



Eileen M. Benner

June 5, 1937 - December 21, 2025

Eileen M. Benner, 88, of Mount Joy, passed away on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at home. Born in Rapho Township, she was the daughter of the late Henry and Barbara (Nissley) Miller. Eileen was the wife of Galen Benner, with whom she shared 67 years of marriage.

Eileen was a graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School, Class of 1955. A homemaker first and foremost, Eileen and her husband owned and operated Rocky Acre Farm Bed and Breakfast for over 60 years. She was a lifetime member of Mount Joy Mennonite Church and a longtime supporter of Kraybill Mennonite School, where she was known for her strawberry pies and quilts for the annual auction.

Eileen loved everyone and was accepting of all. She deeply loved her family, grandchildren and great grandchildren and was known for showing up to sporting events whether near or far. If you called her, she was there. She had a gift for remembering people's favorite things and would often arrive at their door with just that item in hand. She had a deep love for hospitality and treasured time spent with guests, delighting in conversation and care. Food was one of the ways she expressed love—sending food along on trips, making sure everyone was well-fed, and sharing her famous peanut brittle, pumpkin pies, and egg cheese.

Eileen also enjoyed listening to The Chuck Wagon Gang, music that reflected her faith and warmth of heart.

Surviving in addition to her husband, Galen, are six children: Lamar Benner,

husband of Cheryl of Gordonville; Dean Benner, husband of Jennifer of Landisville; Arlin Benner, husband of Deborah of Mount Joy; Holly Noll, wife of Kevin of Mount Joy; Loren Benner, husband of Amy of Mount Joy; and Noel Garman, wife of Jason of Lititz; twenty-three grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Justin David Noll; and three siblings, Joyce Hartz, Warren Miller, and Wayne Miller.

A memorial service honoring Eileen's life will be held at Mount Joy Mennonite Church, 320 Musser Road, Mount Joy, PA 17552, on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 2 PM. Family and friends will be received at the church following the service. Interment will be private at Landisville Mennonite Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Kraybill Mennonite School, 598 Kraybill Church Rd, Mount Joy, PA 17552.

To watch the livestream of the service please click the link below.

https://youtube.com/live/p6l_H83Tmbw

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mount Joy Mennonite Church
320 Musser Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Visitation

JAN 4. 3:30 PM (ET)

Mount Joy Mennonite Church
320 Musser Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tribute Wall

“ This tribute is from a little girl who moved 1,200 miles away several decades ago but still thinks about this remarkable woman. Eileen. Probably the most generous person I’ve ever known. I know her family and community must miss her so much but should take comfort in the lasting impact she made on so many people all around the world who dipped into her tide pool, even if just momentarily, and left refreshed. Better. Maybe even different.

I just learned of Eileen’s passing. Though I had not seen her in many, many years, she made a lasting mark on my childhood. I lived in Mount Joy during my formative years (between 1985 and 1991) and the Rocky Acre Farm is intertwined in so many memories for me. That is one place where children were meant to be seen AND heard.

Eileen was loud and honest and said exactly what she was thinking. I loved that about her. It’s how I was too. I was never one to know how to show the proper respectable religious reverence that was the expectation in my environment. Eileen was the first adult I ever met who was both spiritual and free. And she got me.

I never felt “less than” with her. I never felt shame. I never felt any expectation other than “work hard, try your best and learn from your mistakes”. I’m sure every person who walked into her life felt that same love and acceptance. We were all good enough. We were all special. We all deserved to be heard. I never felt judged or “sized up” around her. All I felt was community. Community that welcomed and cherished anyone who wanted to be part of it.

I’m watching the memorial service on youtube with tears streaming down my face. When Loren spoke of the hymns his mom used to sing, I could hear her in my head belting out “Victory in Jesus”. Loud and boisterous and all heart. We sang that song together one morning while she was teaching me how to make scrambled eggs. And I have to say, I am known for making the best scrambled eggs. Thirty-five years later, when people ask me how I make them so

good, I tell them, "It's the Eileen way".

The Eileen I remember was the busiest person alive and still never missed a beat. Always ready for anything and always noticing everyone. 100% hard work. 100% heart. 100% generosity. 100% real. 100% Eileen. Even if for just a few sunsets, I'm glad I knew her.

Loey Gross - May 03 at 01:52 PM

VS

“ *I'm struggling with the loss of "Aunt Benner", a huge Pilar in my life for 58 long years. We were neighbors as I grew up on yippee farm. Working for her at the bed n breakfast since age 10. My baby brother couldn't say Eileen so he called her "aunt Benner" since he was a young boy. That name stuck and my 3 daughters eventually called her the same. My oldest daughter got married on the farm. The only wedding there, Except her granddaughters down in the meadow.*

If you knew her? You knew she'd do anything to help anyone!! If there was a need?? She'd answer that need!! I never met an angel on earth before Eileen. 🥹🥹 I miss her!! We'd talk sometimes twice a week since she passed away and I'm lost without her.

