



Donna J. Stevenson

September 18, 1957 - June 12, 2025

Donna Joy Stevenson (nee Deethardt), beloved wife of John Stevenson, died on June 12, 2025. Donna was born on September 18, 1957, in Austin, MN to D. Max Deethardt and Rosalie C. Deethardt (nee Carlson). In addition to her husband, John, she is survived by her mother, Rosalie Deethardt; her aunt, Jane Carlson; her sister-in-law, Jennifer Deethardt (nee Hinshaw); her niece in heart, Joy (Erik) Schneider; and grand nieces, Hailey Schneider and Lydia Schneider. Donna was preceded in death by her father, D. Max Deethardt; her brother, Dale Deethardt; and her uncle, Marvin Carlson.

Donna's family moved from Minnesota to Nebraska when she was an infant, and she grew up first in Fremont, then in Scotts Bluff-Gering. Donna earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois (which became part of Trinity International University). Afterwards, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from National College of Education in Chicago (now part National Louis University).

For most of her career, Donna worked as an administrative assistant in the pharmaceutical industry in the Chicago area. Her work brought her into contact with people from many places. Donna greatly enjoyed learning about the cultures from which they came and sampling the international foods coworkers brought to team potlucks. In one department, Donna was asked to build a departmental intranet website. Without prior training, Donna tackled

her assignment with characteristic curiosity, effort, and success.

Donna was creative and expressed her creativity in many ways (including, but not limited to acrylic painting, card-making, cooking, flower-arranging, jewelry-making, oil painting, pencil sketches, writing poetry, public speaking, pulled glass, sculpture, watercolor, and worship dance, among others).

Donna's identity was based on her relationship with Jesus Christ rather than human relationships or positions she held. She began following Christ as a little girl and was still following him in the last days of her life. One outworking of her faith was care for people. As a young woman, Donna served on the board of New Moms, a ministry to young mothers in Chicago. Later, she volunteered with Stepping Stones Network, working to bring women and children out of the destruction of sex-trafficking.

For over thirty years, Donna was a member of Trinity Community Church in Libertyville, Illinois, and she dearly loved the church and its people. She served as a children's Sunday school teacher, a nursery worker, a prayer team member, and a food deliverer. Much of her ministry, however, occurred outside any role as she simply attended to the people she was with, listening to them, drawing out their experiences, and praying for them. Eventually, the church leadership created a role for her, "Deacon of Presence."

Especially because of her tenacious faith despite her long battle with cancer, people tended to "put her on a pedestal," she said, which she thought mistaken. Donna believed that anything good in her was due to Jesus Christ, who paid for her sins on the cross and gave her new life by his resurrection from the dead, and whom she is likely worshipping at this moment.

Time for Condolences to the Family

Friday, June 27, 2025

4:00-8:00 p.m. CDT
Trinity Community Church
1190 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Celebration of Life
Saturday, June 28, 2025
2:00 p.m. CDT
Trinity Community Church
1190 W. Winchester Road

The celebration of life will also be livestreamed and recorded at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/qBsg5YOGnSA>

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to one of the following:

New Moms
5317 W. Chicago Ave 60651
Chicago, IL 60651
newmoms.org

Stepping Stones Network
P.O. Box 208
Grayslake, IL 60030
steppingstonesnetwork.org

Trinity Community Church
1190 W Winchester Road

Libertyville, IL 60048

trinitycc.church

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **27**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Community Church
1190 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Funeral Service

JUN **28**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Community Church
1190 W. Winchester Road
Libertyville, IL 60048

Tribute Wall



“ *Burnett-Dane Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Donna J. Stevenson*



Burnett-Dane Funeral Home - June 20, 2025 at 02:41 PM

CL

I'm so sorry to hear about Donna's passing. I would love to watch the Tribute Webcast, but when I click on the link it takes me to the Trinity Church YouTube site and I don't see it listed among the videos.

Charles Loeffler - June 21, 2025 at 01:15 PM

JM

Charles, I think you need to wait to the day of her memorial or there after. I will be watching with you from Savannah.

Janice Meuth - June 23, 2025 at 04:58 AM

CP

The webcast refers to the Celebration of Life service on Saturday, June 28 at 2:00pm CDT, which can be viewed live by clicking on the video link. The service will also be recorded and can be viewed at your convenience through the same youtube link for the church.

Christine Pullman - June 27, 2025 at 03:51 AM

BA

Rest in peace my dear friend Donna. You will be missed 🥹💔💥😔💜.

