



## Shirley F. Brunner

November 23, 1944 - June 10, 2021

Shirley F. Brunner, age 76, of Herscher, passed away on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at her home. She was born on November 23, 1944 in Bonfield, the daughter of Fred and Edna (Margrey) Hall. She married Ivan Brunner on November 6, 1965.

Shirley graduated from Herscher High School in 1962 and from Kankakee Community College's Nursing program in 1990. She was a member of Grand Prairie United Methodist Church and Martha Circle. She was the church organist at Trinity Methodist Church in Kankakee for 55 years. She also accompanied the choral department at Herscher Grade School and Herscher High School for many years. Shirley's family held community picnics and fireworks for 20 years. She worked as a registered nurse at Riverside Hospital for 3 years and was the phone nurse for Dr. Jeff Long for 10 years. Shirley volunteered with 4-H. She was a lifeguard and taught swimming lessons at Salina Sportsmans Club.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Ivan Brunner of Herscher; one son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Kristina Brunner, of Pontiac; one daughter, Gayle Brunner of Palatine; twin grandsons, Garrett and Griffin Brunner, of Pontiac; one brother and sister-in-law, Don and Terry Hall of Bonfield; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Monique Brunner of Paray Vielle, France, Rose Dunn of Elgin, Margaret and Eugene Reardanz of Kankakee, Wilbert

and Asenath Brunner of Kankakee, and Maria Brunner of Scottsdale, AZ; and special niece, Sharon Call of Avon Lake, OH.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister and brother-in-law, Edna Mae and Clarence Ravn; brother, Ted Hall; and brothers-in-law, Albert Brunner, Donald Dunn, and Melvin Brunner.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm on Monday, June 14, 2021 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Kankakee (963 S. 3rd Ave.). An additional visitation will be held from 10:00 am until the time of the 11:00 am funeral service on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 also at Trinity United Methodist Church in Kankakee. Rev. Valerie Mezger and Rev. Keith Blankenship will officiate the funeral service. Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment will take place at a later date at Grand Prairie Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church or Grand Prairie United Methodist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Grand Prairie Cemetery

Bonfield, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 14. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
936 South 3rd  
Kankakee, IL

## Visitation

JUN 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
936 South 3rd  
Kankakee, IL

## Funeral Service

JUN 15. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church  
936 South 3rd  
Kankakee, IL

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ *Monica Rocha lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner*



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**Monica Rocha** - June 14, 2021 at 08:37 PM

LG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. I will always remember fondly how she and I shared a love for music. I especially remember an evening when we did "Shirley and Linda at the piano" for a Christmas party at church. What fun that was. We shared songs and Jokes with the group. I still have a copy of a cd she recored. So beautiful.*

*Linda Grindley*

*I don't know if you know Wayne is gone now too.*

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**Linda Grindley** - June 14, 2021 at 07:44 PM

PS

“ *Mrs Bruner was my organist for my wedding in 1974. I gave her 3 pieces of sheet music I wanted played. Color My World by Chicago and Pieces of April by 3 Dog Night. These were special for my fiancé and myself. And Ave Maria for when my Mom walked up the isle. After our Friday night rehearsal Mrs Bruner found me and told me I had picked 3 beautiful pieces of music. She said the music, not the words so much, but the melody made her tear up. She was such a wonderful asset to Trinity. God Bless. (My husband and I are still going strong. ). Thank you. Peggy Peerbolte Shockley*

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**Peggy Peerbolte Shockley** - June 14, 2021 at 04:46 PM

KU

“ Katherine Underwood lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner



Katherine Underwood - June 14, 2021 at 12:23 PM

KA

“ KathyLott lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner



KathyLott - June 13, 2021 at 03:34 PM



“ My prayers for Ivan on losing Shirley and a bowling teammate in the same week. I know your faith, family and friends will help you through all of this! I met you, Shirley, and Gary at Fred and Edna's farm. It was fun to come, usually with Grandma Weedon, to get a gallon or 2 of fresh milk! Fred and Edna and Shirley made the visits a lot of fun. You were always helping out working some where, and I really admired this Years have passed, and Shirley always had time to say hello and to share her enthusiasm, whether it was at a store or at the high school girls basketball game at the United Center in Chicago. You and Gary have always made time to listen and say hello, too, I know my life is better by knowing each of you, and you all are in my thoughts and prayers. Scott Weedon

Scott Weedon - June 13, 2021 at 02:42 PM

RD

*One year someone tucked a package under their tree before Christmas. When Christmas arrived, Ivan opened an empty box He doesn't like chocolate! (The package contained Demet's Turtles.) I feel the same way. I never knew anyone except Shirley who could smell it. I like turtles too! Shirley couldn't resist the smell until it was in her tummy. Ivan might eat a Hershey bar about once a year. Otherwise he doesn't eat it,*

