

A Celebration of the Life of



Clara Mae Holland

Sunrise: November 2, 1931 To Glory: September 10, 2026

Saturday - October 3, 2026

Visitation: 11:00 AM

Service: 12:00 PM

United AME Church

286 East Church Street

Xenia, Ohio

Reverend Kevin J. Cooper, Sr., Officiant

Reverend Dr. John E. Freeman, Eulogist



Obituary

Clara Mae (Stinson) Holland, age 94, passed away peacefully on September 10, 2026, at Maple Knoll Nursing Home in Springdale, Ohio. She was born on November 2, 1931, in Dayton, Ohio, the daughter of Roger and Opal C. (Wells) Stinson.

Clara Mae was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband of 49 years, Lasaunders Holland, Sr., her brothers, Roger and Raymond Stinson, and her son, Lasaunders Holland, Jr.

She leaves to cherish her memory her three children, Saundra (William) Phoenix of Xenia, Ohio; Opal (Calis) Johnson, Jr. of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Curtis (Karen) Holland of Wisconsin. She is also survived by her four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren who lovingly called her Mama Mae; grandchildren, Heather Holland of Dayton, Ohio; William R. Phoenix, Jr. of Columbus, Ohio; Calis E. Johnson, III of Kansas; and Leslie A. Holland of Wisconsin; great-grandchildren, Alexis Phoenix, Evan Schroeder, Sage Schroeder, and Tajaha Phoenix; along with nieces, nephews, other family members, and special friends.

Clara's greatest joy was praising her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and sharing her faith and love of God with her children. She made sure they attended Sunday School and church and taught them by example the importance of loving others through both words and deeds.

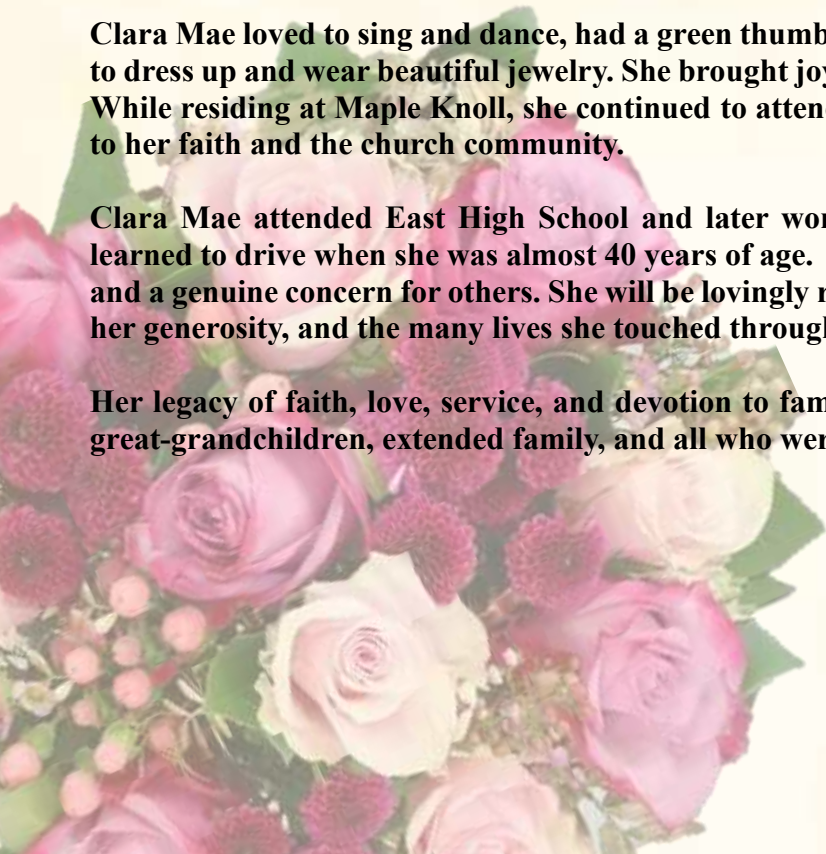
Clara Mae had a heart for serving others. She nursed sick friends and neighbors, visited people in nursing homes, and would sing songs to brighten their days. She sent birthday cards, called church members and others to sing "Happy Birthday," and was always willing to lend a helping hand. She also volunteered with her sons Boy Scout troop, sang in the church choir, worked at the polls, and went door to door collecting donations for charitable causes.

