



## Marilyn G. Stevens

November 11, 1926 - September 22, 2023

Stevens, Marilyn Geneva, September 22, 2023 age 96 of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Whitney. Loving mother of Melinda (Rick), Mark (Debbie), Matthew (Mary). Gathering of family and friends Sunday, November 12th 2-4 PM at Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 445201 North Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Celebration of Life Service Sunday, November 12th 3 PM at church. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, March of Dimes, or Plymouth 1st United Methodist Church. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

### Family Obituary:

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of our Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, Marilyn Stevens, age 96, on Friday, September 22, 2023. Marilyn was the wonderfully loving mother of Melinda Smegal (Rick), Mark Stevens (Debbie) and Matthew Stevens (Mary), the caring Grandma of Scott (Jen), Jonathan (Lori), Lindsay (Dave), Darren, Emily and Jennifer, and the sweet GG of Fynn, Kate and Cole.

Marilyn was predeceased by her beloved husband of 75 1/2 years, Whitney, in July 2022.

Marilyn was born on November 11, 1926 in Kansas, the only child of Merton and Verna Slater. They lived on a farm where they raised animals, had a large garden, made their own clothes and Marilyn went to a one-room schoolhouse. At the age of 12, Marilyn's family sold all their possessions and moved to

Detroit so Merton could find work. Marilyn and Whitney met at church when they were 14, developed a loving relationship, and married in 1946.

Marilyn, working as a homemaker and Office Manager, and Whitney, working for Ford Mo Co, lived in Detroit until moving to Plymouth, Michigan in 1964.

Wonderful Family Christmas gatherings were fun every early November, playing with toys and games, having luscious dinners, and taking that family photo. Once they retired, they travelled to Bradenton, Florida every winter to be with, what developed as, their Florida family. Marilyn and Whitney enjoyed the mild weather down there, playing cards, going out to eat, celebrating friends' events, and always welcoming family members who could book some vacation time to come for a visit. Many a family member loved going to the beach and going out to that special seafood restaurant.

Throughout Marilyn and Whitney's lives, they had a passion for family connections and values. Times spent with kids and grandparents were always planned. Being with relatives was special and provided many treasured moments for them. Watching their grandkids have 4H competitions, play sports, swim, and do Ninja Gym, among other events, was fun too. All phone calls, visits during the holidays and any other times, cards sent to/from them, were all full of love and caring.

Marilyn and Whitney were "relationship people". Many of the friendships they had in high school and church youth group continued for decades. Staying connected was actively pursued by Marilyn and Whitney. They accepted all people, chatting with them, finding out what made them "tick". Helping others was important to them as they willingly helped at church, assisted neighbors and family, and helped introduce newcomers. No one was a stranger for exceedingly long when Marilyn and Whitney were around!

This past year was difficult for Marilyn because she lost "the love of her life" last year, yet she continued to be positive, loving and interested in everything related to family and her friends at Independence Village Senior Residence, in Plymouth. Anytime her child, grandchild or other friend/relative called her, you could hear the excitement in her voice, being thrilled to chat and share in the

lives of her family members. Marilyn had a kind demeanor and would actively listen and was always eager to learn about that person's thoughts, opinions, life experiences, and travel...never judging the information being shared.

When a family member or friend came to visit, Marilyn always welcomed them with a big hug and smiles. She was an inspiration to her family and splendid example of how to be kind.

Even as Marilyn was aging, she had a sharp mind and quick wit, displaying an amazing memory and care for feelings and things going on in the world. She was crafty and knitted and many times made her own cards. Many varied activities were enjoyed by her, including musical entertainment, and playing those lucky Bingo cards! She developed a love of watching Detroit Lions and Tigers plus MSU sports.

Marilyn's family and friends will miss her kind, loving, caring demeanor, her smile, and those big hugs.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

NOV 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Plymouth First United Methodist Church  
45201 N. Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## Celebration of Life

NOV 12. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Plymouth First United Methodist Church  
45201 N. Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marilyn G. Stevens*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *I was born in 1942 -- 81 years ago! At that time, my mother was also employed in a light bulb factory to make light bulbs used in military equipment needed to fight World War 2. One way she was able to be continue as a working mom was to hire a baby sitter. Well, a 16 year old girl, Marilyn Geneva Slater was her solution, and my baby sitter! Not only that, Marilyn had a handsome boy friend, Whitney Stevens. Before they were married, Whitney enlisted in the Army and went to war. While he was fulfilling his military duties, he had the perfect way to keep from being led astray by other soldiers. He had a picture of his girlfriend, Marilyn who was holding me. Whitney was also in the picture. So, he simply showed the picture to his soldier buddies, and said that was a picture of his wife and their little baby. So, in my little way, I unknowingly helped Whitney and Marilyn remain true to each other while they were separated. Marilyn and Whitney were eventually married in 1946 and remained married until Whitney's death in 2022 -- for 75 years! Lastly, Whitney's father, the Rev. Merton L. Stevens baptized me a few days after I was born. Believe it or not, this is a true story!*  
*Submitted by Rev. Samuel Laswell*



Samuel Laswell - November 15, 2023 at 11:16 AM