



## Ruth E. Courtney

October 18, 1923 - November 19, 2019

Ruth E. Courtney, 96 of Brethren Village, formerly of Ephrata passed away Tuesday evening, November 19, 2019 at UPMC, Lititz. Born on October 18, 1923 in Newton, NJ she was the daughter of the late Day E. and Mary Elizabeth Smith Hixson. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, William M. Courtney who died on May 25, 2016.

Ruth was a charter member of the Ephrata Reformed Presbyterian Church where she retired as church secretary in 1989. Ruth received an associate degree in Business Administration from Rider College in New Jersey. She had worked for Amerigas in Ephrata in her earlier years.

She loved and was dedicated to her church and her family. She enjoyed her gardens. Ruth was kind, generous and giving, a friend to everyone she knew. Ruth will be deeply missed by her son, Jeffrey A. Courtney of Willow Street; daughters, Donna E., wife of Carl David Gholson of Scottsville, KY and Pamela S., wife of Andrew Brackbill of Lititz. Her grandchildren include Christopher, Ryan, William, Drew, Hannah and Olivia and great grandchildren, Jocelyn and Andrew. She is survived by her sister, Doris Mitchell of Newton, NJ and was preceded in death by sisters, Eloise Smith and Freda Sovinee. Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Ruth's memorial service on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 4PM from the Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lititz, PA and also all are invited to attend Bill and Ruth's graveside service at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 10AM. Please omit flowers, memorial remembrances may

be made in Ruth's memory to Ephrata Reformed Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Locust Street, Ephrata, PA 17522. For other information please call 717-393-1776 or to submit an online condolence visit [www.melaniebscheidfh.com](http://www.melaniebscheidfh.com).

Melanie B. Scheid Funeral Directors &  
Cremation Services  
Conestoga & Lancaster

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN 4. 4:00 PM (ET)

Brethren Village  
3001 Lititz Pike  
Lititz, PA 17543

## Interment

JAN 6 (ET)

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery  
Anville, PA 17003

# Tribute Wall



“ Hi, Mom! I was just thinking about you and missing you this morning, so I came to your obit so I could visit with you. I know you're in a wonderful place and hopefully, sharing your love with others, especially Dad! Love, Donna

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**Donna Gholson** - July 26, 2025 at 08:06 AM



“ *Ruth E. Courtney*

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October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Ruth E. Courtney*

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October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Ruth E. Courtney*

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October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *Ruth was a valued member of the Woman's Club of Ephrata for many years. She will be remembered fondly.*

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**Woman's Club of Ephrata** - November 27, 2019 at 09:39 AM

RS

“ Donna, Jeff, Pam and family,  
My condolences to you each for losing so fine a woman, mother,  
grandmother, friend and advisor. I've been away so much that it's  
mostly my childhood memories of her gentleness that I have... those  
and seeing her through conversations with Donna. The blessing is  
that now she is again with uncle Bill, her partner since before I was  
born.

*Though aunt Ruth isn't available any more by phone, she will  
remain with you always for consul and calming - whenever needed.  
Just call her to mind and know from her mark in your memory what  
she'd advize or say to give comfort. Her strength of spirit is there,  
now and always.*

*Love from afar, Rudy*

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**Rudy Sovinee** - November 26, 2019 at 08:56 PM

BS

“ Bonnie Sovinee lit a candle in memory of  
Ruth E. Courtney



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**Bonnie Sovinee** - November 26, 2019 at 01:42 PM

BS

*Dear Donna, Jeff and Pam,*

*Your Mother, my Aunt Ruth was so special in so many ways. Always a smile and a kind word, she was so generous and loving. I remember the family gatherings at Easter in Paoli, and how we all played together downstairs.*

*It was so good to be with you all at the 90th birthday celebration, and others since in Lancaster.*

*Aunt Ruth was so positive in her daily life, even when she didn't feel well. She was much loved, and will be dearly remembered.*

*Love, Bonnie*

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**Bonnie Sovinee** - November 26, 2019 at 01:45 PM

DG

“ *Oh, dear Mom, I will miss your voice, your laughter, your gentle spirit, and zest for life. I love you so!! Love, Donna*

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**Donna Gholson** - November 24, 2019 at 05:00 PM