



## Ruth Elaine Fenison

January 16, 1935 - May 11, 2022

Ruth Elaine (Swartz) Fenison, 87, Riverside, WA, passed through the veil to see Jesus and join her ever-lovin' husband Joe on May 11, 2022. She was born in Tekoa, Washington on January 16, 1935 to Pastor Daniel and Louise Swartz. Raised in Eastern Washington, Ruth graduated from Oroville High School. She married Bobbie Joe Fenison in Chewelah, WA on September 3, 1954 and earned her LPN nursing license in 1972.

Ruth lived up to her name of "Faithful Friend," raising her three children while also serving as pastor's wife, later working as an LPN, operating two adult family homes with her husband Joe, leading Omak Senior Center as President for five years, and working in the children's ministry at Cornerstone Fellowship.

A champion in hospitality, Ruth loved adding a dessert after every meal, a candy dish on the counter, or a bowl of nuts to the game table. The first word visitors could expect on entering her home was, "Would you like something to drink? Cookie or brownie?"

Ruth was a prayer warrior, praying daily for her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren every single morning and evening, praying them through many, many storms. She was the rock of stability in the family, remembering birthdays, appointments, and serving wonderful food

every chance possible to bring family together.

Ruth Elaine Fenison is survived by one brother, Warren Swartz, Coeur d'Alene, ID; one daughter Roberta (Fenison) Donnor of Vancouver, WA; two sons, Burton (Jim) Fenison of Morton, WA, and Steven Fenison of Okanogan, WA; twelve grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joe Fenison, her parents, two sisters, one brother, and one grandchild, Benjamin Fenison.

An open-casket memorial service will be held for Ruth Elaine Fenison at River Valley Funeral Home, Omak, WA, at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 4, 2022 (2547 Elmway St, Okanogan, WA 98840). Public is welcome.

We're considering a last "Dinner at Ruth's Table" afterward at about 3pm on June 4th, and need RSVPs to know which venue to choose, anywhere from 25 to 80 people. Please message Roberta in the next few days at 509.557.5992 to let us know if you can join us and remember Ruth's amazing hospitality one last time together. Thank you. Bless you all.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN 4. 2:00 PM.

River Valley Funeral Home

# Tribute Wall



“ *River Valley Funeral & Cremation created a Webcast in memory of Ruth Elaine Fenison* ”



---

**River Valley Funeral & Cremation** - June 04, 2022 at 02:39 PM



“ *Aunika Young lit a candle in memory of Ruth Elaine Fenison* ”



---

**Aunika Young** - September 19, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ *Ruth Elaine Fenison* ”

---

October 23, 2023 at 01:06 AM



“ *Nature itself mourns at moms passing, as today we bury her ashes urn. In honor of mom, a life well lived, a solid lighthouse in the storm.*



---

**Roberta Donnor** - June 05, 2022 at 10:05 AM



*Two specific things attributed to Ruth is that she prayed for her daughter and family to resettle in Omak. God moved Ruth's heart so strongly that she got up an hour early to pray an hour every morning before beginning her adult family home duties. To this day, Roberta credits Ruth's obedience to the Lord for saving the lives of her children and herself.*

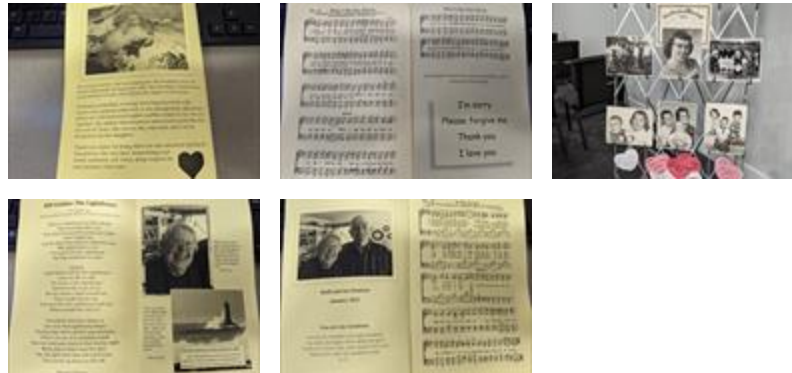
*The second thing Ruth did that was truly remarkable is that she cultivated a close relationship with each one of her children. In so doing, Ruth inspired her daughter to cultivate a similar bond with each of her children. Because of Ruth's example, Roberta's children also had "Time Together," time once/week when each child in turn, in private, could talk about anything.*

---

**Roberta Donnor** - June 05, 2022 at 10:09 AM



“ Ruth's memorial songs and pictures



Roberta Donnor - June 04, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ To Roberta, and the whole family, So many memories to share. But, perhaps my favorite is this one. Picture in your mind, An absolutely starstruck teenage girl - (Ruth) and a grade school girl (me) who thought her older cousin - (Ruth) - was absolutely the best, laying in bed together. I am quiet because Ruth is talking on and on about the most handsome ever boy she had met at camp. He was part of a college quartet that was singing in the camp services. He has the most fabulous voice. "His name is Joe, and I am pretty sure he likes me. Oh Judy, I think I am in love!"

Judy Stewart Bauerle - June 01, 2022 at 02:24 PM



That's fabulous! Yes, I can picture that. Thanks for sharing, Judy.

Roberta Donnor - June 02, 2022 at 09:44 AM



“ Family coming together to support Ruth at Joe's memorial April 23, 2022.



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 11:01 PM



“ Ruth visiting family for Mothers Day on May 8, 2022. She said she had a wonderful time.



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 10:00 PM



“ Ruth visiting her brother Warren in Court d'Alene, ID on April 29, 2022



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 09:56 PM



*Sigh. Coeur d'Alene. Where is spell check when you need it?*

---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 10:03 PM



“ *Ruth and Joe Fenison, January 2021.*



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 09:51 PM

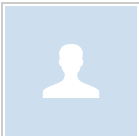


“ *Singing songs after breakfast with mom and dad, 2021.*



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 27, 2022 at 09:31 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Ruth Elaine Fenison.*



---

May 27, 2022 at 09:17 PM

RD

“ *My mother’s hands. Dad was praying for the breakfast meal. We always held hands during prayer. But, this morning, I looked down at my mother’s hands, and realized the impact of our bond. Profound symbolism, wearing matching bracelets with mom’s rose-printed tablecloth in the background, placemats, dishes set with buttered English muffins ready to eat. We are together. My mother had prepared and served meals like this for over 67 years. She was an old, wise soul, and I am so honored to be her daughter. Thank you, mom, for being there for me and never giving up. You deserve the very best. Thank you for being your sweet, authentic self. Deep, deep respect for your journey. I love you.*



---

**Roberta Donnor** - May 22, 2022 at 06:05 PM