

Inez J. Gunkelman, 104, passed away peacefully at Bethany on 42nd, in Fargo, ND, on January 23, 2026. Inez will be remembered most for her devotion to family and her strong faith. Her children were told over and over again, "Your mother is an angel." She earned this praise from kindness and love she generously shared with others.

Born to I.O. and Jennie Hanson on September 13, 1921, Inez grew up on a modest farm near Svea, ND. After earning her teaching certification at Valley City State College, she became an English teacher. Her teaching career brought her to Grandin, ND, where her outgoing personality and adventurous spirit captured the heart of Paul Gunkelman. They were married in 1946. Together, they raised six children in Grandin, where Inez fully embraced community and church life. Later, they moved to Fargo where Inez began a new career working for Maintenance Engineering until retiring at age 81.

Inez loved baking, playing bridge, golfing, family time at their cabin on Big Floyd, sewing quilts for her growing family, preparing and serving meals, and playing games whenever family came to visit. Even at 104, she was extremely competitive and hard to beat. She always looked forward to the next outing with family or friends.

Inez is survived by her six devoted children, Ginny Wheeler, Jim (Julie) Gunkelman, Susan (Bernie) Zimmerman, Julie (Larry) Leitner, Lee (Tracy) Gunkelman and Bob (Liz) Gunkelman; twenty-six grandchildren and their spouses; nineteen great-grandchildren; brother, Dick Hanson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, J. Paul; their infant son; son-in-law, Tim Wheeler; parents; three sisters, Alice Nelson, Harriet Halvorson and Avis Bourland; and fifteen brothers and sisters-in-law.

Inez was known for her positive attitude and her ability to make the best life had to offer. The family is especially grateful to the First Baptist Church as it was a meaningful part of Inez's life of faith. The family is also appreciative of the love and care Inez received from everyone at Bethany.



Celebrating the Life of
Inez Judith Gunkelman
September 13, 1921 ~ January 23, 2026

*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God, and trust also in me.*

*There is more than enough
room in my Father’s home.*

*If this were not so, would I have
told you that I am going to
prepare a place for you?*

*When everything is ready,
I will come and get you, so that you
will always be with me where I am.*

*And you know the way
to where I am going.”*

“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said.

*“We have no idea where you are going,
so how can we know the way?”*

*Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth,
and the life. No one can come to the
Father except through me.”*

~ John 14 : 1-6



Funeral Service

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM
First Baptist Church
Fargo, North Dakota

Officiating

Rev. Jack Kist

Readers

Jackson Gunkelman
Tayah Damerow

Sharing of Memories

Lilly Deutsch Siri Damerow
Tracy Gunkelman Ginny Wheeler
Jim Gunkelman

Special Music

In the Garden
Kim Miller, soloist

Congregational Hymns

Amazing Grace
Because He Lives
Kate Ulmer, accompanist

Casket Bearers

Ben Gunkelman Cory Gunkelman
Joe Gunkelman Lucas Gunkelman
Matt Gunkelman Taylor Zimmerman

Final Resting Place

Riverside Cemetery
Fargo, North Dakota

*The family of Inez J. Gunkelman thanks you for your
presence here today and for your many acts of kindness.
Following the Funeral Service please join the
family for a time of lunch and fellowship.*