



Name: Eileen Howe Gingrich

Age: 95

Hometown: Bad Axe

Funeral Date: May 24, 2025

Date of Birth: May 17, 1929

Date of Passing: December 10, 2024

Funeral Home: **Kaufman Funeral Home**

Funeral Information

A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 11 am at the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church. Memorials may be offered to Spring Arbor University or the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared at

www.kaufmanfuneralhome.com

Family of the Deceased

She was preceded in death by her husband James Ephraim Gingrich, daughter Janet (Barry) Eads, sister Mary Louise (Salvatore "Sam") Evola and brother Rae (Evelyn) Howe. She leaves behind her two sons: David (Nancy) Gingrich and Jeffrey (Emily) Gingrich, her grandchildren Jessie (Sean) Trudgeon, Jodi (Jamin) Bradley, Daniel (Jamie) Eads, Erin, Hannah, Nathan (Rachel), Mary Andrea, Christopher, and Andrew Gingrich, her great-grandchildren Beckett, Jericho, Olivia, Emmett, and Lachlan as well as several nieces, nephews and in-laws. The family would especially like to thank the many home health care workers and the dedicated staff at Courtney Manor for caring for our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother during the final season of her life.

Biography

We are saddened to announce, but joyfully celebrate that Eileen Howe Gingrich went to be with her Lord on December 10, 2024, after a long and unique life on Earth. Eileen was born Aileen Mae Howe on May 17, 1929, in Dansville, Michigan to the late Clifford and Lucille (Hedglen) Howe. She grew up traveling across central and eastern Michigan as her father moved to different Free Methodist pastoring assignments, learning her trademark resourcefulness and hosting skills from an early age. She graduated from Spring Arbor High School (at the time Spring Arbor Junior College), where she sang in the girl's glee club, acapella choir, and mixed quartet. In 1949 Eileen moved to Bad Axe, Michigan, where she worked at the Bad Axe Grain Elevator for 5 years. She married James Gingrich June 25, 1949. She and Jim, who worked for the US Postal Service, remained in Bad Axe, a place she loved with all her heart. After briefly residing in Verona, Jim and Eileen, with the help of family and friends, built a house just outside Bad Axe from a pattern in a Popular Mechanics magazine. Together they raised three children: Janet (1952), David (1956), and Jeffrey (1961). Eileen worked as a bookkeeper at Sageman's Jewelry in downtown Bad Axe for 25 years and loved to tell stories about the China, gifts and jewelry they sold. Eileen was a dedicated member of the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church where she was the church society secretary for many years, taught Sunday school classes for nearly every age from two through adult, participated in choir as well as in crafting gatherings. Eileen was an avid seamstress, enjoying both sewing and cross stitching, and sang in the Bad Axe Community choir for several years. She and Jim enjoyed the outdoors, taking road trips to visit family and viewing the wildlife around their home.