



Agnes Eby

1926—2022

Celebrating the life & faith of

Agnes Eby

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 11:00 am

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer Pastor Rene Baergen

Lighting of the Candle Jonathan Martin

Hymn *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

Scripture *Psalms 103 (abridged)* Matthew Kruger

Hymn *How Great Thou Art*

Remembering Mom Karen Martin and Linda Kruger

Remembering Grandma Tonya Martin
Nathan Kruger

Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Scripture Revelation 21:1, 3-5a Charles Kruger

Meditation

Hymn *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

Announcements & Benediction

Agnes will be laid to rest in the First Mennonite Church Cemetery in a private family committal service at a later date. Her family is hosting a Zoom gathering this afternoon at 2:30 for Agnes's family and friends to share their memories. The link for this gathering can be found on the Erb & Good website. The family are grateful for your participation, support and many expressions of sympathy.

Minister: Rene Baergen

Musicians: Daniel Kruger, Charles Kruger, Laverne Brubacher, Mark Diller Harder, Daryl Roth, Cyndi Jones

Agnes' Life Story

Agnes Eby was born to Angus and Annie Eby on a cold wintry day in Drake, Saskatchewan on February 9, 1926. Angus had taken the horses and sleigh to get the doctor but Annie and a young "hired girl" safely delivered Agnes before Angus and the doctor returned. Eagerly awaiting her arrival were older siblings Eileen, Lloyd and Claire: the family later grew to include Mary, Edgar and Hilda.

Agnes had a deep faith that she lived throughout her life. Her life was a testament to God's love for her and for all, without exception.

Even though Agnes grew up during the depression, she remembered her childhood as full of adventure and fun. The Eby children didn't have many toys or luxuries, but they created their own enjoyment on the farm. When she was about 9, Agnes got her beloved pony, Minnie, and they spent many happy hours together. Agnes would ride Minnie to herd the cows and to sell cards and flower seeds. She also loved to race Minnie with the neighbour's ponies and recalled that Minnie was "arguably" the fastest horse on the block.

Agnes went to Bloomfield School, near their farm. Before walking or "trotting" to school if they were late, the Eby kids milked the cows, slopped the pigs and any other chores that needed doing.

After high school, Mom attended Normal School in Saskatoon for six weeks to learn the basics of teaching. A teacher shortage, due to WWII, meant that Agnes was placed in a small school to teach Grades 1-8 by September.

After hearing of the benefits of a college education from a recruiter who visited Guernsey, Sask., Agnes's next education adventure took her to Hesston College in Kansas. She graduated with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree and then travelled to La Junta, Colorado, to complete her nurses' training. Agnes graduated in 1952 with an RN degree.

After graduating, Agnes returned home and discovered that Milt Eby was in Saskatchewan to visit his older brother Ivan and his wife, Irene. Agnes and Milt had dated a few times when Milt had been west in 1947. After the 1952 visit, Milt and Agnes corresponded regularly. In March 1953, Agnes visited Ontario to see Milt and meet his family. They were engaged shortly and were married in Saskatchewan on December 23, 1953, a beautiful and sunny winter day.

After their marriage, Milt and Agnes moved to Kitchener, Ontario. In 1955 they bought their first and only home at 242 Rodney Street in Waterloo where many wonderful family memories were created over the almost 50 years that they lived there.

In March 1955, Milt and Agnes welcomed Karen Sue, and, in May 1958, Linda Luanne. Life as a young family included the usual activities as well as regular trips west for family and classmate visits and reunions.

Mom's life started to evolve again when she turned forty. Until that time, she had been home with the girls and nursing part-time at K-W Hospital. In 1967 Mom was offered a position as a nurse/social worker at Family and Children's Services and, after some deliberation about the changes this would mean for the family, Mom accepted the position. She worked there for 18 years until her retirement, and truly felt she had found her calling. Mom was appreciated by many as an exceptionally skilled and compassionate worker.

Mom and Dad began the adventure of being grandparents with Tonya's arrival in 1981. Jonathan arrived in 1985, Nathan in 1986, Daniel in 1989 and Matthew in 1992. Mom also became Great Grandma (GG) to Avery in 2015 and Cayden in 2017. She eagerly anticipated the arrival of her first great granddaughter later this spring. Mom was so grateful to be able to see her grandchildren grow into "wonderful people" and to get to know and love their wonderful life partners. Mom treasured the role of grandmother and was engaged and invested in the lives of all her grandchildren.

Mom and Dad both felt blessed to have careers they loved, but when it was time to retire they also found other things in life to keep them busy and active. They enjoyed more travel, including an Alaskan cruise. Mom also visited family in Japan. She continued in leadership roles as a board member for House of Friendship and Eastwood Retirement Community and in various leadership roles at First Mennonite Church. Her intelligence, life experience, level head and openness to embrace and lead change made her a valued member of these groups.

After Dad received his diagnosis of cancer in 2002, Mom was a constant champion and caregiver throughout his illness. She was by Dad's side as they spent his final months doing meaningful things that he enjoyed, including a trip to Indiana for Mom's 50th nursing reunion. When Dad passed in December 2002, Mom showed the same courage, resolve and optimism that had guided her whole life.

Mom lived at 242 Rodney until 2005, when she decided to move to the newly built Parkwood Retirement Community Garden Homes. In 2016, Mom moved to her cosy Parkwood apartment where she loved to sit in her lazyboy to read, do crosswords or play Words with Friends on her iPad. Mom also loved being a part of the Parkwood Community and often remarked how much it was home for her.

We are so grateful to have had Mom, Grandma, and GG in our lives for all these years. She will be deeply missed but will be forever remembered with love.