*This incident written by Rose Dunn (Ivan's older sister)*

Rose Marie Dunn - July 07, 2021 at 12:51 AM

PK

“ *Condolences and prayers to the family.*

Pennie Boldt Koopman - June 13, 2021 at 12:43 PM

AL

“ *I went to school with Shirley and can still hear her beautiful laugh. It brought joy to all of us. Sending sympathy and prayers to the family. She was such a great lady and always seemed upbeat. She will be missed by so many. May she rest in peace.*

Alice Leuer - June 12, 2021 at 05:30 PM

AL

“ *Alice Leuer lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner*



Alice Leuer - June 12, 2021 at 05:26 PM

DB

“ *Our deepest sympathy.*

David and Mary Billington - June 12, 2021 at 05:06 PM

JP

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Brunner, and Hall families. I went to school with Shirley who was a bright light in any room she entered. A wonderful person, highly talented musician. and a friend to everyone who's life she touched. May God find a special place in heaven for her.*

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**Jim Puswaskis** - June 12, 2021 at 04:35 PM

DS

“ *Dear Ivan and family,  
We would like to extend our sincere sympathy to you at this time of your great loss. We have fond memories of times spent together at Schieler Reunions.  
Our love,  
Dale and Sandra (Schieler) Stoller*

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**Dale and Sandra Stoller** - June 12, 2021 at 10:58 AM

Jl

“ *Jim lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner*



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**jim** - June 12, 2021 at 07:34 AM

Jl

*Ivan so sorry to hear this may god comfort you and your family during this time your friend jim*

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**jim** - June 12, 2021 at 07:36 AM

BT

*So sorry for your loss. We spent many basketball games watching from the sidelines at PTHS. She was a delight to visit with during the games. May God surround your family and comfort you and remember all the wonderful memories.*

**Betsy Thompson** - June 12, 2021 at 11:19 AM

SC

*“ May our family find peace in her absence as we mourn the loss of Shirley as mother, wife, sister, grandmother, cousin, niece, aunt. She was a woman of many strengths and we all will miss her humor, talents and unwavering love of us all. Sharon & Fred Call*

**Sharon Call** - June 11, 2021 at 10:41 PM

SS

*“ Rest in peace!!!! 🙏🙏🙏❤️*



**Shelly Scully** - June 11, 2021 at 09:41 PM

MD

*“ Shirley was a beautiful soul who shared her love of music every moment she could. I missed her quick wit (she could always make me laugh) and hospitality when I moved away. Much love and prayers to her family!*

*Rev. Miranda Denler*

**Miranda Denler** - June 11, 2021 at 09:11 PM

MC

“ *Marc Christensen lit a candle in memory of Shirley F. Brunner*



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**Marc Christensen** - June 11, 2021 at 08:48 PM

GG

“ *My Mom shared a room with Shirley at Miller she was a very sweet and caring person. You have my sympathy and will keep you in our prayers.*



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**Gloria and Bill Graham** - June 11, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *We have lost an old friend!  
And the BEST Fireworks and Friends Get togethers Ever!!!  
Her Music was as special as she was!  
She Will Be Missed!!*

*I remember when thugs from a gang took over the house across from her “RESERVED “ parking spot at the church! One Saturday night, they had scattered beer bottles all over the yard, and street! Shirley arrived early, as she always did, but did not park but rather stopped short of her space, and got out, and with her cane, proceeded to shove everyone of those beer bottles out of her parking spot and back across the street! Then she told those groggy eyed boys, that they better never do that again! Only then, did she park her car in the reserved space, and proceed into church!  
Shirley was truly a wonderful woman!  
We look forward to seeing her again in Heaven!*

*We pray God’s Eternal Strength and Grace for her family and friends.  
Pastor Martin and Anne Gutzmer*

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**Anne Sanford Gutzmer** - June 11, 2021 at 08:14 PM

DS

“ *My childhood memories fondly include Shirley! Choir practice and Sunday services were not only spiritual with her guidance but filled with laughter. Heaven gained a true angel! God's blessings to Shirley's beloved husband, children and grandchildren.*

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**Dorci Schoolman** - June 11, 2021 at 08:09 PM

MB

“ *Ivan and family, we are so sorry for the loss of Ma. She was such a wonderful person and be greatly missed. All our prayers*



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**Mary Bledsoe-Theisen** - June 11, 2021 at 06:22 PM

DF

“ *So sorry for your loss. Shirley played the organ at my wedding at Grand Prairie Church, she was an awesome organist and pianist. I loved to listen to her play. Thoughts and prayers to all the Brunner family.*

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**Dawn Fritz** - June 11, 2021 at 06:15 PM

PS

“ *Shirley was a sweet person who shared her talents with any who asked her. It was a privilege to know her. God bless the Bruner family.* 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻

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**Pam Silvey** - June 11, 2021 at 05:38 PM

DW

“ *Our sympathy to Ivan & family. I shared a room at Miller Rehab with Shirley a few years ago. She was a very nice lady & appreciative of every thing done for her. She had her trials but kept on doing so much. I shall always remember Shirley. God Bless, Donna & Merlyn Witheft*

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**Donna & Nerlyn Witheft** - June 11, 2021 at 05:28 PM