One time she called me informing me a box of blueberries on my porch. The next time it was a recliner chair that lifted in my driveway, she bought from the money she got during Covid!!...The next time more blueberries, after that? She came here with Tyler, and Grant and she took me to buy me a brand new mattress. (Mine was shot and she knew it)... She made my daughters clean my room while we were gone... hahahaha yet I couldn't get them to clean for me!! 😂😂😂... Please watch over us my dear sweet second momma!! I'll love you n miss you forever... til we meet again. 🙏🙏

Vickie Sweikert - February 03 at 12:49 AM

SF

“Mrs. benner will be missed, she was an amazing woman she always took the time to have laughs with my family and even teach my children how to cook late at night. Over the years My children always thought of her like a grandmother. This picture was taken this past fall when our whole family was there and it was a really nice visit I was able to help out with a bell on the roof which made her happy and that's a very fond memory for me to take with me going forward, but Mrs benner's favorite story to tell everyone even guess that were at the Inn when my family wasn't there is the story about how she hijacked my family with a little kitten sent it to New Jersey I got a knock at the door at 10:00 at night and there was this little kitten and it became part of my family we loved it very much and every time I saw her every year when we went back she would get a good laugh out of how she roped us into adopting a baby kitten which is just amazing I love her so much I feel like everyone is better off for knowing her, I know she's up there smiling down on us.



Stephen B Fornarotto - January 29 at 12:43 PM

RM

“The farm has been a favorite vacation spot for my family for 38 years. We visit at least once every year. When my now-grown children were in grade school, they told me that they hoped one day we would win the lottery. They planned to use the winnings to buy the farm so we could live there all year long with Mr. & Mrs. Benner. Such was the environment they created; everyone felt like part of a family.



Robin M Moro - January 06 at 08:41 AM

RM

“ *Robin M Moro lit a candle in memory of Eileen M. Benner*



Robin M Moro - January 06 at 08:31 AM

CP

“ *Christina Pepino lit a candle in memory of Eileen M. Benner*



christina pepino - January 05 at 01:01 PM

CP

Mrs. Benner was like a Mother figure to my family when we visited her Farm. Welcomed you with open arms. May she RIP

christina pepino - January 05 at 01:05 PM

MM

“ *Our prayers and sympathy to Galen and the family during this time of bereavement. Marlin and Linda Myers*

Marlin and Linda Myers - January 04 at 07:47 PM

MR

“ *Marcy Romano lit a candle in memory of Eileen M. Benner*



Marcy Romano - January 03 at 04:52 PM

MR

Our family sends their heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your beloved matriarch and Mom to everyone...Eileen Benner may you rest in peace! Marcy & Angelo Romano and Family, Barnegat, NJ

Marcy Romano - January 03 at 04:52 PM

PM

“ *Paul Mumma sent a virtual gift in memory of Eileen M. Benner*



Paul Mumma - December 31, 2025 at 06:12 PM



“ *Some of the most fond childhood memories I have are the times our family visited the Benner's farm and Eileen always made those visits extra memorable. There is a certain kind of peaceful magic about Rocky Acre Farm and Eileen was the center of all that. Even years later when we brought our granddaughter along for a weekend visit, that same peaceful easiness was readily recognizable the minute you saw Eileen and sat down at her kitchen table to catch up on what everyone was doing those days. She was the Matriarch in the truest fashion and one of the most caring individuals you could ever meet. We will miss her deeply. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her amazing family who have meant so much to so many throughout many years!*



Todd Holmes - December 31, 2025 at 04:34 PM

PC

Beautiful eulogy and as a guest with my family for many years (several times a year), I could not agree more. She will be missed by many. 💔

phyllis calistro - January 03 at 02:06 PM

AN

“ Just saw her 2 months ago, she was as warm and kind as ever. Such an amazing person. I've never met someone with so much energy! She did everything with love & never met a stranger. Her B&B is essentially the reason I moved to PA. Will never forget you Mrs. B!

Andrew - December 29, 2025 at 04:45 PM

JL

“ John M Larrimore lit a candle in memory of Eileen M. Benner



John M Larrimore - December 27, 2025 at 05:48 PM

VS

“ Vickie Hecker Sweikert lit a candle in memory of Eileen M. Benner



Vickie Hecker Sweikert - December 27, 2025 at 04:03 PM

VS

“ There’s not enough room to share the memories of a woman who was a pillar in my life. She will be missed sooo much! From the many things she taught me, to her Christlike example. Truly my second mom, and inspiration !!

She was also sooo funny! I could make her laugh and visa versa. My only condolence is knowing I’ll see her again in the kingdom of heaven! There’s zero doubt she’s with Jesus! “You bet!”

She knew how much we loved her, as I told her everytime we spoke. My sincere condolences to Galen, and her children and all the rest of the gang for this loss is too great. 🙏🙏🙏

What a legacy!!! ❤️❤️

With love,
Vickie Hecker Sweikert



Vickie Hecker Sweikert - December 27, 2025 at 04:01 PM

PM

Our condolences to the Benner Family in the loss of their loved one Eileen. She is now with Jesus along with my beloved Betty who passed away in February. We have so many wonderful memories, whether at the farm, Kraybill's Mennonite from which Betty retired or the annual auction. May God bless you and give you the comfort and peace that comes only from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Love and Prayers, The Paul Mumma Family.

Paul Mumma - December 31, 2025 at 06:18 PM