



Mary J. Wagar

December 20, 1936 - June 8, 2022

Mary's funeral service is viewable at <https://vimeo.com/720034511>

The funeral service for Mary Wagar, 85, Valley City, ND, will be 11 am Monday, June 13, 2022 at First Baptist Church, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church. Burial will be in Memory Gardens, rural Valley City.

Mary Jewel Benson was born December 20, 1936, at home near rural Malcom, Minnesota to Alfred and Sylvia (Jokela) Benson. She graduated from Goodridge High School in 1954. That same year Mary began working at Land-O-Lakes as a stenographer.

On October 4, 1958, Mary was united in marriage to Willis Franklin Wagar in Valley City. In 1959 they moved to a farmstead near Grygla, Minnesota to farm and begin their family. In 1963 the Wagars moved back to Valley City. As the family grew, Willis and Mary took in foster children. Once the children were in school, Mary worked several different jobs: a nurses' aide at the nursing home; cook at the high school lunchroom; planting for Benson nursery; a seasonal employee at the accounting firm of Ludvigson and Braun, and Fritch Gardens. During the 1980s she was also busy with all sorts of creative crafts and contributed to the opening of Homespun Charm. In 1988 Willis and Mary bought Fritch Gardens with their son James and his wife, Eydie. Mary became

the general manager of Wagar Nursery, Inc. The business was sold in 2005.

Mary enjoyed gardening and was a vendor at the local farmer's market, where she sold her vegetables, baked goods, jams and jellies. She loved music and enjoyed singing and playing the piano and accordion. She was a quilt club member and enjoyed sewing and crafting. Mary was also a 4-H leader and a bowler. She liked to read, travel, and research the family's genealogy. She was notorious in word games and enjoyed a good game of pinochle with family members.

Mary went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus, on June 8, 2022, at the St. Raphael Care Center.

Mary is survived by her children Jacquelyn (Tom) Ueland, Ulen, MN; Joel (Faye) Wagar, Rochester, MN; James (Eydie) Wagar, Valley City, ND; Jennifer (Ewald) Horst, South Range, WI; Jon (Patty) Wagar, Valley City, ND; 28 grandchildren, and 29 great grandchildren. Mary is also survived by her siblings: John Benson, Grygla, MN; and Bonnie Benson, Valley City, ND.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Willis; her parents, Alfred and Sylvia Benson, her brother, David Benson; and grandson, Christopher Wagar.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.olivernathanchapel.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **13**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

JUN **13**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
3511 Kathryn Rd. S.
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall



“ Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Mary J. Wagar



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - June 13, 2022 at 06:07 PM

MW

“ I first met Bill and Mary at my Fathers Funeral (Paul Wagar) in 2015. I heard about them so often from my Dad and wished I could have known them before then. The great comfort I have is I will spend Eternity with them how wonderful that day would be. Mary died the same year my Mother passed and just happened upon this Obit today. So sorry for the families loss! thinking of you in my thoughts and Prayers. Mary J. Wagar

Mary Wagar - September 20, 2024 at 04:18 PM

GL

“ Sympathy to your family. I remember how hard Mary and Willis worked to help set up Homespun Charm in Valley City, of which I also was a member of ownership.

Gale and Jerry Larson - June 16, 2022 at 11:45 PM

DO

“ Mary Jewel.... certainly a "gem" ... a kind and thoughtful lady always with a smile.
We shared stories of her Dad transplanting the trees from the shelterbelt by hand-digging and wrapping them in burlap when the interstate 94 was going to demolish those trees. And her mother, Sylvia, in the Care Center, who always needed help finding her glasses and so happy that I knew Mary and could share stories.
4-H would not have been the same without Mary and Willis. The library was part of her service, too. Our sincere sympathy to your family knowing she is safe in her heavenly home.

Durward and Phyllis Otterness - June 14, 2022 at 01:10 PM

KE

“ So sorry to hear of Mary's passing. She and my mom were good friends, through bowling for many years and in the foster parenting program. She was such a kind person always saying hi and asking how you were doing. She will be missed.

Kerry Engler - June 13, 2022 at 02:36 PM

DS

“ Such a sweet, kind lady who will be missed. She & Willis were always so welcoming and sincerely cared about people. May Mary now rest in peace as she joins her loving family & friends in heaven. Our thoughts & prayers are with all of you.

Diane Sommerfeld - June 13, 2022 at 01:07 PM

BR

“ I remember when a kid, getting to go to Bill & Mary’s place for a week. I had so much fun doing stuff with all the kids, and the kindness and love that Bill & Mary gave.
I remember riding in the car with the whole family to some where..... and they would start singing . I loved it! Bev Roeding

Bev Roeding - June 13, 2022 at 10:27 AM

SS

“ Childhood memories of Mary center around a time when she taught Sunday school at Southwest Bible Chapel. The bean bag frogs she so lovingly sewed for each one in the class quickly come to mind thinking back on that era. So many words come to mind in thinking of Mary...kind, warm, every ready to serve, hardworking, faithful...the list is long! Doubtless she was greeted with, "Well done thou good and faithful servant.", upon her transition to glory. It was a privilege to know Mary and I send my condolences to each one in the family. She will be greatly missed!

Steven Schoenig - June 12, 2022 at 08:15 PM

MS

“ I was always eager to see Mary on our trips to Valley City. She had a ready smile and made everyone feel like they were special. She was usually working in the chapel kitchen, quietly and without fanfare. What a beautiful lady!

Miriam Schoenig - June 12, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary J. Wagar.*



June 12, 2022 at 05:10 PM



“ *I will always remember Mary & Willis as being kind and thoughtful. Some of the flowers in my garden were purchased from them are still blooming. They were fun to visit with at the Farmers Market too. May God's Peace & Comfort be with each of you!*
Becky (Walter) Schroeder

Becky Schroeder - June 12, 2022 at 08:44 AM



“ *I have known Mary since I was a little girl. I will never forget that beautiful smile! My deepest sympathy to family and Bonnie and John Benson.*

Ida Berger - June 11, 2022 at 03:19 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary J. Wagar.*



June 11, 2022 at 12:54 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary J. Wagar.*



June 10, 2022 at 07:08 PM



“ *From All Your Friends at Bernatellos purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary J. Wagar.*



From All Your Friends at Bernatellos - June 09, 2022 at 05:58 PM