

## OBITUARY



Loretta Stein (nee Bahr), age 90, of Naperville, Illinois passed away on June 20, 2021. She was born April 26, 1931 in Northwood, North Dakota, the youngest child of Edwin and Myrtle Schroeder Bahr.

Loretta grew up on a farm and went to country school. She graduated from Central High School in Grand Forks, North Dakota and attended Westmar College in Le Mars, Iowa, where she studied religion and met her future husband, Jim Stein of Cavalier, North Dakota. They were married in 1953 and moved to Naperville that same year, when Jim entered the Master of

Divinity Program at Evangelical Theological (ETS) Seminary. Loretta worked as the church secretary at First Evangelical United Brethren Church in Naperville for three years and then as secretary to the faculty at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, while Jim was a student there.

In 1958 their daughter Mary Beth was born. They moved back to Naperville in 1960 when Jim joined the faculty at ETS. Their family was complete when they adopted their son Paul in 1963. After moving to Evanston in 1974, Loretta worked at Evanston Township High School before being hired by the General Board of Pensions of the United Methodist Church where she worked for 15 years from 1982-1997, the last years as Assistant General Secretary responsible for coordinating the pension portfolios of the bishops.

Family and friends knew Loretta as exceptionally friendly, generous and kind. She was dedicated to her family and very involved in the spiritual and social life of Trinity United Methodist (Wilmette, IL) and Community UMC (Naperville) congregations. In retirement Loretta and Jim traveled widely and often with family and friends. In 2016 they moved to Monarch Landing (Naperville), where they found old friends and made many new ones.

Loretta is the devoted wife of K. James Stein and beloved mother of Mary Beth Stein (Bruce Blundell), mother-in-law of Nikki Pearson Stein, grandmother of Garrett, Sydney, Drew and Wyatt Stein, and great-grandmother of Parker Jo Stein, and Zarah, Nola and Marlee Concepcion. She was preceded in death by her parents, her siblings Myron Bahr, Vivian Rebsch Luwe, Arlene Krueger and by her beloved son Paul.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made toward the Christian education and music ministries at Community UMC ([onecumc.net/donate](http://onecumc.net/donate)) or Trinity UMC ([trinitywilmette.com/give](http://trinitywilmette.com/give)).

**Loretta's family warmly invites everyone to join them in a reception in Fellowship Hall to continue the celebration of Loretta's life.**

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."

*Psalms 28:7, New International Version*

# A Celebration of Life for LORETTA B. STEIN



**Saturday, June 26, 2021, 2:00 pm**

Community UMC • 20 Center St, Naperville, IL 60540

630 355 1483 • [onecumc.net](http://onecumc.net)

You are invited to speak the words in **bold**.

ORDER OF SERVICE  
**LORETTA B. STEIN**

April 26, 1931 – June 20, 2021

Prelude "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

## THE GATHERING

Greeting & Welcome Rev. Jeremiah Lee

Pastor: Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Loretta Stein.

**People: We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss.**

Pastor: May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Prayer Rev. Hannah Hwa-Young Chong

## SCRIPTURE AND PROCLAMATION

Scripture Ephesians 2:1-10 Sydney Stein,  
John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27 Granddaughter

Sermon "Not What We Expected" Rev. Tom Babler

Witnesses Marty Schwab, Friend • Mary Mueller, Friend  
Duane Mevis, Friend • Ann Weatherhead, Friend  
Kathryn Hartrick, Friend • Mary Beth Stein, Daughter

Hymn "It Is Well With My Soul"

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius**

**Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from  
the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic  
church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## COMMENDATION AND PRAYERS

Prayers of Thanksgiving Rev. Jeremiah Lee  
Rev. Doug Bowden, Friend

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy  
kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give  
us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive  
those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn "For All the Saints"

## SENDING FORTH

Pastor: Christ went before us in death, as has our loved one, Loretta,  
showing us the way into eternal life.

**People: We celebrate the good life we have shared with Loretta.**

Pastor: God has given. God has received that which was loaned to us.

**People: We are thankful for the good days we shared.**

Pastor: The grace of Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**People: Amen.**

Postlude "Postlude on A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"  
Ein' Feste Burg by Martin Luther, arranged by Eleanor Whitsett

## MUSICIANS

Chris Garofalo, Director of Music Ministry, Organ  
Chris DiMarco, Cantor