



Ruth Ann Barber

October 9, 1937 - June 30, 2025

ADRIAN- Ruth Ann Barber, age 87, of Adrian, Michigan, passed away Monday, June 30, 2025, at Charlotte Stephenson Manor surrounded by her loving family and under the care of Hospice of Lenawee.

Ruth was born on October 9, 1937, in Wauseon, Ohio, the third of Herthel and Lula (Ruger) Gorsuch's four children. She attended Wauseon High School graduating with the Class of 1955.

It was during high school that Ruth caught the attention of her 8th grade classmate, Richard Barber, when she sang "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" during a solo in the school choir. A few years later in the 11th grade, Dick started a school dance band in which Ruth was the singer. This was when Dick and Ruth began dating. On September 15, 1957, Ruth married her high school sweetheart, Richard, in their hometown of Wauseon and they have been blessed with over 67 years together.

Ruth's career was in the field of education where she worked as an administrative assistant for the Lenawee Intermediate School District (LISD) for 28 years, retiring in 1996. She has been a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church of Adrian and shared her beautiful voice in the choir. Ruth enjoyed her friendships and outings with the Red Hat Society and always found time to read a good book. Ruth's pride and joy was her family,

and she loved being active in her children and grandchildren's school and sporting events.

In addition to her husband, Dr. Richard E. Barber, Ruth is survived by their children, Regina (Jon) Young of Adrian, Richard A. Barber of Ann Arbor and Randal (Lori) Barber of Marysville, WA; son-in-law, Mark Elder; 11 grandchildren, Brian (Stacy) Mingus, Tracy (Scott) Bearer, Stacey (Anthony) Jesse, Sarah (Martin) Cragie, Anders (Kylea) Barber, Blake Elder, Drew Elder, McKenzie (Chris) Bernal, Miles Barber, Isabel Barber, Sadie Barber; step-grandchild, Bruno Drouillard; 13 great-grandchildren; sister, Marcella (Donald) Linn; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Rhonda Elder; brother, Kenneth Gorsuch; and sister Shirley Clevenger.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Donald Linn officiating, at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian, with visitation being held one hour prior to the start of funeral services. A luncheon will be held in the Heritage Room at Wagley Funeral Home following the service. Cremation will follow services and she will be privately laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Adrian First United Methodist Church Organ Fund or to Hospice of Lenawee.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **9**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Visitation

JUL **10**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-1400
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 10. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)

1501 W. Maumee St.

Adrian, MI 49221

(517) 263-1400

info@wagleyfuneralhome.com

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Tribute Wall



“ *Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Ruth Ann Barber*



Wagley Funeral Home - July 10, 2025 at 10:57 AM

RC

“ *Just finished watching the livestream...brought back many fond memories of Aunt Ruth Ann, Uncle Dick and the cousins. Was wonderful to see Uncle Don perform the service and share personal anecdotes. While we miss our passed loved ones, we must remember how fortunate we are to have known and loved them. Memories.... Our heartfelt condolences to Uncle Dick, Regina, Rick and Randy and families. Rich and Pat Clevenger*

Rich and Pat Clevenger - July 10, 2025 at 12:14 PM

MT

“ *Ruth was always so open and warm every time I saw her. She had this sincere, kind smile that made it clear how much she sincerely enjoyed seeing me every time I saw her. I'm so happy to have those smiles in my memory! Thanks Ruth!*

Michael Tucker - July 10, 2025 at 10:44 AM

EP

“ Dr. Barber, Julie and I wanted to be there for the visitation to express our condolences in person and catch up with Rick and Randy as well. We are very sorry for your loss and because of my dad, we know what you and your family were dealing with for the last few years. We would love to meet you at Miller's for lunch when we are in town. Again, we are very sorry for your loss. Eric & Julie Penrod

Eric Penrod - July 08, 2025 at 03:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Barber.



July 08, 2025 at 07:58 AM

MW

“ Ruth was a consummate professional and highly respected at Lenawee ISD where I first met her. Later, when I joined Adrian First United Methodist Church, I knew Ruth through our choir connection where her organizational skills helped me find a choir robe. It was a joy to make music together. The devotion she and Dick shared was one of quiet beauty. I hold them both in my heart with great fondness.

Marcia L Wright - July 08, 2025 at 06:32 AM

DD

“ Having lived across the street from the Barber family when we were young, we spent a lot of time at their house. Ruth always had a smile and made us feel welcome there. She was patient and kind, and the house was full of love and music! My heart goes out to the Barber family. Sending hugs to all in remembrance of a wonderful lady. DeeAnn DePaul

DeeAnn Crawford DePaul - July 07, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Barber.



July 07, 2025 at 08:56 PM

RH

“ My most heartfelt condolences to Dr. Barber and the whole Barber family. Mrs Barber was always very kind and caring when I had met her on several occasions. She and the whole Barber family were always very special to myself and so many others. We are praying for peace and light for each of you during this time.

Randy Hoffer - July 05, 2025 at 09:53 PM

TJ

“ My deepest sympathy to the Barber family.

Tammy Jewell - July 05, 2025 at 10:22 AM

LB

“ Ruth was one of my role models. She always had a smile and showed kindness and caring to me like no one else. She sat beside me in the church choir and her voice was lovely. I stayed w/her on occasion when Dick had to be gone for an hour or so and we read books and sang hymns that she remembered. Even though she didn't know who I was she knew those hymns word for word and even could remember the tune. She raised a loving and caring family and she and Dick were the best example for a Christian couple. I won't say rest in peace, Ruth, because I know you are in heaven rejoicing w/family and friends who have gone before. Luana Bixler

Luana J Bixler - July 04, 2025 at 09:54 AM

JW

“ Deepest condolences to you and your family

Jay Welenc - July 03, 2025 at 12:09 PM

BW

“ *I was heartbroken to hear about your mother’s passing. Please accept our deepest condolences.*

She was always such a kind and gracious presence. Someone I remember warmly from our younger years growing up. Whether it was a brief conversation or simply seeing her around, she had a way of making others feel welcome.

She truly lived a good life. One marked by kindness, warmth, and the love of her family. I hope you find comfort in the many memories you shared with her and knowing how much she meant to people around her.

You and your family are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Brad and Robin Walsh

Brad Walsh - July 02, 2025 at 08:27 AM