



Frances Drake Koerner

March 26, 1938 - May 23, 2026

Frances Drake Koerner peacefully went to be with the Lord on May 23, 2026, at Westwood Senior Life Assisted Living in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Fran was born on March 26, 1938, to Robert and Mary (Wright) Drake in Midland, Michigan. Following graduation from Midland High School, she attended Olivet Nazarene University for two years.

Fran married Carl L. Koerner Jr. on August 6, 1960, and they were married for 65 years. The Koerner's were longtime members of College Church of the Nazarene, where Fran worked for more than 45 years. Through her work in the church office, she became a steady and caring presence in the life of the church family. Whether answering phone calls, praying with and for others, organizing funeral dinners, inviting people to church events, or offering friendship and encouragement, much of her ministry was carried out quietly behind the scenes. She valued time with family and friends and enjoyed keeping up with their lives, activities, and accomplishments.

Surviving are her sons, Chris and Elizabeth (DiPietro) Koerner, and Curtis and Kimberly (Kauffman) Koerner; five grandchildren: Chad (Amanda) Koerner, Kristen (Kyle) Blaylock, Cory Koerner, Danielle (Trey) Kinsey, and Joshua (Sarah Phillips) Koerner; eight great-grandchildren, Madison, Ethan, Mason, and Blakey Koerner, Daniel, Leonidas, and Juliette Blaylock, and Henry Kinsey; and her sister, Grace Arnold, along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl L. Koerner Jr., parents, Robert and Mary Drake; her brother, Leslie Drake; her sister, Joyce Yeakle; and brother-in-law Richard Yeakle; granddaughter-in-law Ashley Nicole Koerner; brother-in-law William Minor; and niece Lisa (Yeakle) Smith.

A visitation will be held Friday, June 5, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

An additional visitation will be held Saturday, June 6, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by a Celebration of Life service at 1:00 p.m., both at College Church of the Nazarene in Bourbonnais. Dr. John Bowling, former pastor of College Church and President Emeritus of Olivet Nazarene University, will officiate.

Interment will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens in Aroma Township.

Memorials may be made to College Church of the Nazarene Benevolence Fund, 200 N. University Avenue, Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914.

Arrangements are by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

JUN 6. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Funeral Service

JUN 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

College Church of the Nazarene
200 University Ave.
Bourbonnais, IL
(815) 933-7749
<http://www.collegechurch.org/>

Tribute Wall

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“ I have known Fran and her family since I was a little girl; however, Fran and I got better acquainted when my family moved to the Olivet community. As the church office administrator, she was kind, patient, organized and thorough. Everyone in the church loved Fran. When David and I moved back to Bourbonnais, Fran warmly greeted us and made us feel at home. She leaves a wonderful legacy of love for her family and the College Church people.

Becky Nielson Erwin

Rebecca Erwin - June 04 at 10:18 PM

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“ I will always remember how at home I felt when Fran was in the office to handle anything I needed. If for some reason she wasn't there I'd wait til she was. I appreciated her assistance and helped her in the kitchen many times for church dinners etc. She and Carl always made it a fun time. Laurie Brodien Oswald

Laurie Oswald - June 04 at 08:01 PM