

Celebration of Life for Leona “Lee” Bergsman

Eastport United Methodist Church; Annapolis, MD

February 13, 2021



Leona S. Bergsman was born on December 20, 1925 and passed away on February 4, 2021.

Gathering Words

Pastor Chris

Greeting

Pastor Chris

Prayer

Neil Bergsman

O God, who gave us birth,
you are ever more ready to hear
than we are to pray.
You know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Give to us now your grace,
that as we shrink before the mystery of death,
we may see the light of eternity.
Speak to us once more
your solemn message of life and of death.
Help us to live as those who are prepared to die.
And when our days here are accomplished,
enable us to die as those who go forth to live,
so that living or dying, our life may be in you,
and that nothing in life or in death will be able to separate us
from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Hebrew Scriptures Reading

Ecclesiastes 3; Dennis Bergsman

Psalm

Psalm 23; Val Devaris

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (KJV)

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37; Louis Bergsman

Naming

Dennis Bergsman

Witness

Pastor Chris

Commendation

Pastor Chris

Benediction

Pastor Chris

Obituary

Lee Bergsman was born in Detroit Michigan in 1925. She was the only child of Walter Stewart and Emily Gorecki Stewart. She was educated in the Catholic and Public Schools in Detroit, and attended Cass Tech High School.

As a girl, she visited her Aunt Polly's farm in Brighton, Michigan and her many relations in Pennsylvania with her family. She kept many fond memories of those visits. Her upbringing coincided with the Great Depression, and she learned to avoid waste and throughout her life, always was looking to re-use things instead of throwing anything away.

As a young woman, Lee worked as a cashier, bank teller, and bookkeeper. She loved outings with her friends, roller skating, bicycling, and bowling. During World War II, she frequented the USO dances and met many soldiers and sailors with whom she corresponded throughout the War.

After the War, she was a substitute on a bowling team. She met a handsome, witty engineer named Franklyn Bergsman and they started dating. Before her first date, she bought a pair of flat shoes so she would not tower over Frank (who was not tall). Lee and Frank were married in April 12, 1958. Their marriage would last 35 years until Frank's death in 1993. They had many interests together, including bowling, bridge, golf, and travel.

They had one child, a son, Neil Bergsman, in 1960. In 1968 the family moved to Potomac, Maryland when Frank started a new job for the US Department of Transportation. Lee was busy with the house, her many friends in the neighborhood, Neil's activities, bowling leagues, and other community activities.

In 1991, they moved to Annapolis to be close to Neil and his bride Valerie. After Frank passed in 1993, Lee continued to travel, frequently visiting her cousins, nieces and nephews in Michigan, Florida, and Washington state. She took trips to Alaska, Greece, and China. In the last decade or so of her life, she experienced progressively worsening dementia, and ultimately became paralyzed below the waist.

Through it all, she maintained her sense of good humor and her sunny disposition. She became a favorite of all her nurses and caregivers. Lee is survived by Neil and Valerie, grandsons Louis and Dennis, granddaughter-in-law Allison, and more nieces, nephews and cousins than anyone can count.

Thank you for joining us in honoring Leona. Memorial contributions may be made to Eastport UMC for community assistance programs (EastportUMC.org) or the Alzheimer's Association (alz.org).