

## Mary Virginia "Ginnie" Settle Lowther

March 3, 1935 - September 4, 2022

Mary Virginia "Ginnie" Settle Lowther, 87, died September 4, 2022, at her home in Buckhannon, West Virginia, surrounded and supported by family, including her husband of nearly 69 years, Dewayne Rymer Lowther.

She was born March 3, 1935, in Parkersburg, West Virginia to Samuel Brittan Settle and LaVantia Pearl Elliott Settle.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, June Elise Edwards, and by her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Catherine and Russell Lowther.

She is survived by her three daughters, Paula Vantia McGrew, (Gary), Buckhannon, WV, Sarah Virginia Hensley, (Michael), Fairmont, WV, Mary Catherine Perkins, (Michael), St. Clairsville, Ohio; seven grandchildren, Stephen Russell Brothers-McGrew, Amy LaVantia McGrew Hayslette, Catherine Brittany Perkins Janezic, Kelsey Michelle Perkins, Aaron Lander Perkins, Christian Dewayne Perkins, and Samuel Timothy Hensley; four great grandchildren, Miranda Grace Hayslette, Aurora Dawn Louise Perkins, Zoey Madalyn Hayslette, and Olivia Elizabeth Janezic; a sister, Carol Ruth Thompson, Huntington, WV, and several beloved nieces and nephews and extended family.

A 1953 graduate of Parkersburg (WV) High School, where she was a member of the A Cappella Choir and school paper staff, Ginnie began her undergraduate studies at West Virginia Wesleyan College in the fall of 1953 before eloping to Oakland, Maryland that October with Dewayne Lowther, her high school sweetheart. They had first met in the fall of 1949 and, on New Year's Day in 1950, began making plans to spend their lives together as a team in church-related service.

She put her college plans on hold and worked several jobs including Wesleyan's admission office and at James & Law Book Store for E. W. James, composer of "My Home Among the Hills". She served as an enthusiastic partner in ministry with Dewayne as he took on the role of student pastor during college and seminary. She organized and directed choirs, served as organist, gave piano lessons, led church youth groups and was involved in many other church activities. When they returned to West Virginia following seminary, their partnership continued across the years and in many communities.

Ginnie and Dewayne lived in Donovan and Westfield Illinois, and Buckhannon, Charleston, Chelyan, Clarksburg, Keyser, Morgantown/Westover, New Martinsville, West Liberty, Wilsonburg and Williamstown, West Virginia.

Ginnie was a key partner and co-editor in publishing 30 editions of West Virginia Annual Conference Journals and learned to use word processing equipment to help make it possible to send camera ready Journal pages to the printer, avoiding the expense and time required for the printer to use old linotype machines.

She resumed her college studies in 1962, taking courses at institutions of higher learning in communities where they lived, including Morris Harvey

College (now University of Charleston), West Virginia University, West Liberty State College, and West Virginia Northern Community College. In the Summer of 1968, she was able to transfer credits from those schools to West Virginia Wesleyan where she completed required classes to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. In 1980 she completed work for her Master of Science degree in home economics education at West Virginia University. Next, she attended graduate classes at several seminaries including Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Drew Theological School and Methodist Theological School in Ohio before being consecrated as a Diaconal Minister in 1994, ordained a Deacon in 1997 and then received as a clergy member of the West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She was appointed to serve as Administrative Assistant for the West Virginia United Methodist Conference Council on Ministries where she served for eighteen years in addition to being appointed to serve on the staff of Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston.

Prior to her ordination, Ginnie had been employed as a teacher by boards of education in Harrison, Kanawha, Mineral and Wetzel counties and as a 4-H agent in Harrison County for the West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service. She was a 48-year member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and served as newsletter editor and president of the West Virginia chapter of that association.

Ginnie was chair of the West Virginia United Methodist Conference Commission on Archives and History for eight years, a member of the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, and an elected lay delegate to the 1996 Northeastern Jurisdictional United Methodist Conference. She also served as president of the WV Conference Minister's Wives Association.

Following their retirements in 2002, Ginnie & Dewayne began a self-assigned

and self-funded Ministry of Memory by using photographic journaling to document and affirm persons involved in ministries of the church, visual and performing arts and not-for-profit organizations. Using an online publishing company, they printed thirty photo essay books to help collect, organize, preserve and share those memories.

Whether teaching a child to play the piano or serving communion to the Council of United Methodist Bishops at the 2012 General Conference, Ginnie lived her life in service to others and in pursuit of order, rhythm, balance, and harmony in whatever she did.

Years ago, in a Lenten meditation delivered at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston, Ginnie said, “All of us really are what we have been becoming and we need to be ready to do what we are gifted and prepared to do wherever we are and when the opportunity comes.”

The family wishes to express appreciation for the way in which staff members from WVU Medicine Hospice were prepared and willing to respond to the opportunity to serve Ginnie and her family’s needs.

A celebration of Ginnie’s life will be held at First United Methodist Church in Williamstown, West Virginia on September 24, 2022, at 1:00 pm. Visitation in church parlor beginning at 11:00 am.

