



Rev. Linda S. Gruber

June 24, 1947 - April 13, 2016

Rev. Linda Springer Gruber, OCC, 68, daughter of the late Jonathan and Mary (Yohn) Springer Mackey, died on April 13, 2016 at her home in Upper Providence Township. Her death was sudden and unexpected, as she was in the midst of a courageous fight against breast cancer – she had successfully completed chemotherapy and was ready to have surgery the day after her death. Her hope and expectation was to be back to her real passions – fishing, gardening, and traveling – sometime in the not too distant future.

Rev. Gruber served for 33 years as Pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Phoenixville, PA, retiring at the end of 2013 and being honored with the title Pastor Emerita. She has served as the President of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society since 2003 and previously held many Association, Conference and National positions within the United Church of Christ. Among many other roles, Rev. Gruber served terms on the Executive Council of the UCC and the UCC Church World Ministry Board, as Moderator of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Conference of the UCC, and as Chair of the Church and Ministry Committee of the Ursinus Association. Other notable volunteer positions which Rev. Gruber filled included time spent on the Board of St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter in Phoenixville, the Advisory Board for Phoenixville Hospital Educational Services, the UCC Historical Council, the Board of the Mercersburg Society, Chair of the Phoenixville Interfaith Council, and the National Steering Committee of Confessing Christ. At the time of her

death, Rev. Gruber also served as the Prior of the Order of Corpus Christi.

Rev. Gruber was a graduate of Wilson High School, West Lawn, PA and held a Bachelor degree from Albright College, Reading, PA and a Masters of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary. She was ordained in 1978.

Rev. Gruber is survived by her husband of over 42 years, Christopher O. Gruber, a daughter, Denise, wife of Larry Challenger of Pottstown, and two grandchildren, Marissa and Bryce.

Friends will be received from 9:15 am - 11:15 am Tuesday morning, April 19, 2016 at the Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., 610 South Main Street, Phoenixville, PA. Due to the abundance of Rev. Gruber's family, friends and professional relationships, the Funeral Service will be held at the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville, PA on Tuesday, April 19, 2015 at 12:00 pm. Officiating will be Rev. Dr. F. Russell Mitman and Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Krommes. Burial will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 10:30 am in the Sinking Spring Cemetery, Sinking Spring, PA.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made in Rev. Gruber's name to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society (555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603), St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter (209 Emmett Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460), or Stretch the Ride (1611 Medical Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464), a fund to help cancer patients at Pottstown Memorial Regional Cancer Center/Radiation Oncology. Condolences may be made by visiting www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc., Phoenixville, PA.

Cemetery Details

Sinking Spring Cemetery

Sinking Spring, PA

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 19. 9:15 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc.
610 South Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
(610) 933-3572
<https://CampbellEnnisKlotzbachFuneralHome.com/>

Funeral Ceremony

APR 19. 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
355 St. John's Circle
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *Pastor Gruber was a JOY...she brought along a ray of sunshine every time she came to our farm market...she raised us up when we were feeling down. Her death leaves an enormous sadness in our hearts. We pray that the wonderful memories of her will bring Gods Peace to all whose lives she touched. May the Peace of the Lord be with you always.
With Our Sincere Sympathy, Jay and Carol Renninger, and Our Farm Family*

Carol and Jay Renninger - April 29, 2016 at 03:29 PM



“ *I have sweet memories of Rev. Linda working in her flower garden outside of the church. I also appreciate her drive to get the church members re-cycling. She was a no non-sene, loving and lovable individual with an astounding sense of humor*



Irene Lisinski - April 18, 2016 at 08:14 PM

SM

“ *I am so saddened to learn of Rev. Linda's passing. I have such respect for her spiritual and community leadership and compassion. She was a wonderfully supportive friend and mentor. I send warmest condolences and prayers to Chris, Denise and family.*

Santo D. Marabella

Santo D Marabella - April 17, 2016 at 10:20 PM

MC

“ *Margie Pavlik And Frank Cook lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber*



Margie Pavlik and Frank Cook - April 17, 2016 at 07:20 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Linda S. Gruber .*



April 17, 2016 at 07:16 PM

GW

“ *Chris*

You have my most sincere condolences over the loss of your wife. May the memory of your many years together give you everlasting comfort and peace.

Jerry Westerbeck

Gerald Westerbeck - April 17, 2016 at 01:19 PM

RC

“ *Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber*



Rev. Candi Cain-Borgman - April 16, 2016 at 08:14 PM



“ Chris, Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Linda was a kind soul and will be greatly missed. ~Sharon (Babb) Wanamaker

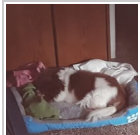
Sharon Wanamaker - April 16, 2016 at 07:30 PM



“ Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa, and Bryce,
There are no words to express our sorrow. We give thanks to God for the person, the life, and the ministry of Rev. Linda. She was our pastor, our shepherd, our teacher, our mentor, our confidante, and, best of all, our friend. We talked lots, we laughed (will always remember that robust laugh), we disagreed, sometimes rather boisterously (imagine that!), we prayed, and we worshiped together. We were so blessed! May God's everlasting arms enfold you all in love and uplift you and comfort you, and may the zillions of good memories help you to smile and lift your spirits in the difficult days ahead.

