



Eileen Gingrich

May 17, 1929 - December 10, 2024

We are saddened to announce, but joyfully celebrate that Eileen Howe Gingrich went to be with her Lord on December 10, 2024, after a long and unique life on Earth.

Eileen was born Aileen Mae Howe on May 17, 1929, in Dansville, Michigan to the late Clifford and Lucille (Hedglen) Howe. She grew up traveling across central and eastern Michigan as her father moved to different Free Methodist pastoring assignments, learning her trademark resourcefulness and hosting skills from an early age. She graduated from Spring Arbor High School (at the time Spring Arbor Junior College), where she sang in the girl's glee club, a cappella choir, and mixed quartet. In 1949 Eileen moved to Bad Axe, Michigan, where she worked at the Bad Axe Grain Elevator for 5 years. She married James Gingrich June 25, 1949.

She and Jim, who worked for the US Postal Service, remained in Bad Axe, a place she loved with all her heart. After briefly residing in Verona, Jim and Eileen, with the help of family and friends, built a house just outside Bad Axe from a pattern in a Popular Mechanics magazine. Together they raised three children: Janet (1952), David (1956), and Jeffrey (1961). Eileen worked as a bookkeeper at Sageman's Jewelry in downtown Bad Axe for 25 years and loved to tell stories about the china, gifts and jewelry they sold. Eileen was a dedicated member of the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church where she was the

church society secretary for many years, taught Sunday school classes for nearly every age from two through adult, participated in choir as well as in crafting gatherings. Eileen was an avid seamstress, enjoying both sewing and cross stitching, and sang in the Bad Axe Community choir for several years. She and Jim enjoyed the outdoors, taking road trips to visit family and viewing the wildlife around their home.

She was preceded in death by her husband James Ephraim Gingrich, daughter Janet (Barry) Eads, sister Mary Louise (Salvatore "Sam") Evola and brother Rae (Evelyn) Howe.

She leaves behind her two sons: David (Nancy) Gingrich and Jeffrey (Emily) Gingrich, her grandchildren Jessie (Sean) Trudgeon, Jodi (Jamin) Bradley, Daniel (Jamie) Eads, Erin, Hannah, Nathan (Rachel), Mary Andrea, Christopher, and Andrew Gingrich, her great-grandchildren Beckett, Jericho, Olivia, Emmett, and Lachlan as well as several nieces, nephews and in-laws. The family would especially like to thank the many home health care workers and the dedicated staff at Courtney Manor for caring for our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother during the final season of her life. A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 11 am at the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church. Memorials may be offered to Spring Arbor University or the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bad Axe Free Methodist Church
165 Pigeon Rd.
Bad Axe, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *David and Jeff and families- Sending our love and condolences. We have so many happy memories of our years together with Jim and Eileen, Janet and you both. We can remember sitting around your dining room table and visiting. I especially enjoyed singing duets with your mom. She sang sweet harmonies especially with the old hymns. So glad we get to spend. Eternity together. Love, John and Laurie White*

Laurie White - February 05, 2025 at 09:07 PM

JG

So many good memories of those days. Thanks for your comments.

Jeffrey Gingrich - May 03, 2025 at 01:49 PM

CH

“ *To Eileens family. She was a special friend to my mother Betty Binder, and now they are both with the Lord, and we will miss them here but will see them again some day. Carol Henny*

Carol Henny - January 08, 2025 at 09:47 AM