Memorial Gifts may be made to Friends of WVWC Archives and History, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library, West Virginia Wesleyan College, 59 College Avenue, Buckhannon, WV 26201.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **24.** 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Williamstown  
304 W. 5th Street  
Williamstown, WV 26187  
<http://fumcwilliamstown.us>

## Celebration of Life

SEP **24.** 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Williamstown  
304 W. 5th Street  
Williamstown, WV 26187  
<http://fumcwilliamstown.us>

# Tribute Wall

EC

“ We are so sorry to hear about Ginnie's death. We know she is with God but our deep sympathy and prayers for comfort are with you, Dewayne and all the family. We are grateful we got to know Ginnie and her tremendous ministry together with you. Prayers and LOVE for you all. Rev. Raymond & Elizabeth Maleke

Elizabeth Campbell-Malkee - September 23, 2022 at 01:43 PM

JM

“ Dear Dewayne & family, So shocked and saddened upon reading of Ginnie's untimely death. What an amazing servant to the Lord with endless works and projects. She touched in a mighty way the hundreds of people who made her acquaintance. To say she will be missed by all would be an understatement. Those of us who are part of the Wesleyan community will miss her especially with you at the Emeritus Club meetings Thoughts, prayers & Godspeed, Jim & Pat Marsh

Jim & Pat Marsh - September 16, 2022 at 05:47 PM

AR

Dear Dewayne,  
My heart reaches out to you and your family at the loss of Ginnie. What a gift. What a blessing. What a pillar of faith and grace. What a partner, a mother, a friend, a child of God. Her smile was contagious and her peacefulness provided a space of grace for many. There are not enough words to describe her, her gifts shared and her life lived. But I am so very thankful to have been touched by her. I know your heart aches at her loss. But I also know you bask in her never ending love. Praise God. Peace friend. Love Anne Rex

Anne Rex - September 19, 2022 at 04:36 PM

JM

“ So many wonderful memories of Ginnie and family. How blessed to have known her. Smiling when I think of your "return" to Keyser and staying with Donna and I at the parsonage. Ginny was and always will be so much a part of the fabric of West Virginia and of our United Methodist lives together. God's grace and peace for each of you, we rejoice as always in the life that Jesus gives us that has no end.

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**Jim and Donna McCune** - September 13, 2022 at 04:32 PM

JC

“ So sorry for your loss. I did not know Ginnie but was in school at WVWC with Sarah and Mary. You are a beautiful family and I am praying for God's comfort and peace to be with you in these days.  
Rev. James Cole

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**James Emory Cole** - September 09, 2022 at 12:24 PM

MG

“ Dewayne, A voice from the past. I read of Ginny's death in our local Morgantown paper. I was surprised to see "Donovan" in print. I remember Ginny as a vivacious young woman not much older than myself when you were student pastor at Beaver. My parents, Floyd and Ethel Grant, were especially fond of both of you. My condolences to you and your family. Peace in the days ahead.

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**Mavis Grant** - September 08, 2022 at 10:16 PM

RL

“ Dewayne and family, We were saddened to learn of Ginnie's death. She was such a pleasant person who always had a smile and a gentleness about her. We were blessed to know her. Our prayers of comfort are with you.

*Ron and Ramona Lockwood*

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**RONALD C LOCKWOOD** - September 08, 2022 at 05:15 PM



“ Dewayne and family, I am so sorry for your loss. Ginnie was always such a warm and genuine person. She will be greatly missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

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**Matthew Graves** - September 08, 2022 at 11:21 AM

SR

“ Sincere condolences, Dewayne, to you and your family. I'll never forget Ginnie's and your hospitality and encouragement when I was involved in youth activities, and contemplating ministry as a vocation. (Nor your getting me to the hospital, in the middle of the night, from Spring Heights wilderness camping!) Such supportive and helpful folk, Ginnie and you, who've lived (and, given faith's promise, still live!) marvelous lives of faith, by word and deed.

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**Sam Roberts** - September 07, 2022 at 11:35 AM

MG

*Dewayne, A voice from the long past. I read of Ginny's death in our local ( Morgantown) paper and was surprised to see "Donovan" in print. I remember Ginny as a vivacious young woman, not too much older than I, when you were the student pastor at Beaver. My parents, Floyd and Ethel Grant, were especially fond of both of you. My sincere condolences to you and your family. Peace in the days ahead. Mavis Grant*

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**Mavis Grant** - September 08, 2022 at 10:10 PM

MJ

“ Dwayne and all. I am so sorry to hear about Ginnie, although I know she is at peace now. The time with the two of you on the Methodist Archives and History Commission was something I will remember always.

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**Mary Johnson** - September 07, 2022 at 11:18 AM

BB

“ To Dwayne and the family I send my most sincere condolences. I was shock to read of Ginnie's passing. Dwayne, you and Ginnie have been on my mind for the last several weeks. I have missed seeing you both at Christ Church. Prayers for comfort.