With Love and Prayers,
Betty and Charlie Booraem

Betty and Charlie Booraem - April 16, 2016 at 05:51 PM



“ Connie Kulp lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber



Connie Kulp - April 16, 2016 at 03:20 PM

TM

“ Dear Chris and Family...Laurie and I were saddened to hear of Linda's passing. Ron called to inform us last Evening. We are sure God has wrapped her in Eternal Light and she is at Peace. In Sympathy..Tom and Laurie Miller ...Whitehall Pa

Tom Miller - April 16, 2016 at 03:19 PM

SF

“ Dear Chris and family:

Linda meant so much to our family and shared many of our happiest moments. The boys (now middle-aged men) still fondly remember our trip to the hunting camp and how beautifully Linda conducted their wedding services--all for a nice bottle of scotch.

We send our heartfelt sympathy, friendship and condolences to you and all your family. In this tough time, we hope that brings some comfort.

Love to you Chris,

Steve and Bev Flannery

Stephen Flannery - April 16, 2016 at 02:02 PM

CD

“ 1 file added to the album At St. John's UCC 2002



Chris Drennen - April 16, 2016 at 06:52 AM

IS

“ *Irena Struk lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber*



Irena Struk - April 15, 2016 at 11:06 PM

PM

“ *We are so saddened to learn of Pastor Linda's sudden passing and send our sincerest sympathy to her family. She will be so greatly missed. We were blessed to have come to know Pastor Linda through PSEC committees and events, had the honor to worship with her at St John's, and again when she led worship this summer at our church, Friedens UCC in Sumneytown, as our supply pastor. Our lives are enriched by sharing a part of our life journey with this great lady...so exceptionally kind, caring, wise, compassionate, and giving. May all those that loved Pastor Linda be enfolded in God's great love in the time ahead to bring peace and comfort.*

Pam and Fred Morris

Pamela Morris - April 15, 2016 at 11:10 AM

PJ

“ Dear Chris and family,
The hearts and prayers of so many colleagues, parishioners, and friends reach out to you. Linda's smile, robust laugh, joy in faithful service, love for the Church, compassion towards God's people, and dedication to her calling are treasured gifts she gave gladly on behalf of Christ. Her sincerity was mixed with a delightful sense of humor. She was a voice for the voiceless and readily offered her heart to those who are often forgotten and left behind. Her faithful witness, steadiness in her calling, listening with concern, and shepherding are gifts that have comforted, nurtured, sometimes stretched, and always guided me and many, many others to still waters and green pastures. In the days ahead, may the promises of our Risen Lord and the prayers of God's people bring peace to your hearts and homes.
Paul L. Jones
(Pastor of St. John's UCC, Pricetown, PA)



Pastor Paul L. Jones - April 15, 2016 at 10:42 AM

RG

“ Rev.Gruber was our Supply Pastor a number of times last summer . Friedens UCC really connected with her. So sorry for this sudden loss to her loved ones and all who cared for her.

Ronda gray - April 15, 2016 at 10:01 AM

KB

“ Kerry Bradt lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber



Kerry Bradt - April 15, 2016 at 09:37 AM

RD

“ Rosemarie Schrupp - Dettra lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber



Rosemarie Schrupp - Dettra - April 15, 2016 at 09:18 AM

MS

“ Chris,
My sincere thoughts, prayers and condolences go out to you and your family for your profound and sudden loss. If I can help in any way, ...an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on...please know that it is here for you.
Regards,
Mark (Sollenberger)

Mark Sollenberger - April 15, 2016 at 07:55 AM

JM

“ Linda will be greatly missed by all the Adahi girls. She was an inspiration to all of us. She always took the time to share her wisdom and compassion when needed. Wohelo.....

Judy Martin - April 15, 2016 at 07:46 AM

KB

I actually met Linda as a counselor at Camp Adahi in 1967, at that time it was the tender age of 11 and now I'm 60. Linda took me and my sister Karen in and nurtured us. I can't tell you enough about the size hole in my heart. Wohelo

Kora Bauernschmidt - April 15, 2016 at 12:43 PM

KL

“ I am heart-broken to hear this news. I spoke to Linda just two weeks ago when she counseled me as I began my chemotherapy. I will remember her wonderful laugh and no-nonsense approach to life. My sympathy goes out to Chris and all her family. Sister Karen Lovelace, OCC.

Karen Lovelace - April 15, 2016 at 05:58 AM

KJ

“ Kora, Tim and Jennifer purchased the A Devoted Heart Casket Insert for the family of Rev. Linda S. Gruber .



