

In Loving Memory



Louise Elaine McKinney

JUNE 2, 1942 – MARCH 18, 2025

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

WAKE: 10:00 AM – FUNERAL: 11:00 AM

ST. JOHN AME CHURCH

2261 EAST 40TH STREET – CLEVELAND, OH 44103

Order of Service

Musical Prelude.....
Processional..... The Family
Family Visitation..... 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Opening Prayer Minister
Scripture Readings:
 OLD TESTAMENT MICAH 6:1-8
 NEW TESTAMENT..... MATTHEW 25:31-46
Selection..... St. John Choir
Acknowledgement and Resolutions Ms. Anne McPherson
Special Tribute..... Dr. Bill McKinney
Selection..... St. John Choir
Eulogy..... Pastor Henry F. Curtis, IV
Recessional.....

INTERMENT

CLEVELAND MEMORIAL GARDENS
4324 GREEN ROAD – CLEVELAND, OH 44128

PALLBEARERS

Family & Friends



Obituary

Louise “Weeg” McKinney passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. Born Louise Wenner on June 2, 1942, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she was the beloved daughter of Jerome and Pauline “Polly” Wenner. The youngest of three, she grew up alongside her brothers, Bruce and Fred. Louise spent her early years in Philadelphia, including a year abroad in Norway, before settling in Canton, Ohio, where her father served as a minister in the United Church of Christ.

A graduate of Heidelberg College in 1963, Louise began her professional journey working at a rehabilitation hospital in Haverstraw, New York, where she met Edward McKinney. The two married in 1966, at a time when interracial marriage was still prohibited in parts of the country—a testament to their courage and conviction.

In the years that followed, Louise and Edward welcomed two sons: Craig in 1968 and Bill in 1970. After living in Pittsburgh, Brockport, and Euclid, the family moved to Cleveland Heights, Ohio, in 1975—the home where they continue to reside.

Determined to pursue justice through the law, Louise enrolled at Case Western Reserve University School of Law and earned her J.D. in 1978. True to her values, she chose public service over private practice, dedicating her career to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. There, she championed the rights of individuals with disabilities and advocated for inclusive community living.

Louise’s commitment to global justice led her to the University of Botswana in 1989, where she served on the law

faculty. Upon returning to Cleveland, she joined the Case Western Reserve University Law Clinic, mentoring future attorneys and providing critical legal services to underserved populations. Named a Fulbright Scholar twice—in 1998 and again in 2007—Louise extended her impact through legal education initiatives across Africa, including in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Tanzania.

She retired in 2012 as the first female and first clinical professor to do so from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. A colleague once summarized her life's work perfectly: "Her time was spent as an attorney, teacher, ambassador, advocate, mentor, and friend."

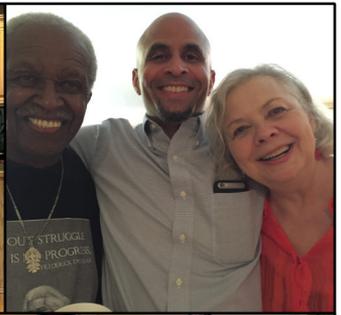
Retirement did not slow Louise down. She remained deeply active in her community, serving on the boards of the YWCA, the Deaconess Community Foundation, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, and most passionately, Greater Cleveland Congregations.

Louise was a remarkable woman of humility, intellect, and integrity. Her legacy is one of service, courage, and unwavering love—for justice, for family, and for humanity. She was the heart and conscience of her family and a guiding light to all who knew her.

Louise was preceded in death by her parents, Jerome and Pauline (Albertson) Wenner; and her brother, Bruce Wenner (survived by wife Francie).

Louise leaves cherished memories with her devoted husband of 58 years, Edward McKinney; sons, Craig and Bill McKinney; brother, Fred Wenner (Fran); and several beloved nieces, nephews.

*Lovingly Submitted,
The Family*





Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

- Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Family sincerely appreciates all acts of kindness shown during this time of bereavement. We thank you for your prayers, comforting words, personal visits and calls. We ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. May God Bless and forever comfort you.

Services of Comfort entrusted to:

Watson's Funeral Home

www.WatsonsFuneralHome.com

10913 Superior Ave. ~ Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Telephone (216) 721-0066

