



Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Gloria Layson, peacefully passed away Wednesday, May, 11, 2016 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. She was a Toledo native and community activist. Gloria accepted the challenge to evangelize and teach God's word by serving as a Certified Lay Minister at Braden United Methodist Church. She also served in the MWD DCOM and leadership team. She previously served at the Conference level on the Board of Ordained Ministry and on the Election team.

Gloria received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Toledo and worked as a LPN for over 24 years. After leaving her career in nursing, she was the founder and administrator of the PASS intermediate charter school. She also started Mothers' Outraged Against Drugs (MOAD); an organization established to address the public outcry over the drug use and violence in her community.

[Obituary.](#)

Nieves V. Velasco, 64, who died on May 7. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Romeo Velasco; three daughters, Romini V. (Rodel) Sembrano, Alodia V. (David) Gallagher and Omega V. Velasco; and four grandchildren, Gerick Sembrano, Aiden and Lydia Gallagher and Leon Bautista.

Mrs. Velasco served alongside her husband in West Ohio at Cygnet, Cloverdale Charge (1987), Kingscreek United Methodist Church (1991), Ohio City United Methodist Church (1993), Peace United Methodist Church (Columbus, 1996). Rev. Velasco is retired and currently serving at Wagram United Methodist Church in Etna.

[Obituary.](#)

Expressions of condolence may be sent to Rev. Romeo R. Velasco, 618 Mawyer Drive, Worthington, Ohio 43085 or online at Legacy.com.

Miriam I. Hedges, 86, who died on May 14. Her husband, Rev. Richard Hedges, was an Elder in the West Ohio Conference and preceded her in death in 1982. Miriam is survived by daughters, Mary (Jeff) Collins, Martha (David) Bidlack and Ruth (Greg) Herron; seven grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

A school teacher, preschool teacher, tutor, and day care teacher for several years, she also served alongside her husband in several West Ohio parishes including High Street United Methodist in Lima, where they served for seven years.

[Obituary.](#)

Expressions of condolence may be made online at [Chamberlain-Huckriede Funeral Home](#)

Mary C. Thatcher, 88, who died on May 17. She was preceded in death in 2010 by her husband, Rev. Wesley N. Thatcher, a Retired Associate in the West Ohio Conference. Mary is survived by sons, Roger W. Thatcher, Dennis C. Thatcher (Betty) and Mark Thatcher; daughter, Diana "Jo" Teters (Bob); eleven grandchildren; twenty-five great grandchildren; and five great great grandchildren.

A homemaker and active member of United Methodist Women, Mary was a church organist and pianist who gave piano lessons for twenty-years. She served alongside her husband in several churches in Washington, Morgan, Meigs and Athens Counties in West Ohio.

[Obituary.](#) Services will be held Friday, May 20, 11:00 a.m. at Leavitt Funeral Home, 801 Victor Street in Belpre with Rev. Jim Corbitt, Rev. Dewayne Stutler and Mr. Jamie White officiating. Visitation will be Thursday, May 19, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to Diana Teters, 429 Luke Chute Road, Waterford, Ohio 45786; Roger Thatcher, 5125 Welch Road, Little Hocking, Ohio 45742; or online at [Leavitt Funeral Home](#).

Betty Lou Grant who died May 9. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Don S. Grant, a Retired Elder from the West Ohio Conference.

Betty served alongside her husband at Epworth (Columbus, 1963); St. Paul (1978); First (Lancaster, 1983); Church of The Master (Westerville, 1988); and St. James (Miamisville, 1990) before Don retired.

No further information is available at this time.

Expressions of condolence may be sent to Rev. Don Grant, 10121 West Candlewood Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351.