



## Ruth E. Brown

March 18, 1921 - February 26, 2021

Ruth Elisabeth Brown, 99, passed away on Friday, February 26, 2021 at the Oak Crest Rehabilitation Center in DeKalb, IL. Ruth was born on March 18, 1921 in the Burris Addition, Chanute, KS., the daughter of Lewis Earl and Anna Elisabeth (Watt) Cunningham.

Ruth was a graduate of Chanute High School, class of 1939, she then continued her education at Chanute Junior College, and graduated from Baker University. In 1950 she started working toward her Master's in Religious Education, in Dallas, TX.

On March 6, 1958 Ruth married Joseph Randall Brown in Colorado Springs, CO. Ruth and Joseph were married for 34 years until his passing of March 28, 1992. Ruth dedicated her life to her family and their churches where they served in Colorado, Illinois, and Kansas until her retirement, and returned to Chanute in 1987. She volunteered with helping at the Hutton School, First Grade class, United Methodist Women, and served as the President for Church Women of the First United Methodist Church, until returning to Illinois in 2003 to be closer to her sons, living in the DeKalb Area Retirement Center (Oak Crest), where she was very involved within the community and volunteering.

Ruth is survived by:

Sons:

Earl Scott Brown of Carpentersville, IL

Paul Randall Brown of West Chicago, IL

Niece: Elena Mehl of Houston, TX

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Joseph, a brother Benjamin Cunningham and a sister Esther Peery.

Funeral services will be held: Monday March 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Memorial Park Cemetery in Chanute. Memorials have been suggested to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in her name or the First United Methodist Church and may be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Online condolences may be left at: [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com) Services entrusted to: Countryside Funeral Home 101 N. Highland, Chanute, KS 66720

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

E.. 14th St.  
Chanute, KS 66720

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery  
E.. 14th St.  
Chanute, KS 66720

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Dear family of Ruth Brown,  
I write on behalf of the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church to send condolences on the loss of your mother. I understand that she and Rev. Brown dedicated their lives to serving others, caring for each other and their family.

*I know she was a nonagenarian however I also know there is no time long enough on earth to spend with those we love, or to prepare our hearts to say goodbye.*

*I pray that you have felt the arms of our loving God holding you close each day, providing comfort during this time of sorrow.*

*Bishop John L. Hopkins,*

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**John L. Hopkins** - March 19, 2021 at 03:55 PM

MW

“ Paul and Scott, on behalf of the Janes family, I send hugs and best wishes you to. We know your hearts must be feeling empty with your mom's passing. We suspect, though, that you are taking comfort in get knowledge that she is in heaven, celebrating with the angels right now. When our mom passed, we took great comfort in knowing that she was happy and we imagined the loving faces that would be waiting to greet her. Right now I am imagining that my mom was at the front of the line, ready to greet your mom with a huge hug. We send our condolences and join you in remembering the precious moments our families shared together over the years.  
Mary (Janes) Widicus

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**Mary Widicus** - March 15, 2021 at 07:59 PM

RG

“ *Blessing on Ruth's memory and her faithful participation in the lives of the churches and people she got to know during her long life. Imagine the changes she experienced over the span of 99 years!*

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**Rev. James Galbreath** - March 12, 2021 at 11:45 AM

“Ruth was a good friend and a great lady. We worked together for 13 years while I was Senior Pastor at Sycamore UM Church. She served on several committees at church was a part of our UMCOR Mission Team to Baldwin ,LA., She was always ready to help me with Worship and Communion over at Oak Crest. We got to be good friends and it was always a pleasure to visit with her. she and I would laugh together at some of the funny things people did. Ruth was always a good friend to my wife, Jo, and on many occasions was a good listening ear for Jo and gave some great "pastor's wife" advice.

One of my favorite memories was of Ruth at a Mother-Daughter Banquet at Sycamore Church put on by the United Methodist Women. The banquet committee decided to do a style show and arranged with a number of girls/women's clothing stores in the area to provide the clothing. The UMW recruited a host of babies, girls, teens, mothers, single women, and older women to be models. All of them went to the various stores and were fitted out with the latest styles in clothing. On the night of the Banquet after finishing dinner, the crowd moved into the large sanctuary for the show. It was a semi-pro production with streaming lights, projected images, spot lights, powerful music and well-scripted commentary as each of the models or groups of models entered and "strutted their stuff". The crowd of mothers and daughters was loud and boisterous showing their appreciation. Then all the light were turned out and the music was turned off. An electrified silence fell over the crowd. In a commanding voice the Emcee said, "Mothers, Daughters, Ladies, I direct your attention to the rear center doors." as a powerful spot light came on and focused on the doors. The Emcee continued, "The women of the Sycamore United Church would like to present the Queen of our models, Mrs. Ruth Brown!" The doors were flung open and there stood Ruth dressed to the nines with a confident smile just like the one in the attached photo. The crowd stood and cheered as Ruth started slowly down the aisle in step with the beat of a celebratory song. The Emcee told of Ruth's family, her many accomplishment and the great example and mentor she had been and still was to the girls and women of the church. As Ruth reached

*the front she gracefully turned and smiled broadly as the girls and women showed their appreciation.*

*As I recall that was in 2009 or 2010 when Ruth was 87 or 88.*

*That is one of my favorite moments in my 43 years of pastoral ministry.*

*Rev. Clarence W. (Bill) Landis (retired)*

*Woodstock IL*

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**Clarence W Landis** - March 10, 2021 at 06:53 PM

DS

“ *Ruth was such a sweet lady, always a smile, while they served our church here in Plattville.*

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**Debbie Stadel** - March 10, 2021 at 02:54 PM

SH

“ *I got to know Ruth through church in Chanute and always enjoyed her and her positive attitude! Such a gracious lady and I have missed seeing her these last “few” years! Blessings to her family!*  
*Susan Harwood*

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**susan harwood** - March 02, 2021 at 03:54 PM

CH

*Ruth volunteered in my classroom for over ten years helping first graders learn to read, play dominoes, and checkers. The students loved her and so did I ❤️ Blessings, Cheryl Day*

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**Cheryl** - March 06, 2021 at 04:50 PM

PB

*Johanna and I got to know Ruth and Randy when they were at Broadway (1st UMC) in Sterling, IL. We give thanks to God for their lives and meaningful ministry. We extend our sympathy and love. -  
Pastor Frank & Johanna Berman*

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**Pastor Frank & Johanna Berman** - March 12, 2021 at 04:22 PM