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**Becky Bumpus** - September 07, 2022 at 10:14 AM

AT

“ Dewayne, you well know the years we worked together at our conference center, and the close friendship those years gave us. God of all grace now comfort your hearts. Art and Mary

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**A. Arthur Tucker** - September 07, 2022 at 09:32 AM

PJ

“ Mary & Mike,

*I wanted to express my sincere sympathy to you and your family as you mourn the loss of your mother. Parents are a precious gift that God blessed us with. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Paula Janis*

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**Paula Janis** - September 07, 2022 at 08:18 AM

CS

“ Sending prayers, hugs, and condolences to all of you. So many memories of piano lessons and my friendship with Mary on Fifth Street! Praying for strength as you mourn the loss of your wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a beautiful lady with so many accomplishments! God Bless you all.

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**Carol Swartling Sevebeck** - September 06, 2022 at 10:38 PM



“ Dwayne, I didn't know you and Ginny personally, but you were both faithful members of the WV Annual Conference. I always admired at how you were taking pictures to record the history of the WV Annual Conference. I pray that God blesses you and your family with strength, peace, understanding, and comfort during this very difficult time in your lives.

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**Carl Van Stavern** - September 06, 2022 at 08:29 PM

LM

“ Paula, Gary and family,  
You are in our prayers as we acknowledge your loss and grief. Obviously, the world has lost a unique and special lady. May you find a degree of comfort in knowing that there are friends and neighbors who hold all of you in their sincere thoughts, prayers and recollections.  
Kindest regards,  
Larry and Patti McCartney

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**Larry & Patti McCartney** - September 06, 2022 at 08:00 PM



“ A special woman, servant of God! It was a wonderful and inspiring time to serve with Ginnie on the Commission on Archives & History. She was a tremendous organizer of our conference and UMC history. But, wonderful memories of interactions and work in the life of the Annual Conference. Her Parkersburg connection and sharing about knowing my sister, Patricia, was a special bond. Thanks be to God for Ginnie's life and her long years of ministry and service. Thanks be to God for the family she nurtured and encouraged. Thanks be to God for the times we shared together. May God surround all who mourn, and as we celebrate her life.

*Dr. Bill Wilson*

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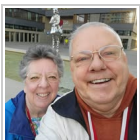
**William Wilson** - September 06, 2022 at 05:07 PM



“ We served together on the Archives and History Commission. She was a graceful and quite capable leader. She and Dewayne always had a smile. To the family, Paul and I are sorry for your loss but rejoice in God's gain. Kathy & Paul Hanko

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**Katherine Hanko** - September 06, 2022 at 04:56 PM



“ Ginnie was and will always be a gentle and compassionate soul. My times at Annual Conference each year were brighter when we saw her and Dewayne crossing the campus. From Suzanne and I come tears of joy for her life and witness and love. May her memory be a blessing. +



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**Roy Knight** - September 06, 2022 at 03:14 PM

GI

“ *Still in disbelief.*

*Heartbroken for you. Receive my condolences and prayers.*

*I count myself as one in the extended family who survive Ms Ginnie. She was always kind and generous to me. I am grateful.*

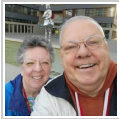
*The tears are liquid gratitude.*

*Rise in the power of the resurrected Lord. Amen.*

*Grace Imathiu*

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**Grace Imathiu** - September 06, 2022 at 03:06 PM



*Amen!*

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**Roy Knight** - September 06, 2022 at 03:14 PM

JT

“ *Dewayne, I was saddened to learn of Ginnie's passing. May God's peace and comfort be with you and the family.*

*Joyce Townsend*

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**Joyce Townsend** - September 06, 2022 at 02:43 PM

RA

“ *Ginnie was always busy and always loved! Rest In Peace! Rachel Pickett Anderson PHS 1953*

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**Rachel Anderson** - September 06, 2022 at 02:22 PM

RA

“ *She was one of the most gentle person, I ever met.*

Ravi - September 06, 2022 at 01:31 PM

DE

“ *A warm and kind person who always seemed to embody joy and sunshine with others. I remember first meeting Ginnie at WVU. We were biology lab partners. We had fun and laughed a lot during the lab assignments and experiments. Little did I know then that our lives would intersect yet again and this time as we shared in ministry when I returned from seminary.*

*Some people cross your path in life and move on. Some, like Ginnie, because of who they are and how they share that time remain with you on the path of life over the years. Ginnie was a special person and one whose very nature gave light and goodness wherever she was. My thoughts, love, and prayers to Dewayne and the family during this time. David Erenrich*

David Erenrich - September 06, 2022 at 01:01 PM

DG

“ *Dewayne: So sorry to learn of Ginnie's death. She was truly a wonderful person, as well as a committed disciple. You two have been a great team, and faithful servants. Peace be with you.*

*Dr. Joseph (Joe) Geiger*



Dr. Joe Geiger - September 06, 2022 at 12:42 PM

Jl

“ We were shocked and saddened to read of Ginny's death and we hasten to send you our love and condolences. What an amazing journey you shared together. We have been so blessed to know you two and to share in so many wonderful experiences. Our hearts are filled with wonderful memories and great esteem for you and your family! Love and prayers! Jane and Cliff

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**Jane P Ives** - September 06, 2022 at 12:22 PM