



# Colleen Ann Cushway

JUN 16, 1933 - FEB 14, 2025



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# Colleen Ann Cushway

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**C**olleen Ann Cushway, 91, of Big Rapids, passed away peacefully on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2025. Colleen was born on June 16, 1933, in Belding, Michigan, the daughter of Hugh and Hope (McIntire) Boss.

Colleen and her younger brother James "Jim" were raised in Belding, and Colleen graduated from Belding High School in 1951. She attended Central Michigan College and graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Education. After graduation from Central in 1956, Colleen worked a summer job selling tickets at the Belding Theatre, prior to beginning her first teaching job in Pontiac, Michigan. That summer, Charles "Chuck" Cushway arrived in Belding, to begin his career at Gibson Refrigerator Company. They met for the first time when Colleen sold Chuck a movie ticket.

On August 3, 1957, Colleen and Chuck were married in the Belding Methodist Church and then accepted new jobs and moved to Lansing. Colleen taught Kindergarten thru 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and another teacher taught 5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade at a 2- room country school in Holt, Michigan. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, both teachers maintained a wood stove to heat the school!

Children Kelly, Mike, and Karrie were born in Lansing, prior to a career move which took the family to Albany, New York. Another career move brought the family back to Michigan and a new home in Jackson, where David and Kevin arrived, bringing the total to 5 children. Chuck accepted a teaching job at Ferris State College in 1967, and the family moved from Jackson to Big Rapids in 1968.

Colleen resumed her teaching career as soon as the youngest of her children entered Kindergarten. During the 1970-71 school year, she served as Secretary at Eastwood AND Brookside schools "to get my foot in the door" at BRPS. In the fall of 1971, Colleen began her 25-year teaching career in Big Rapids, first at Brookside, and then Hillcrest, where she retired in 1996.



## Obituary

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Colleen and Chuck were deeply dedicated to Christ and raised their family in the Community of Christ church, which they joined in 1960. Colleen was very involved in congregational life and taught Sunday School for many years. In 1989, she was ordained an Elder and served in that role well into her '70's. Colleen was also a devoted grandmother who loved her grandchildren more than anything else and spent as much time as possible with them. She also enjoyed her quiet home and yard in the country, cooking, family gatherings, holidays, visitors, reading, watching and feeding the birds, and her devoted cat "Kitty Cat."

Colleen is survived by her 5 children Kelly (Karen), Mike, Karrie, David (Penny), and Kevin (Tracy). Grandchildren Kelsey, Kiara, Kamryn, Matthew, Jared, Amos, Luke, and Karly, and great-grandchildren Bryce, Adrena, Ash, and Isla. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Joyce Boss and Carolyn Cushway, many nieces and nephews, and special friends Mary Mumby, Joann Baylis, Judi Sack, and Joan Ciaramitaro. Colleen was preceded in death by her parents, her brother James, a son-in-law Jim, and her husband Chuck.

Cremation has taken place, and a memorial service will be held later in the year. The family welcomes memorial contributions to the Big Rapids Community of Christ C/O Dee Neal, 13450 Taft Rd. Big Rapids, MI 49307, or to the Hospice agency of your choice: Currie Comfort Home, Elara Caring, or Hospice of Michigan. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Janowicz Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Share a memory or express condolences at [mohnkefuneralhome.com](http://mohnkefuneralhome.com).



## Tribute Wall

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CD

**Chuck Drake** posted:

The Ferris State University Emeriti Association sends its condolences to Kelly, Dave, Mike, Karrie, and Kevin and Families for the loss of your mother, Colleen Ann. For FSAE, Chuck Drake

February 25 at 12:30 PM

PL

**Patti And Carl Leis** posted:

Dearest Dave ,family and Big Rapids congregation. We were sorry to hear of Colleen's passing. As I reflected over the past years and sharing in ministry with her one word comes to mind GRACIOUS! She was loving and caring but gracious above all. Blessings to all of you.

February 20 at 6:33 AM

AP

**Allison Pool** posted:

I will forever be grateful for the love, support and friendship Colleen shared with me. ❤️ From my first contact with the Big Rapids CofC congregation Colleen and Chuck embraced me and shared the love of Christ so deeply. Colleen's welcoming spirit towards Sue and I from the start, was such a special gift and her enduring friendship through the years, meant so much to us both. ❤️ We will miss her so very much. Love you Colleen!! 🙏

February 18 at 4:15 PM

DG

**Doug Gregory** posted:

Colleen's heart was big enough to welcome just about anyone who came within shouting distance. When Rebecca and I first attended Big Rapids Community of Christ, we knew we were at home in no small part because of the welcome she and Chuck offered us. Our lives are better because of Colleen and her family, and we could not be more grateful to have known her these past few years.

February 18 at 6:43 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Colleen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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