



## Ruth E. Fowler

June 12, 1921 - April 26, 2020

Ruth E. Nicholas Fowler, 98 of Kearney passed into the presence of her Lord on April 26, 2020 at Mount Carmel Keens Memorial in Kearney.

Due to the current pandemic, a private family funeral service will be live streamed from the Kearney eFree Church on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., at [www.kearneyefree.com/live](http://www.kearneyefree.com/live). Pastor Brian Klein will officiate. There will be no visitation. There will be a private family burial at the Kearney Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Kearney eFree Church, 4010 7th Ave, Kearney, NE 68845 and please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute, memory or condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Ruth was born on June 12, 1921 in Torrington, Wyoming, to Ruth E Martin Nicholas and John Thomas Nicholas. Her mother died at her birth and her father brought her to Kearney to be cared for in the home of her grandparents, Alice K and George E Martin, then President of Kearney State Teachers College. Ruth lived there for three years until her father, with his new wife, Kathryn Cloos Nicholas, was able to take her back to Wyoming. They soon moved back to farm near Mason City, NE. where Ruth spent most of her childhood.

She attended Kearney State Teachers College, studying elementary education. Ruth was also an accomplished musician, playing in the College – Community Orchestra where she met her lifetime love, Gerald B. Fowler. On June 28, 1942 Ruth and Gerry were married at the First United Methodist

Church in Kearney. Only about two weeks after their wedding, Gerry was called up to the Army to serve. While Gerry fought in the European front of WWII Ruth taught elementary school in Nebraska.

After the war, Ruth and Gerald resided in Kearney where they raised their two sons, John and Robert. She eventually returned to college, completing her BA in Education to resume her teaching career for several years at Bryant and Central Elementary Schools. Eventually Ruth left teaching and became the administrative assistant at their church, Kearney Evangelical Free.

Ruth loved reading, piano playing, and caring for others through church and community service organizations. Her life, always intertwined with Gerry's, was characterized by deep faith, love and generosity. Despite losing her sight she never complained and remained positive and was a blessing and encouragement to everyone who knew her.

She is survived by sons John (Barbara) Fowler of Kearney and Robert (Beryl) Fowler of Atlanta, GA; five grandchildren, Joshua (Charlene) Fowler, Katy (Nate) Wiens, Laura (Tony) Stucht, Megan (Justin) Merritt, and Ben (Caroline) Fowler, and nine great-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband of 77 years, Gerald in January of 2020; her parents; and three siblings, brother John (Jack) Nicholas, Jr., sister Margaret (Peg) Nicholas Bowen, and brother Benjamin Nicholas.

# Cemetery Details

## **Kearney Cemetery**

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## **Private Family Service**

MAY 1. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Kearney E- Free Church  
4010 7th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth E. Fowler*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *As a college student who came to Christ in the late '70's, I fondly remember the friendly, hospitable nature of both Jerry and Ruth. I can still see their smiling faces in my mind's eye, handshake extended. True saints that made a difference in our world.*

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**Bruce Beebout** - May 04, 2020 at 10:18 AM

AL

“ *The Celebration of Life Service was so special today, so glad that I didn't miss it. Even though it was not what anyone had planned, you wonderfully honored a life well lived. It was very personal and a great tribute to a Godly, strong woman.*

*I worked with Ruth for several years in the office at the church back in the early 80's. I was a young wife and new mother and Ruth mentored me through so many days of questioning how I could manage. I loved her quiet, but very sweet convincing voice that led me and taught me to hope and choose wise paths.*

*I loved her laugh and the twinkle in her eyes when she had something exciting news or whenever Jerry was in the room. I admired her meticulous dress and organizational skills around the office, we worked well together and got lots of projects done quickly on the two days a week I was there. Ruth's small stature was noted, but never remembered whenever you got to know her by her BIG heart and BIG drive to "move and walk" faster than any of us younger women at the time.*

*I loved to watch Jerry & Ruth come into church each carrying their Bibles after their short walk up the hill from home and sit in the same row each Sunday and Wednesday night. Ruth and I were in several Bible studies together and shared many sermon notes, scripture devotions and our love for Chuck Swindoll through the years. We both loved music and attending all of the great music concerts and cantatas at church.*

*I moved from Kearney in 1984 and am now in my 60's and very involved in our local E. Free Church here in Omaha. I Love the LORD with all my heart. I was very blessed that my life crossed paths with such a beautiful woman and servant of Christ so many years ago. Heaven is rejoicing and she is HOME!!*

*Praying for you as a family as you grieve the loss of your parents and grandparents. She loved you all SO MUCH!! May you continue*

*to remain faithful in the ways of the LORD and the legacy your parents gave you. To God be the glory for all HE has Done in our lives and in the lives of those who have now gone before us.*

*With my sympathy and a grateful heart that I knew Ruth Fowler,*

*Ann Larson*

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**Ann Larson** - May 01, 2020 at 08:49 PM

GG

“ *We treasure our memories of Ruth and Jerry over the years. It was always a pleasure to see their smiles on a Sunday morning in church. I would joke with Ruth that she understood what it was like to be short like myself. I know she loved the great hymns of the faith and at Mt. Carmel when we would come caroling she enjoyed hearing us sing them. She is praising the Lord now in song herself and we rejoice but know too it is never easy to loose a parent. We extend to all the family our deepest sympathy.*

*Jeff and Gloria Geiselman*

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**Gloria Geiselman** - April 29, 2020 at 01:30 PM

VA

“ *I got to know Ruth stuffing bulletins for Sunday church services. She was delightful. We kept in touch over the years. My children remember her plate of cookies she was sure to set out for our visits. Gerry and Ruth's marriage was always an encouragement and model of genuine love and care. Thankful to have been blessed by her friendship.*

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**Vanessa Avera** - April 28, 2020 at 09:23 AM

CW

“ *Connie Welty lit a candle in memory of Ruth E. Fowler*



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**Connie Welty** - April 27, 2020 at 11:26 PM

SS

“ *I'm sorry for your loss of a wonderful mother and grandmother. I know Ruth opened her eyes and can see her Lord, and I'm not sad for that. I knew Ruth when I was much younger and the mother of 3 boys. She was always an encouragement to me. My youngest one loved she and Gerry in the nursery, it was never hard leaving him when they were there. Ruth was a kind, loving and caring lady. I was blessed for having known her. I know she is rejoicing in Heaven and is in awe of the beauty, and is busy praising our Lord. My thoughts and prayers*  
*Susan Sidwell*

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**Susan Sidwell** - April 27, 2020 at 10:01 PM