



Margaret Ann Punches

April 3, 1940 - December 1, 2024

Margaret Ann Punches, 4/3/1940-12/1/2024

Margaret Punches, 84, of Onekama, Michigan, went to be with our Lord on December 1, 2024. Margaret had her husband George and her daughter Ann by her side. Margaret had a brief but courageous battle with cancer.

Born Margaret Ann Whalin in Saginaw, Michigan, on April 3, 1940, to Ward and Virginia Whalin. Margaret graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1958 and then attended Central Michigan University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1962. Margaret moved to Clare, Michigan, in 1963 where she taught until 1966. On June 20, 1964 she married George Punches, the love of her life. The couple went on to have three children: Ann, John, and Jeff. Margaret worked as a teacher in Clare from the mid- 1970's until retiring in 2000.

Margaret was an avid member of her community and an entrepreneur. Along with her husband, she owned and operated Punches Pharmacy Plus and Hallmark Shop in Clare, Michigan and Fun Stuff under the Tree in Onekama. She was a charter member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clare, raising her family in a Christian household and establishing treasured lifelong friendships through her faith. Her commitment to education spanned decades, teaching numerous grades in Clare, Junior Achievement courses and serving on the school board for both the Clare and Onekama School Districts.

Margaret was also involved in numerous clubs and held leadership positions

in the Portage Lake Association, Garden Club, Junior Clio, Onekama Summer Concert Series, Trinity Lutheran Church in Onekama and Arcadia. She loved participating in book clubs, and bible studies and the friends she made along the way. She was a wonderful role model to everyone she met and she will be sorely missed by so many but we are all better for having known her.

Margaret was also a competitive sportswoman, competing in tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard and chili cookoff competitions, and if going against her grandchildren in Sequence or any card game, would show them how winning is done(or how to lose gracefully and never ever cheat). Most of all, Margaret was dedicated as a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She helped create "Camp Nana & Pops" where her grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered at her house annually and were profoundly impacted by the love, compassion, laughter, songs and activities that she created in an effort to be constant and active in all their lives.

Margaret is survived by her husband George, children Ann (Married to Jim Reeves of Manistee, Mi), John (Married to Bunny Panches of Holland, Mi) and Jeff (of Midland, Mi). She is also survived by her sisters Barbara Wild (of Cadillac, Mi) and JoAnne (Married to Harry Engel of Cadillac), various cousins, and 17 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Darby (Scott Smith of Chesterfield, Mi great-grandchildren Ryhan, Charlotte and Emilia), Zoe (Jordan Greenfield of Cadillac, Mi great-grandchildren Ethan and Carter), Colton (Ana Panches of Bourbonnais, IL), Sierra Benchley, Tanner Panches, Chloe Reeves(grandson David), Ross Benchley, Claire Reeves, Jake Panches, Fletcher Panches and Fisher Panches. Margaret is preceded in death by her parents Ward and Virginia Whalin.

A Memorial Service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Mi on December 9th at 11:00 am with time to visit with the family starting at 9:30am, luncheon following. There will also be a Memorial Service at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clare, Mi on December 13th at 11:00 am with time to visit with the family starting at 10 am. Burial will take place privately in the Cherry Grove Cemetery in Clare. In Lieu of flowers donations can be made to

Trinity Lutheran Church food pantry (<https://www.trinityarcadiami.org/give>) or Onekama Junior Achievement. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
17191 3rd Street
Arcadia, MI 49613

Celebration of Life

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
17191 3rd Street
Arcadia, MI 49613

Luncheon to follow service.

Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
10333 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Celebration of Life

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
10333 S. Clare Avenue
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Mrs. Punches "hosted" as many as 10 or more boys (friends of the Punches boys) at the Punches' home and swimming pool many, many days in the late 1970s and 1980s. She must have been amazed how quickly food disappeared from the Punches' refrigerator. One day after a particularly aggressive game of basketball (I guess what we played was some form of "basketball" -- a lot like the 1980s Pistons style of Bad Boys basketball) in the Punches' driveway, she drove me to Dr. Neff's office to get my chipped tooth repaired and waited there with me until Georgia Tracy arrived. She even tried to calm Georgia down some, which she somehow amazingly accomplished -- no small feat! I have many, many fond memories of spending time with Mrs. P and the Punches family. She was one of many mothers that looked out for all of us with the proper balance of letting us find our own way and in the process of not experiencing serious bodily harm. This often was a difficult balance to achieve, but she did it. Thank you Mrs. PUNCHES!

