

Reberta Shirk

April 18, 1937 – November 10, 2022



Celebration of Life

*December 3, 2022 ~ 5:00 pm
First Mennonite Church
Denver, Colorado*

Celebration of Life Service for Reberta Shirk

Prelude:	Romaine Anderson	
<i>Amazing Grace arr. by John Carter</i>		
<i>Holy, Holy, Holy/It Is Well arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram</i>		
Welcome	Glenn Balzer	
Invocation	Glenn Balzer	
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Voices Together 163	
Psalm 23 (KJV)	Mike Wahl	
<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	Voices Together 435	
John 14:1-3	Jeff Kauffman	
Eulogy & Reflections from Grandchildren	Tressa (Wahl) Lindsay, Jack Wahl, Brennen Kauffman, Nathan Kauffman, Justin Wahl	
Memories	Open mic	Glenn Balzer, MC
<i>Be Thou My Vision arr. by John Carter</i>		Romaine Anderson
<i>When Peace Like a River</i>		Voices Together 617
Pastoral Reflection		Glenn Balzer
<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>		Voices Together 419
Announcements		Glenn Balzer
Prayer of Release & Benediction		Glenn Balzer
Postlude:		Romaine Anderson
<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. by John Carter</i>		

Please join the family after the service for a reception that will include a light supper for all who attend.

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Thank you to all who participated in the service, including:

Pastor: Glenn Balzer

Musician: Romaine Anderson

Song Leader: Arlen Hershberger

Sound & Video Tech: Steve KandeLind

Usher Coordinator: Brad and Marylou Shelly

Reception Coordinators: Lola Hershberger, Angie Nofziger and Linda Wyse

Reberta Frey Shirk Life Story

Reberta was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on April 18th, 1937, to Harvey and Bertha Eberly. Bertie, as they always called her in Pennsylvania, was the fourth child and the first girl of the eight Eberly siblings. As the oldest daughter, she was responsible for helping care of the younger children, as well as many other chores around the family farm.

Reberta was always very determined. Her three older brothers all dropped out of school after 8th grade, and that was what her parents thought she should do as well. Reberta, however, felt differently and was determined to go to high school. She had to argue with her father but eventually won the battle. While she was the only Mennonite in her public school, she loved learning and became the first in her family to graduate from high school in 1955.

The summer after her graduation, Bertie met Glenn Shirk on a blind date. She and a friend were helping her father at a summer Bible school. Her friend's boyfriend was coming down to pick her up and brought his cousin Glenn along. They rode home together, went out for ice cream, and never looked back. Glenn and Reberta dated for three years while she attended nurses training at Lancaster General Hospital. During nurses training, she lived in a house with the other nursing students. Glenn came to visit whenever he could. They both described how the little old house mother would often have to come out and knock on the car windows to inform Ms. Eberly that it was time to come inside.

Glenn and Reberta married on September 6, 1958, at her home church, Hess Mennonite Church. Reberta loved to share about her wedding day, even reminiscing about it several times over the past few months. The conservative Mennonite church where they married did not allow white shoes or flowers in the church, as they were too worldly and showy. Reberta had to wear black shoes for the service and was not allowed to carry flowers. They also weren't allowed to walk down the center aisle or have any special music. To top it off, after the wedding, the newly married couple was introduced as "Brother and Sister Shirk." Reberta never got over the fact that the very next wedding at the church was the bishop's son, and suddenly all those rules were abolished.

Glenn and Reberta moved to Denver, CO, in 1959 for 1W service—alternative to military service. The family always joked that her Mennonite hair-covering must have flown out the window as they drove across the country since she never wore one after they left Pennsylvania. Once in Denver, they both worked at University Hospital, Reberta as a nurse and Glenn as an orderly. They fell in love with the mountains and made Colorado their home. Soon they developed many friendships here and started attending First Mennonite Church. Over the next few years, they welcomed their two daughters, Glenda and Leslea.

Reberta loved her twenty-five years of nursing—most spent at Swedish Hospital. She was always very proud of her vocation and enjoyed working on the med-surg floor for years. Later, she switched to the float team and assisted wherever she was needed. When Glenn and Reberta decided to open a Grease Monkey franchise, Reberta gave up nursing, went to

night school to take some business classes, and began working full-time, running the offices at their Grease Monkey franchises.

After they retired, they built their dream home in Silverthorne and bought a house in Phoenix, Arizona, for the winters. Reberta learned to play golf at age sixty so she could spend that time with Glenn. They were also able to begin traveling the world. Despite their busy schedules, they always made sure that they spent quality time with each of the grandkids, having them up individually to their house in the mountains, as well as taking them in smaller groups of two or three on camping trips. They also arranged for a few trips with the entire family to Washington, D.C., Telluride, and Alaska.

Glenn and Reberta had an amazing life together. While Glenn was the one with the big ideas—moving to Colorado, opening a Grease Monkey, building a mountain home, wintering in Arizona, traveling the world—Reberta was always happy to help make those dreams become reality. True partners in all they did.

When their health forced them to slow down, they moved back to Denver to be near their daughters, first to Parkside Village Retirement Resort and then to Morningstar Assisted Living. Reberta was at Glenn’s side every moment during his fight with Multi System Atrophy. As he neared the end, she sat next to him, holding his hand. After his death at the end of April, she remained strong for her family, but they all knew she greatly missed the love of her life. The family wasn’t expecting to lose Reberta so soon after Glenn’s death but considering that Bertie and Glenn never liked to be apart, it seems a fitting ending to their storybook romance. Reberta Shirk, passed away on the morning of November 10th, 2022, at Porter Hospice in Littleton, CO, at the age of 85.

Reberta was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Glenn Shirk; her siblings John Eberly, Irvin Eberly, David Eberly, Ruth Musselman, and Lloyd Eberly; as well as her parents, Harvey and Bertha Eberly.

Reberta is survived by her daughters and five grandchildren: Glenda Kauffman and her husband, Jeff Kauffman, and their two children, Brennen Kauffman and Nathan Kauffman; Leslea Wahl and her husband, Mike Wahl, and their three children, Justin Wahl, Tressa Lindsay and her husband, Ryan Lindsay, and Jack Wahl. She is also survived by her sisters Roseanna Boll and her husband, Mark Boll, and Sharon Martin and her husband, Jim Martin; her sisters-in-law Nancy Eberly and Carol Eberly, and her brother-in-law Eugene Musselman; and many nieces and nephews.

Reberta lived a full life which can be summed up with the following descriptors: strong and determined, faith-filled and giving, caring and nurturing, joyful and adventurous, devoted and true.

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Find Reberta’s obituary online, where comments or memories can be added: [Reberta Shirk Obituary \(neptunesociety.com\)](http://www.neptunesociety.com)

Reberta’s memory can be honored by sending donations to Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp (www.rmmc.org) in her name.