Blanca Alvarado - June 28, 2025 at 11:23 PM

BA

“ Blanca Alvarado lit a candle in memory of Donna J. Stevenson



Blanca Alvarado - June 28, 2025 at 11:21 PM

BA

“ Dear friend Donna I will miss you in this world. I know by faith that you're now an Angel. I enjoyed and loved working with you at Pharmacia. My deepest condolences to John, her husband and your family. Rest in peace dear friend. Sorry I could not be there to pay my respects as I just found out of your journey to Heaven. Will always remember you with all my heart and mind💔😭🙏.

Blanca Alvarado - June 28, 2025 at 11:19 PM

SC

“ I was saddened to hear of Donna's passing. She was a wonderful friend and sister in Christ. I met Donna in the early 1980's through the Young Adults ministry at North Suburban Evangelical Free Church in Deerfield. She, along with many others in that group, welcomed me into their fellowship and friendship, as I had only recently moved to the Chicago area and was searching for friends and a church. Donna's love for art and design and ministry to children was always evident. She introduced me to the Frog and Toad series of children's books, which captivated me with their fun stories and beautiful illustrations. I shared them with my daughter and her first grade class many years ago. I recently bought the boxed set and am waiting for my almost one-year old granddaughter to be ready for me to read them to her. Donna learned of my love for cats and introduced me to her friend in Evanston whose cat had recently had kittens. That led me to a 20 year relationship with my first cat, Boots. My wife, Traci, and I lost our first child, Erin, to stillbirth on her due date in 1991. As we considered a design for the headstone for Erin's grave, Donna was the only person we considered to design the headstone. She did a wonderful job. While this world has suffered a loss, heaven is richer. I hope that Donna meets Erin in heaven and I look forward to seeing Donna again when God calls me home.

Steve Crowley

Steven Crowley - June 28, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donna J. Stevenson.



June 28, 2025 at 05:59 AM

FF

“ From The Parrish and Thomas Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donna J. Stevenson.



From The Parrish and Thomas Family - June 26, 2025 at 06:12 PM

DC

“ Donna and I met many years ago at Norht Suburban Church in Deerfield when we were both in our 20s and single. While our lives took us in different directions, we continued to "run in" to each other over the years at events and various places. She was always a source of light, life and encouragement in the Lord. In recent years I learned of her struggles with cancer, yet she always appeared upbeat and positive in spite of this. Our last such meeting happened about a year ago at Trader Joe's in Libertyville. In typical Donna fashion, she did not dwell on her health, but was energized and passionate about sharing with me her ministry with Stepping Stones. I was struck by her vibrant testimony and love for ministry. I know she is home with Jesus, who surely welcomed her with a "well done, good and faithful servant!" My thoughts and prayers go out to John and family.

Donna Castele - June 23, 2025 at 03:52 PM

PP

“ Donna and I met at our church's Young Adults group in Deerfield, IL in 1979. We became instant friends and we have been close friends and sisters in the Lord ever since. Though I have lived in many places since then, we always managed to stay connected and have one of those rare friendships where no matter how much time goes by, we could just pick right up where we left off as if no time had passed at all. I will certainly miss her sweet spirit, her loving kindness, her joy, her laughter, and her ever present love of the Lord. We spoke by phone about a month ago, one of our usual marathon conversations, and I knew in my heart it would be our last conversation this side of heaven. But I know when I join her there, we will pick up right where we left off. Just like always. Until then, my dear friend... Love always, Pam Polito

Pam Polito - June 23, 2025 at 12:37 PM

JM

“ In the not-too-distant past, I called Donna to see how she was doing. It is so God that just about every time I have called Donna over the years to “see how she was doing”, God used her to encourage me or get me unstuck from some spiritual quagmire I was currently in. Anyway, this last time, my sister Paula had been struggling with cancer, and I asked Donna how she was able to keep going in her long battle with this terrible disease. Donna told me that cancer had really saved her life and gave her a ministry to help others. Wow! Here was a woman who could praise God for her suffering.

Donna was a deliverer of grace in this world. She had a love for flowers and all things people. I will miss her in this world and look forward to seeing her in the next. She fought the good fight. She is home with Jesus.

Jan Meuth

Janice Meuth - June 23, 2025 at 04:53 AM

BY

“ I am so saddened to hear of Donna’s passing. When I think of her I remember the joy she evidenced in her life. She was always joyful and loving to those around her.

I remember a wonderful day she and I spent together cooking an elaborate meal, just for fun. We spent the day cooking, laughing and eating the results of our labor. Truly a fun day spent with a great woman.

Bonnie Yourzak



Bonnie Yourzak - June 22, 2025 at 04:50 PM