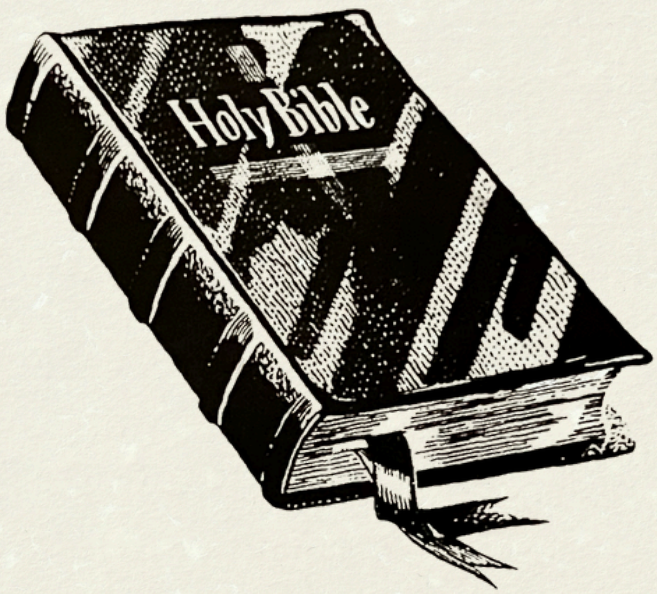

Holy Bible

Friday, March 20, 2026

Visitation 10:00AM - Service 11:00AM

First Community AME Church
500 James St SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Officiator
Rev. Willie Gholston

Homegoing Celebration Of The Life Of

Celebrating the Life and Legacy of

Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan

A celebration of Over a Century of Grace, Beauty, Strength, Love & Legacy

"The lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1



Sunrise	Sunset
August 16, 1924	March 6, 2026

Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan

A Century of Grace, Beauty, Wisdom, and Love

Her Life Was a Blessing to All Who Knew Her

Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan
Beloved Mother, Aunt, Great-Aunt, Great-Great-Aunt, Cousin, Grandmother, and Great-Grandmother
August 16, 1924 – March 6, 2026

For more than a century, Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan lived a life defined by grace, faith, resilience, and enduring love for her family and community.

Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan peacefully transitioned on March 6, 2026, at the age of 101 years and 7 months, surrounded by her loving family and cherished loved ones.

Born on August 16, 1924, in Arkabutla in Tate County, Mississippi, to John Henry Connolly and Maggie Lee Anderson Connolly, Helen's remarkable life spanned more than a century of American history and touched generations of family, students, church members, and community friends. Throughout her life she was admired not only for her wisdom and strength, but also for her natural beauty, elegance, and the quiet dignity with which she carried herself.

Around the age of ten, Helen and her family became part of the historic Great Migration, leaving the rural South in search of greater opportunity and a brighter future. The Connolly family relocated to Dublin, Michigan, where her father had purchased forty acres of farmland. There the family planted deep roots and built a life grounded in faith, perseverance, hard work, and family unity.

The Connolly family's journey from Mississippi to Michigan reflected the courage and determination of a generation committed to building a better life. The forty acres her father purchased in Dublin became more than farmland—it became the foundation of a proud family legacy that would endure for generations. Helen's life bridged two remarkable eras of American history—from the generation that left the South during the Great Migration to the generations that would grow up in the opportunities that migration helped create.

Helen was one of ten children born to John Henry Connolly and Maggie Lee Anderson Connolly. Her siblings included Ruby Connolly (1909–1924); Ruth A. Connolly (1910–1986); Henry Lee Connolly (1912–1991); Hubert Berkley Connolly (1914–2004); Bessie Mae Connolly (1916–1994); Annie Bell Connolly (1918–2000); Thelma Maxine Connolly (1920–2017); Ozella Lorie Connolly (2021); and Randolph Connolly (1927–2008).

Also raised within the Connolly household was their beloved nephew James Earl (1930–2024), who grew up alongside the siblings and was embraced and loved as the family's eleventh child. Together they formed a close-knit family whose shared experiences created a legacy of resilience, strength, devotion, and enduring love for one another.

Raised in Dublin, Michigan, Helen attended Brethren schools in Manistee County, where she developed a lifelong appreciation for learning and personal growth. As a teenager she worked at a soda fountain in the Brethren and Manistee area, reflecting the strong work ethic and quiet determination that would remain with her throughout her life.

In 1953, Helen married Andrew Ameal Morgan, and together they built a loving home centered on faith, family, and commitment. Their marriage lasted forty-seven years, until Andrew's passing in July 2000. Together they raised their children with love, guidance, steadiness, and a deep respect for faith, education, and family values.

Helen later moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she worked at the American Seating Company before pursuing her dream of higher education. Determined to further her education, she attended Grand Rapids Junior College and later Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education, graduating in 1967.

