



## Ruth Peterson

July 8, 1932 - April 29, 2020

CEDAR FALLS – Ruth Peterson, 87, of Cedar Falls died Wednesday, April 29th at Western Home Communities Windcove.

She was born July 8, 1932 in Cedar Falls, Iowa, daughter of Bernard and Gladys (Kielty) Caley. She married James L. Peterson on February 20, 1953 in the First Methodist Parsonage in Cedar Falls.

She graduated from Cedar Falls High School in 1950 and the University of Northern Iowa in 1971. She was an elementary school teacher at Irving Elementary in Waterloo for 23 years, retiring in 1995. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

Survived by: her husband; four children: James C. (Ann) Peterson MD and Scott (Sandra) Peterson, both of Cedar Falls, Rebecca Ingle of Ottumwa, and Mark (Jill) Peterson of Sheffield; 12 grandchildren: Matthew Peterson, Randi (Duez) Henderson, Abbie (Jacob) Anderson, Ben (Emily) Peterson, Ellie (Matthew) Smith, Luke Peterson, Dwight J. (Izzy) Peterson, Samuel Peterson, Cody (Miranda) Ingle, Karolyn Ingle, Hallie (Jordan) Mueth, and Lindsey Peterson; 18 great grandchildren; and a sister, Lois Roberts of Oregon.

Preceded in death by: five brothers, John, Donald, William, Richard, and Phillip Caley; and five sisters: Dorothy Ward, Elizabeth Manley, Jean Stokes,

Jane Foster, and Barbara Harder.

Services: Due to the pandemic, family services will be held at Richardson Funeral Service with burial in Greenwood Cemetery, both in Cedar Falls.

Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice or the church.

# Cemetery Details

## **Greenwood Cemetery**

the end of College St, north of First Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 273-8628

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ So sorry to hear about Ruth's passing. I taught with Ruth at Irving Elementary when I first began teaching in 1976. She was always smiling and giving me encouragement as a new teacher. I will never forget that. Ruth was a special person!!  
*Melodie Cummings*

---

**Melodie Cummings** - May 21, 2020 at 01:16 PM

JF

“ To Jim and all of the family.  
*From Judy and John Focht.*

*We were saddened to hear of Ruth's passing and want you all to know that we are with you in spirit.*

*We have enjoyed Ruth's friendship for many years through school and the church.*

*Jim, you and Ruth were steadfast supporters of our endeavors at Main Street School when I was principal there. You were pillars of the church and we appreciate all of your good works at FUMC; Ruth was a most positive person and she left her indelible trademark with her beautiful smile. It was always there and that is one of her traits that will stay in my memory.*

*Jim, you and Ruth produced a most wonderful family. I know you are proud of your children and indeed you should be proud. They have followed your footsteps into being most productive citizens...not only through their professions but through Community Service.*

*They learned excellent parenting from you both and carry out those skills as they became parents.*

*Thinking of you all and want you to know we are with you in spirit as you celebrate her life . Much love to you all. Judy and John Focht*

---

**John Focht** - May 07, 2020 at 04:36 AM

SH

“ Jim (Pete), Dr. & Ann Peterson, and all the family, I offer to you my sincere condolences for your loss. Growing up at Cedar Falls First UMC, Jim & Ruth have played a big part in my faith discernment and growth by witnessing to your faith through your presence and service in worship, fellowship, mission, and leadership. Ruth's smile brought me a sense of peace. In God's love, grace and peace to you. Susan Higdon



Susan Higdon - May 06, 2020 at 12:00 PM

AB

“ Don and Ruth both retired the same year and that fall on the first day of school they went to Tama to gamble. Ruth won \$50 and Don lost that much so she bought lunch for both of them. She will be missed. We both enjoyed teaching with her. She had a great laugh. Don and Ardelle Brown

Ardelle Brown - May 04, 2020 at 05:42 PM



“ Dr. Peterson and family, our most sincere condolences at the loss of your mother.  
Jane and Jeff Peck

Jane Peck - May 03, 2020 at 05:40 PM

JF

“ Dear Jim and Family:

*So sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. Haven't seen you Jim around town anywhere. I know how precious Ruth was to all but know that many caring thoughts are with you during this time of sorrow. God has blessed you with many happy years and memories. Cherish that and know that she is walking hand in hand with God. Take care of yourself Jim.*

*In friendship and love, Don and Janice (Becker) Frost*

---

**Janice K Frost** - May 03, 2020 at 04:52 PM

CF

“ *could always tell when she was around remembering the Family get togethers at the old school house she will be missed Prayers to the family and friends*

---

**Cathy Fencl** - May 03, 2020 at 04:51 PM

JA

“ *So sorry for your loss! Our thoughts and prayers are with the Peterson family.  
Jim and Lanny Zimmer*

---

**JamesZimmer** - May 03, 2020 at 01:04 PM



“ *Saddened to hear of Ruth's death, and yet thankful for the vibrant life she led. I was grateful for the Peterson-Hovelson friendship, and loved catching up with Ruth and others in the "balcony gang" after church on Sundays that I was in town. Ruthie could always be counted upon for caring conversation and a good chuckle.*



---

**Holly Smith** - May 03, 2020 at 12:25 PM

CL

“ *So sad to hear of Ruthie's passing. She will always be remembered for that wonderful laugh of hers. Not long ago, I heard it in the grocery store, so went looking and sure enough, there was Pete and Ruth. 🥹💕 She was a great lady and I have so many fond memories of growing up with all of you. Love to the entire family. You have my deepest sympathy.*  
*Cindy*

