

"New Beginning"

Time has come
And time has gone
But what we have
Is not so long
We've missed some fun
And laughter too
But years to come
I'll spend with you
To hear your heart
And love so sweet
To see your face
I long to meet
The time we'll share
Each day together
Will be like music
That will last forever
Authored by Donald R. Graves

Pallbearers

Cody Anderson Matt Goans
Mike Hardy Leroan Graves Jr.
Richard Shimkus Theodore Graves

Honorary Pallbearers

Curtis O. Graves Phil Hamlin

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!
- The family of Michelle Gilchrist Graves



Known for Excellence. Trusted for Value.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SPIRIT OF



Michelle GILCHRIST GRAVES

SUNRISE
JANUARY 17, 1960

SUNSET
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

VISITATION
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

VISITATION
9:00 AM
FUNERAL CEREMONY
10:00 AM

WEST CHESTER CHURCH OF NAZARENE

7700 TYLERSVILLE ROAD
WEST CHESTER, OHIO 45069

Obituary

Michelle Gilchrist Graves was born on January 17, 1960, in Washington, D.C., to the late Liston Gilchrist and Celestine Paige. She was affectionately known as “Sheila” to her family and was the second of five children. While in Washington, D.C., she attended the local public school system until she relocated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During her preteen years, she attended Overbrook High School while residing with the late Florence Palmer. During this time, she welcomed her first-born son, Leroan, in 1977.

During her adult years, she met and married Donald R. Graves on January 21, 1982, while attending Mitchell Baptist Church. After a few months, she joined her husband at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. Barksdale was a time of blessings. She gave birth to her second child, Latasha, in 1982, just prior to relocating to Germany for five years.

At Ramstein Air Base, she began working with Civil Service as a telephone operator. Her interaction with people over the phone blossomed into her love for all people. She began attending the Landstuhl Gospel Service. It was there that she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior. She also served as an usher and really enjoyed it, which became a time of growth and development for her. Through it all, she remained a Civil Service employee, interacting with people until she relocated to Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico.

Once at Cannon Air Force Base, Michelle began working with babies, and it seemed to be her calling. She resumed ushering and loving people while incorporating her work with babies to fulfill her passion. Eventually, she joined Faith Christian Family Church and became a nursery supervisor. She also became a foster parent, caring for a total of 52 children through the Children, Youth and Families Department over a period of nine years.

Michelle's love for people and children never faded. When a need arose, she moved to West Chester, Ohio, to help care for her grandchildren, which was her heart's desire. Once there, she joined West Chester Nazarene Church, and her love for babies shone brighter with each passing day, along with her love for God.

Her love for God and her passion for babies were displayed until her transition to her heavenly home on September 6, 2026.

Michelle leaves to mourn her husband of 45 years, Donald R. Graves; five children, Leroan, Tasha (Antoinn), Melissa (Lamont), Jessica, and Heather; and three sisters, Sandy P. (Anthony), Lynnette A., and Veronica A. She also leaves behind 14 grandchildren; an uncle, Benjamin; an aunt, Carol Snow (Billy); an uncle, Jimmy; and a host of family and friends who loved and cherished her.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Jimmy Lee.



Life is not measured
by the number of breaths
we take, but by the
moments that
take our breath away.

- Unknown

Order of Service

Musical Prelude	
Officiant	Pastor Alex McHaffey
Prayer	Dale Wine
Scripture	Pastor James N. Graves
Selection	Pastor Theresa Bowden
Acknowledgements	Danni Anderson
Remarks	2 Minutes Please
Obituary	Pastor Alex McHaffey
Selection	Pastor Brad Pullen "I'm Free"
Eulogy	Pastor Shane Stone
Benediction	Pastor Alex McHaffey
Parting View	Immediate Family
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends



Final Resting Place

Monday, September 28, 2026
2:00 PM

Washington Crossing National Cemetery
830 Highland Road, Newtown, PA 18940