Clara Mae was a faithful and devoted member of the United African Methodist Episcopal Church (United AME) for 80 years. Throughout her years of membership, she faithfully served on the Stewardess and Usher Boards and was an active participant in the life and ministry of the church. Her love for God, family, her church, and her community was evident in the way she served others.

Clara Mae loved to sing and dance, had a green thumb and enjoyed caring for plants and flowers, and loved to dress up and wear beautiful jewelry. She brought joy and warmth to those around her wherever she went. While residing at Maple Knoll, she continued to attend Word of Deliverance Church, remaining connected to her faith and the church community.

Clara Mae attended East High School and later worked at Central State University in the library. She learned to drive when she was almost 40 years of age. Her life was marked by faith, service, love for family, and a genuine concern for others. She will be lovingly remembered for her beautiful spirit, her love of music, her generosity, and the many lives she touched through her kindness.

Her legacy of faith, love, service, and devotion to family will live on through her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, and all who were blessed to know her.



Order of Service

Processional.....The Family

Opening.....Pastor Kevin J. Cooper, Sr.

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Delayno Robinson
Great Commission Bible Church

Scripture Readings

 Old Testament: Psalm 9:1- 4.....Sage Schroeder

 New Testament: Romans 8:9-11.....Alexis Phoenix

Musical Selection.....Reverend Dr. Gloria Wade Dillion, Marsha J. Bayless, and Lorna Bonner

Resolutions and Acknowledgements.....Donna W. Blackburn

Special Remarks.....Cheryl A. Giles

Remarks.....(Please limit to two minutes).....Family and Friends

Obituary.....Read Silently

Special Tribute.....Marsha J. Bayless

Musical Selection.....United AME Church Choir

The Eulogy
Reverend Dr. John E. Freeman
Holy Trinity AME Church

Recessional.....Clergy, Family and Friends
"I'll Fly Away"

Interment
Cherry Grove Cemetery
1019 West Second Street | Xenia, OH 45385

A Repast will be held following the Interment in the Fellowship Hall of United AME Church.



Clara Mae and Lasaunders



Children



Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

The collage consists of 18 individual photographs. The top row shows a woman in a black dress, a young man in a black shirt, another young man in a black shirt, and a couple in white shirts. The second row features an older couple, a young woman in a black top, and a couple in a dimly lit room. The third row includes a family of four, a group of four people outdoors, and a man in a white shirt and tie. The bottom section is dominated by a graduation banner for Alexis Phoenix, which includes the text '20 | GRADUATE | 25', 'Alexis Phoenix', 'College', and 'Mount St. Joseph University'. The banner is flanked by photos of graduates in blue and gold regalia. The entire collage is set against a background of large, soft-focus pink roses.



20 GRADUATE 25
 Alexis Phoenix
 College
 Mount St. Joseph's University



Family and Friends



Pallbearers
Calis Johnson, III
Men of United AME Church

Honorary Pallbearers
William Phoenix, Sr. - Calis E. Johnson, Jr. - Eddie Nickles
Joe Palmer - Roger Stinson - Kenneth Stinson

Flowerbearers
The Stewardess Board of United AME Church

Favorite Scripture: Joshua 24:15

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD".

Acknowledgements

The Family of Clara Mae Holland wishes to express our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and support during this difficult time. Your presence, prayers, thoughtful gestures, and words of comfort have meant more than words can express.

Special Thanks to Pastor Cooper and the United AME Church Family, Rev. Dr. John E. Freeman, Pastor Delayno Robinson and the Great Commission Bible Church, Zion Baptist Church, Maple Knoll Nursing Home, Hospice of Cincinnati, John Sale Manor, Roger Stinson, Marsha Bayless, Catherine Robinson and the Giles Family.



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 5 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

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2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
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MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

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