---

**Cindy Luchtenburg** - May 03, 2020 at 11:25 AM

DM

“ *So sad to here this. Ruth was such a special person loved her personality and so loved her one of a kind laugh!!! She will be missed💕 Thoughts and prayers go out to Pete and all the Peterson family. Treasured memories with this group, love you all!!!*

---

**Dave Mulder** - May 03, 2020 at 09:45 AM

LH

“ Dear Pete and Family,  
The world just lost a caring lady with an infectious smile and joy in making others happy. She will be profoundly missed by all of you and all she touched along life's highway. We send our deepest sympathy and may you find hope in God's promise and strength from family and friends in the days ahead.  
God Bless, Lorraine (Johnson) and Peter Hoffman

---

**Lorraine Hoffman** - May 02, 2020 at 09:20 AM

JL

“ Mrs Peterson was a wonderful teacher that pushed us hard to be the best we could be. I will never forget the colors of the rainbow as she dressed up as a farmer Roy G Biv. She really made a difference in many kids lives.

*John Lawrence*

---

**John Lawrence** - May 02, 2020 at 09:00 AM

AJ

“ To Ruth's family... I always enjoyed seeing her so we could visit a little bit and catch up on her grandchildren whom she loved so much! I know she will be missed. May the Lord give you His peace and comfort at this time and in the days ahead. Rest in Him! Alice & Gene Janssen

---

**Alice Janssen** - May 01, 2020 at 11:36 PM

AB

“ So sorry for your loss. Loosing a spouse (your best friend) is so hard. When we moved next door to you on Orchard you both were so kind to Norman as were all the other neighbors - a real old fashioned neighborhood where everyone cared about each other. I always remember Ruth's laugh - it was so infectious and warm it radiated out to her eyes.  
Ann Bryan

---

**Ann Bryan** - May 01, 2020 at 11:34 PM

BM

“ Bill Morse lit a candle in memory of Ruth Peterson



---

**Bill Morse** - May 01, 2020 at 07:08 PM

SS

“ Pete and Family, we're so sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. May the Lord give you peace and comfort during this time and in the days ahead. When I was younger, I always had fond memories of family gatherings at your home and getting to swim at your neighbors indoor pool. Grandma Stokes and I would stop by for a visit too, and I really only knew her as 'Aunt Boop'!! Not sure how that started...maybe from when my mom was young. Take care and we are praying for you and your family. Much love, Jeff and Sara (Parsons) Smead.

---

**Sara Smead** - May 01, 2020 at 04:45 PM

SC

“ *Pete, Chuck, Scott, Becky, Mark and family  
Ruth was such a joy and a wonderful aunt  
She always made me feel special and loved  
I will remember her easy laugh and hold it in my heart  
May she Rest In Peace  
Sending love and hugs  
Sue Caley*

---

**Sue Caley** - May 01, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ *She was my 3rd grade teacher back in 1983! What a nice lady she was. My condolences to her family.*

---

**Heather Rios** - May 01, 2020 at 11:20 AM

DB

“ *We are sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. She was a sweet caring woman that will be missed greatly by her family, friends and church family. Our prayers are with the entire family as you grieve in this uncertain time. Know that even though we cannot see you and support you at a funeral at this time, we want you to know we were blessed to know Ruth and you are in our thoughts at this difficult time.*  
*Denise and Sam Barr*

---

**Denise and Sam Barr** - May 01, 2020 at 10:46 AM

SC

“ *Jim and Family*

*I'm so sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. We always had such a good time when we got together, watching dolphins in Alaska, cooking in our kitchen, and stranded in Galena in a snowstorm over New Years as just a few.*

*My prayers are with you and your family. I know how you wish miss her.*

*Sandy Cavin*

---

**Sandy Cavin** - May 01, 2020 at 08:41 AM

DW

“ *To Mrs. Petersons family: Mrs. Peterson was my teacher at Irving School. She helped us create the school newspaper and named me editor.*

*I am very sorry for the families loss of this wonderful woman.*

*Prayers for all the family.*

*Diane (Schlette) Williams*

---

**Diane (Schlette) Williams** - April 30, 2020 at 08:59 PM

PO

“ *Jim and Family -*

*So sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. I have such pleasant memories of Ruth.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time.*

---

**Pete & Cindy Olson** - April 30, 2020 at 08:50 PM

JH

“Pete, so sorry to hear about Ruthie. She's a great gal. I loved her laugh. Our families go way back. So many memories!! She was in the hospital having Mark when I was there with my 1st born John. June and I used to go to your house for coffee when Mark was a baby. I hope you'll be ok.  
Jean (Carmichael) Haes

---

jean haes - April 30, 2020 at 08:13 PM

ND

Pete and family I am so sorry for your loss! Ruth was such a special lady I just loved to see both of you and talk awhile you were a wonderful couple. I actually got my middle name from Ruth so we had a connection I will always remember. Nancy Carmichael Dutler

---

Nancy Carmichael Dutler - April 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM

DW

“Dear Jim,  
I was so sorry to hear of your wife's death. She was one of those truly gracious individuals who made life so pleasant for anyone around her.  
With Sympathy,  
Doris Weigel [Windcove}

---

Doris Weigel - April 30, 2020 at 01:44 PM