



## Grace Joann Whitehead

May 8, 1935 - November 6, 2019

Grace Joann Whitehead passed away peacefully at 6:45 a.m. on November 6, 2019. She was born on May 8, 1935 in Cato, Indiana to William Alva and Ruby Imogene (Selby) Barnett.

She was a 1953 graduate of Otwell High School. She went on to graduate from Deaconess School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse. She worked at Jasper Memorial Hospital and retired from a 39-year career as a school nurse in the Pike County School Corporation. She was a life-long member of the Otwell United Methodist Church.

Joann married Donald Craig Whitehead on March 23, 1957 at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Cato. She is survived by her husband, Donnie, of 62 years. Her children, Terri Whitehead, Mitch (Sally) Whitehead, and Dave (Alicia) Whitehead, grandchildren Jordan (Bobby), Alex (Laura), Hayley (Zach), Ben (Rachel), and Zach (Raleigh) and one great-grandchild, Joelle Grace.

Joann loved to read, travel, sing in the church choir, loved music, theatre, loved a good joke, and to go on outings with her closest friends. She loved being a grandmother and was proud of each of their accomplishments. She also embraced the country life, supporting her husband in farming for over 60 years.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 9, 2019 at

the Otwell United Methodist Church in Otwell, Indiana with burial to follow in the Otwell Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the Otwell United Methodist Church and from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. Saturday, November 9, 2019, at the Otwell United Methodist Church.

Online condolence may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Otwell Cemetery

Otwell, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Otwell United Methodist Church  
Otwell, IN

## Visitation

NOV 9. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Otwell United Methodist Church  
Otwell, IN

## Celbration of Life Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Otwell United Methodist Church  
Otwell, IN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Grace Joann Whitehead*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *I visited with Joann at a Methodist Church picnic when I was visiting Otwell in 1990. I have known her all my life. She recognized me at once, even though we hadn't seen each other for 20+ years. It was a really fun visit.*

*Rest in Peace, Joann and my deepest condolences to the Whitehead family.*

*Lovella Dillon Gockley  
La Grande, Oregon*

**Lovella M Gockley** - January 18, 2020 at 03:20 AM



“ *Dave, Alicia and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I did not know your mother, but from how I know your family I can only imagine how great of a m and person she was. Having lost my mother and mother-in-law, I know it is difficult. Praying for God's peace and comfort for you. Mary Irvin*

**Mary Irvin** - November 08, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ *Tina Uppencamp lit a candle in memory of Grace Joann Whitehead*



**Tina Uppencamp** - November 08, 2019 at 07:54 AM

TU

“ I remember her from school always had a smile on her face if you were crying just her talking would make you stop and smile. Sweetest person I ever meet. So sorry for your praying for all.

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**Tina Uppencamp** - November 08, 2019 at 07:52 AM



“ When looking back as a young boy, I vividly remember Mrs. Whitehead, her beautiful presence, radiant smile. Focused and always present, It was as though she was framed in light... Kind... I only knew her as Mrs. Whitehead but Grace was indeed a name that reflected her presence. My deepest condolences to her family, friends and all those touched by her kindness.

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**Eddie Casson** - November 07, 2019 at 07:20 AM

RJ

Such a kind soul. As school nurse, she treated every child as her own. Always took time for each one. Far more than most would give.

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**Rachelle Johns** - November 07, 2019 at 05:01 PM

SD

“ My kids went to Otwell Elementary & Joann treated them like her own. She was a very sweet lady!

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**Shawna Dawson** - November 07, 2019 at 05:22 AM

BS

*Mrs. Whitehead was my beloved grade school nurse at Otwell Elementary, but more than that she became my Sister in Christ as we worshipped and sang in the Choir at the Otwell United Methodist Church. When we started going to church together Mrs. Whitehead told me "My name is Joann, you can call me Joann". I just couldn't get use to that so it was always Mrs. Whitehead.*

*My love and respect for her goes back to when I was 8 years old and Mrs. Whitehead hugged and comforted this 8 year old child who was trying to deal with the death of her 10 year old sister Wanda Lou Enlow. There is a seat in Heaven's Choir for you Mrs. Whitehead. You will be missed here on earth, but what joy that you reached Heaven!*

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**Brenda Enlow Seger** - November 07, 2019 at 06:48 AM

VS

“*I feel truly blessed to have known Joan and the whole family my entire life. Joan was like a second mother to me growing up. Our families along with the Anderson clan spent many great times together riding go carts, ice skating, sledding, attending semi state basketball games, performing plays, and hanging out at the church cabin at Kentucky Lake. She will be missed! Hugs and prayers to all the family as you adjust to a new normal.* 🙏❤️

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**vicki smith** - November 06, 2019 at 10:17 PM

KE

“ Words just do not seem enough to express what a wonderful person Jo was. She always had a smile and time to talk to all. I will never forget all of the wonderful times our families, the Whiteheads, the Kabricks, and the Andersons, spent together on Kentucky Lake adventures, picnics, times in each others' homes, sled riding, and especially the week between Christmas and New Year's. Those were some of the best times of our lives growing up. Donnie and Jo were like another set of parents to us.



To Donnie, Terri, Mitch, Dave, and the rest of the family, God has accepted an angel today in heaven. Jo truly was a Christian, and her entire life was spent ministering in so many ways. We are never really ready to give up our loved ones, but know they have gone to a better place.

Love and prayers to all of you.

Kim Anderson Elliott

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**Kimberly Elliott** - November 06, 2019 at 05:44 PM

JS

Joann was such a wonderful asset to the community of Otwell. She was always there to help whenever and wherever she was needed.

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**Jerald and Linda Sendelweck** - November 07, 2019 at 11:28 PM

PC

I grew up in Otwell and Joann lived down the road from me. She was such a nice person. Later her son Mitch married my cousin Sally, making us family. Our family will certainly miss her. My thoughts and prayers are with each family member, especially Donnie, Dave, Mitch and Terri.

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**Pam Cardinal** - November 08, 2019 at 09:05 AM