary graduated from Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasaw, Oklahoma. She was selected as a Danforth Fellow and sent to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She led a deputation team to the West Groton Congregational Church where she met her future husband Fred who initially appeared to her as a “confirmed bachelor”. Fred knew immediately that she was the girl he would like to marry. Having a job offer in Calcutta, India sealed the deal for Mary. They were married in Calcutta in 1953, living there for a year and giving birth to their daughter Meg. This time in India began her life-long love affair with that country, which later took on a deeper dimension when she and Fred began their relationship with the family who founded the Aravind Eye Care system.

For nearly forty years, Mary and Fred traveled regularly to Aravind—Fred for consulting with the family on the Aravind organization, and Mary for a multitude of projects, often involving decorating hospital care areas and the homes of those who worked there. The Aravind family truly became a second family.

Mary loved sharing their home with others, be it with travelers from abroad, her bible study group or International Neighbors, for play-reading or political action activities. Above all, she delighted in bringing people together and creating community. An organization she recently volunteered with is Ele's Place, a healing center for grieving children.

Mary will be remembered for her joyful and infectious laughter. She loved practical jokes like her dribble glass and a small box of much used rubber chocolates, but also enjoyed laughing at herself. She is survived by her beloved husband, Fred; her children Marguerite "Meg" Munson Lueker, Cal Munson, Jon Munson and his wife Beth, and Nathan Munson; her grandchildren Dan Munson and his wife Lisa, Matthew Munson, and Michael Munson.

At the end of her journey, Mary waited patiently for all her children to arrive and say goodbye; she held hands with her husband Fred, as they did so often, and squeezed it one last time before she departed.

Friends may join the family for a time of visitation from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Bethel United Church of Christ in Manchester, MI. A Memorial Service will then be held at 11:00 A.M. A luncheon will follow the service and will also be held at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Mary's name may be made to Ele's Place, and envelopes will be available at the church. To sign Mary's guestbook, to leave a memory or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Bethel United Church of Christ Cemetery

10425 Bethel Church Road
Manchester, MI 48158

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel United Church of Christ
10425 Bethel Church Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158
<http://www.bethelonthehill.org/ContactUs/tabid/62104/Default.aspx>

Memorial Service

OCT **29**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bethel United Church of Christ
10425 Bethel Church Rd.
Manchester, MI 48158
<http://www.bethelonthehill.org/ContactUs/tabid/62104/Default.aspx>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary T. Munson*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *When I first moved to Manchester, Mary and Fred invited my husband and me to their home around the holidays. She also asked another neighbor to come by and introduced us to this neighbor as well. She was so warm and friendly, I felt like I'd been her friend for years. I never felt more like I belonged to a community than at that particular moment. I know that Mary is with the Lord and I'm sure she will be missed by many.*

Kathleen Swalwell - July 19, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ *Mary brought me a bouquet of lilacs to cheer me up just days before my daughter was born. It's like she knew I needed some sunshine. How nice it was to have that bouquet, still vibrant when we brought our daughter home. That act of kindness really meant a lot to me. God rest Mary's soul.*

ELIZABETH BARON - October 28, 2022 at 11:13 PM



“ *I only met Mary once at Kellogg Eye Center shortly after I had visited Aravind in Madurai in 2018. I had heard a lot about Mary and Fred, so I was thrilled to meet her in person. She was as warm and charming as all the stories I had ever heard. May she rest in peace. My condolences.*

CJ Rundle - October 27, 2022 at 04:18 PM

PH

“ *She was one of the most loving, wonderful people I’ve even known. Love and sympathy to the family.*

Pamela Hannula - October 26, 2022 at 07:23 AM

BK

“ *I have distant-but admiring memories of Mary and Fred, friends of my parents.*

Bob Kellum - October 26, 2022 at 05:08 AM

BA

“ *Words cannot express our love and admiration for Mary [and Fred]. What a role model for Elaine. The picture here is great in portraying her personality . We have so many superlatives to describe her, but most of all we want to send to Fred and the children our deepest, heartfelt sense of loss. As we age, look less to what lies behind and more and more to that glad reunion ahead. Oh, my Fred, we loved her--and you. Bob and Elaine Allison*

Bob and Elaine Allison - October 23, 2022 at 02:24 PM

LB

“ *My sincere condolences to Fred and family (mostly I knew Meg). I remember Mary fondly from choir and my days at Bethel Church. I always thought of Mary as such a sweet, positive role model adult. Cherish all of those wonderful memories! Lana Berry (Lutz)*

Lana Berry - October 22, 2022 at 02:24 PM

MD

“ I drove her grandson Matt to school for years. I loved watching the Scotty dog come running to meet him, with Mary right behind him. She always smiled, waved and said thank you for bring our boy home safely. Mary was always smiling and you knew you were loved. She will be missed! Mrs. (Margene) Dunsmore

Margene Dunsmore - October 22, 2022 at 11:16 AM