



Esther Jane Shenk

December 25, 2023

Esther Jane Anderson Shenk was born in Norwalk, Connecticut to Rev. Alfred and Lydia Anderson. The Lord took Esther home on Christmas day, 2023. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Leon, in 2008.

Known as “the pigtailed wonder” in high school for her athletic abilities, Esther could outscore and outrun anyone on a basketball court.

Esther graduated from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts, with a degree in psychology. She moved to the Lancaster area shortly after graduation and was employed by Murray Insurance, Franklin & Marshall College, and eventually retired from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

As a gifted musician and pianist, she could play any song in any key and style by ear. Esther spent decades serving the Lord in many churches as a pianist. In addition, Esther and her beloved husband, Leon, worked tirelessly for years in ministry, bringing music and the gospel message to residents in various nursing homes. They shared a profound faith in God and selflessly shared God’s love with others.

Leon and Esther spent time in retirement crafting windchimes and spending time with grandchildren. They have fond memories of sledding down the steep hill behind Leon and Esther’s home.

Esther was fiercely competitive in board games but could always soften her victories with her easy laugh and a huge smile. She deeply impacted the lives of her nieces and generously loved them. Their love of a nightly bowl of ice cream, amusement park rides, and long, newsy letters is a direct tribute to that love and influence.

The burial service will be private.