Helen became a dedicated educator in the Grand Rapids Public Schools system, teaching first and second grades at Henry School—now known as Henry Park Paideia School—for more than two decades. Teaching was more than a profession for her—it was a calling. Known for her patience, kindness, warmth, and quiet encouragement, she nurtured the minds and confidence of countless young students. She believed deeply in the power of education and in helping every child recognize their own worth and potential.

Over the years she shaped the lives of countless students, many of whom remembered her influence long after they left her classroom. To generations of students she was more than Mrs. Morgan the teacher—she was a mentor, encourager, and guiding presence whose influence extended far beyond the classroom.

Those who knew Helen remember her as a woman of grace, wisdom, kindness, beauty, and quiet strength. She carried herself with natural elegance and dignity that made others feel welcomed, valued, and loved. With steady strength and wisdom, she helped guide her family through generations, serving as a source of encouragement, stability, and love.

Helen was a longtime and devoted member of First Community AME Church in Grand Rapids, where her faith remained a central foundation of her life. Her church family was deeply important to her, and she found strength, fellowship, comfort, and spiritual nourishment there throughout the years. At the time of her passing she was honored as the oldest member of the congregation. In recognition of her remarkable life and faithful presence in the church community, the congregation celebrated her 100th birthday on August 16, 2024, designating the occasion as Helen Irene Connolly Morgan Day at First Community AME Church. This special recognition reflected the love, respect, and admiration her church family held for her and celebrated a life of enduring faith and quiet devotion.

Helen was preceded in death by her beloved husband Andrew Ameal Morgan (2000); her son Edmond Dane Allen (2007); her parents; all of her siblings; her sister-in-law Mildred M. Allen; her brother-in-law William Jennings; and her cherished nephew James Earl (1930–2025).

Helen leaves to cherish her memory her children Andrew Ameal Morgan Jr. and Andrea Yvette Morgan-Floyd; her beloved grandsons Bradley Spencer Morgan and Chase Justice Morgan-Floyd; and her treasured great-grandchildren Isla Maddison Morgan and Elias Alister Morgan.

She also leaves behind a loving extended family including a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces, great-great-nephews, cousins, friends, former students, and community members whose lives were touched by her kindness and enduring love.

Helen's life reminds us that the true measure of a person is not simply the years they live, but the love they give and the lives they uplift. A life that spanned more than a century became a living legacy of faith, perseverance, strength, and love—one that will continue to guide and inspire generations to come.

Her life spanned more than a century of faith, family, and history—touching generations whose lives are forever richer because she lived.

Psalm 90:12
"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, and her legacy will live on for generations to come.

To know her was to be blessed, and the light of her life will continue to shine through the generations she loved so dearly.

A Century of Grace, Beauty, Wisdom, and Love

Old Testament

Psalm 23
"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalm 91:16
"With long life will I satisfy him."

Psalm 27:10
"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up."

Job 5:26
"You shall come to your grave in a full age, like a sheaf of grain gathered in its season."

Isaiah 46:4
"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he... I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:1
"We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven."

2 Timothy 1:5
"I am reminded of your sincere faith."

Matthew 11:28
"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Revelation 21:4
"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

2 Timothy 4:7–8
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Scripture Readings

Order of Service

Precessional

Prayer	Rev. Dr. Kabrielle Baker
Scripture Old Testament	Rev. Beverly Brown
New Testament	Rev. Dr. Kevin Jones
Musical Selection	FCAME Praise Team
Reading of Obituary	Sis. Betty Burton Groce
Resolutions	Sis. Kathy Jackson
Musical Selection	Sis. Tia Simone
Tributes	Tracyann Connolly Johnson Bro. Otto N. Brannum Sis. Trinna Connolly Sis. Tamara Connolly Harrison
Poem	Bro. Gene Connolly
Musical Selection	Sis. Tia Simone
Eulogy	Rev. Dr. Willie A. Gholston II
Benediction	Rev. Dr. Willie A. Gholston II

Recessional

"With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation."
Psalm 91:16

Pallbearers

Chase J. Morgan-Floyd

Randolph Connolly Jr.
Terry Connolly
Richard Allen

Flynn Jones
Warren Connolly
Gary Connolly

Bradley S. Morgan

Processional Pallbearers

Marilyn Skinner-Britt
Sue Feringa-Reahm
Lois Smith Owens
Sandra Duckett
Tamara Phillips-Knox

Honorary Pallbearers

Andrew A. Morgan Jr.
Morris Connolly
Daniel Groce
Edmond Dane Allen

Shirley J. Peters
Gene Connolly
Donald May
James Earl Jones

Acknowledgment & Appreciation

The family of Helen Irene Georgia Connolly Morgan wishes to express heartfelt appreciation for the many acts of kindness, prayers, visits, calls, and expressions of sympathy shown during this time.

Your love and support mean more than words can express.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal
Love leaves memories no one can steal"

Internment

Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery
2894 Patterson Ave SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512

Repast

First Community AME Church
500 James St SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Acknowledgment & Appreciation



Toombs by
Crystal
Funeral Services

4257 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 813-8351