Chris Tracy - December 12, 2024 at 02:30 PM

CL

“ George, Ann, John and Jeff. Our prayers are with all of you in this time of loss. I will always remember Margaret was a gracious person. She was a wonderful teacher and when visiting her home she was warm and welcoming. She will always be remembered.

Carl and Patti Leis - December 10, 2024 at 04:29 PM

CM

“ George and family, from our home to yours, our deepest condolences on Margaret’s passing. We have such precious memories of our many times together in small group bible study that the two of you led in creating. We will all miss her! Her smile, laughter, and love for the rest of us. Thank you for sharing her with us. Let’s all celebrate the joy of her presence in Heaven! Love to you, Chuck and Nancy May

Chuck and Nancy May - December 08, 2024 at 07:04 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann PUNCHES.



December 08, 2024 at 10:17 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann PUNCHES.



December 06, 2024 at 08:52 PM

JS

“ I remember our canoe trips together and stopping by your home in Clare.

James Snyder - December 06, 2024 at 10:29 AM

JB

“ James and Ann Beukelman purchased the Full of Love Bouquet for the family of Margaret Ann Punches.



James and Ann Beukelman - December 05, 2024 at 04:29 PM

JM

“ John & Sherri Carey, Paul & Pam Marlett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret Ann Punches.

John & Sherri Carey, Paul & Pam Marlett - December 05, 2024 at 11:17 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Ann Punches.

December 05, 2024 at 11:14 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Punches.



December 05, 2024 at 11:14 AM



“ George, I remember on occasion when Margaret came to my decoy shop in

Bear Lake with you. She was a great lady. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Dave Kober

Dave Kober - December 04, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ George, this is a really tough time. Margaret was a very special person and he two of you built a beautiful family and many accomplishments.i wish I knew the magic words to ease your pain.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pat McKercher

Patrick L McKercher - December 04, 2024 at 01:20 PM



“ George, I am very sorry for your loss. Margaret was a special woman and a great partner.

John and Pam Lower - December 04, 2024 at 08:48 AM

CD

“ George, I am so deeply sorry to learn of the passing of your best friend, partner in crime and your forever love. My mom and dad (Jean & Dick Fitzpatrick) so loved your company, laughter and shenanigans. It will be lonely, but please remember that she (they) are all still a part of you. May all the happy memories give you comfort. Lean into your loving family and feel their support. Please take care. Colleen Fitzpatrick Donehue

Colleen F Donehue - December 04, 2024 at 07:19 AM

BF

“ Mr. George PUNCHES, Ann, John, and Jeff - I am so sorry for your loss. Your mother was one of the loveliest women I've ever known. She was always so encouraging and welcoming, and I remember her at EVERY school and extra-curricular event her children attended! From being a room mom, going on field trips, summer softball (I remember her, Myrna Leinweber, and my mom laughing during the games), assemblies, band functions - you were truly blessed, I'm sure, to have had her as a mother, as I was to have known her at all. I hope you find peace and solace in your memories, and that God will aid you in your grief. Oh, that we could have our parents forever.

Betsy Feneley - December 04, 2024 at 06:29 AM

MM

“ May the family find comfort and solace in their memories Trevor and Melanie Muir

Melanie Muir - December 04, 2024 at 12:37 AM

DL

“ Margaret and I had girls the same age. Eventually we became Girl Scout leaders and took our troops on many camping adventures. Lisa falling off the bunk and breaking her braces, Amy breaking her leg while snow sledding, etc. So many memories. Margaret has always been a special woman, I was proud to call my friend. So sad for George, Ann, John and Jeff! So good to hear she did not suffer long.

Diane Lambert - December 03, 2024 at 07:39 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret Ann Punches.



December 03, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Ann Punches.

December 03, 2024 at 04:22 PM

BH

“ I was lucky enough to teach with Margaret for many years. Her dedication to her students , and especially to encouraging her female students in the area of the sciences was absolute. Her quiet strength will be missed but never forgotten.

Bruce Hales - December 03, 2024 at 03:53 PM

CK

“ Cheryl, Jeff, and Kids purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Margaret Ann Punches.



Cheryl, Jeff, and Kids - December 03, 2024 at 02:50 PM