Kora, Tim and Jennifer - April 15, 2016 at 05:13 AM

KO

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



korabauernschmidt - April 15, 2016 at 04:01 AM

KB

“ Kora Bauernschmidt lit a candle in memory of Rev. Linda S. Gruber



Kora Bauernschmidt - April 15, 2016 at 03:35 AM

KB

“ I am in total shock! I have known Linda since I was 11 years old. She was mother to me and she and Chris were my daughters God parents. There will forever be a hole in my heart where she always dwelled. No words could ever be found to sing enough praises about her. Chris and Denise I feel your loss as much as you. You both know what my relationship had been and meant to me and son Tim. I have always loved you Linda-please continue to guide me from heaven.

Kora Bauernschmidt - April 15, 2016 at 12:38 AM



“ Linda was my dear sister in the Order of Corpus Christi. Her baptism is complete and she rests in the arms of her Savior. May she rest in peace and rise in the church to which she gave her life. She will be greatly missed.

Wes Jamison - April 14, 2016 at 10:14 PM

TO

“ I am so very sorry to learn this news. You are all in my prayers, and we will include her, and all of you, in our prayer intentions this coming Sunday at St. John's UCC in Waukegan, IL. She was a friend, a tireless champion for the E&R history of our denomination, and a dedicated member of the OCC. We are diminished by her loss, but grateful for the time we had with her. - The Rev. Dr. James J. Olson

The Rev. Dr. James J. Olson - April 14, 2016 at 08:38 PM

GC

“ Where do I even begin to put into words that which cannot be expressed?...my heart is broken, as surely as I sit here, my heart is broken...Reverend Linda Gruber IS such an integral part of my life and my family...she IS my wise and trusted counselor, my spiritual guide, my pastor, my mentor and my friend...an ever present ear to listen, a continual and challenging call to higher purpose, a powerful force of faith and strength....Thank you Rev....thank you for the EVERYTHING.....to Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce...ALL my Love, all my prayers, all my thoughts are yours...

Gary Cooper

gary Cooper - 1 second ago

gary Cooper - April 14, 2016 at 08:30 PM

JN

“ I just read this. I am so sad and truly speechless. She was one of a kind, a truly great and inspirational preacher and a generous and compassionate minister. She will be greatly missed by so many people.

Jane Richards Nechin - April 14, 2016 at 04:54 PM

NS

“ I just heard. I'm beyond words. This is difficult even to process. My sincere and heartfelt sympathies at the loss of such an amazing woman who was truly an enormous influence in my life.

Nancy Stock - April 14, 2016 at 04:22 PM

LS

“ Sincere sympathy to the Gruber and Challenger families. We are deeply saddened by the sudden loss of Rev. Linda. Peace, Love, and Blessings to Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Leslie. Mike and Tracy Staley

Leslie Staley - April 14, 2016 at 03:46 PM

JC

I am at a loss to express the depth of my sorrow. Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce - you are in my thoughts and prayers. She was truly one of the most special and beloved people in my life and will leave an incredible void.

Jo Anne Scanlin Cooper - April 14, 2016 at 06:16 PM

JH

I was so lucky yesterday to share in the most wonderful "Service of the Resurrection" ever. That a beautiful service for such a wonderful lady! I still have tears in my eyes when I think about it. Denise, Larry, Bryce, Merissa and Chris I send you all my love and prayers and know that God will hold you all in the palm of his hand and comfort you in the days ahead. Thank you so much for sharing Linda with all of us....we are so lucky and will hold those memories in our hearts forever.

Judy Hahn - April 20, 2016 at 08:24 AM

KK

“ What a tremendous shock and loss to so many people! Rev was our pastor, our friend, our confidant - and sometimes allowed us to reverse rolls when she needed a listening ear as well. She will forever remain in our hearts as the strong leader of St. John's UCC. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce in this time of intense sadness. Sincerely, Butch and Kathy Kappel

Kathy and Walt Kappel - April 14, 2016 at 02:58 PM

DS

For 33 years I was Director of Music during the pastorate of Rev. Linda Gruber. She was an excellent pastor and enjoyed good music, but did not qualify as a member of the music department. This was a standard joke which produced many laughs over the years. My sincere sympathy to Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce.

Doris Selwitz - April 14, 2016 at 06:21 PM

GC

Where do I even begin to put into words that which cannot be expressed?...my heart is broken, as surely as I sit here, my heart is broken...Reverend Linda Gruber IS such an integral part of my life and my family...she IS my wise and trusted counselor, my spiritual guide, my pastor, my mentor and my friend...an ever present ear to listen, a continual and challenging call to higher purpose, a powerful force of faith and strength....Thank you Rev....thank you for the EVERYTHING.....to Chris, Denise, Larry, Marissa and Bryce...ALL my Love, all my prayers, all my thoughts are yours...

Gary Cooper

gary Cooper - April 14, 2016 at 08:29 PM

RK

Linda, you were a rock to me, you were an advisor to me, but most of all you were a very dear friend to us. You left us too soon. It is so hard to bear this hurt. Paula and I will miss you so very much. You will forever be in our hearts.

Ron and Paula Keiser

Ron Keiser - April 18, 2016 at 08:32 PM