

Order of Celebration Service

Processional.....Family and Clergy

Prayer of Comfort.....Min. Barbara Cooper

Reading of the Scriptures.....Min. Jarvis Carrigan (Grandson)

Song.....Marsha Todd Evans (Niece)

Words of Expression.....Jonathan Carrigan (Grandson)

Resolutions & Acknowledgments.....Sis. Laryssa Blunt

Reflections.....Kirk Gray (Son)

Tremendous Cain (Grandson)

Sierra Goffigan (Best Friend/Granddaughter)

Sharran Webb (Best Friend)

Mother Rosella Brown (Union Missionary Baptist Church)

Renta Bishop (Beebe Memorial CME Church, Hope, AR)

Song.....Union Missionary Baptist Choir

Eulogy.....Pastor Corey D. Scott

Union Missionary Baptist Church

RecessionalFamily, Bearers and Clergy

Song by Sharon Griffith (Daughter)

She walked in faith, with quiet grace,

A steady light in every place.

Her hands brought comfort, calm, and care,

For those in need, she was always there.

The scent of home, her kitchen's song,

Where laughter and love would linger long.

Family gathered, hearts made whole,

She fed our bodies—and our souls.

A mother's strength, a grandma's cheer,

Her love still whispers, ever near.

Though she's gone, her spirit stays—

Guiding us through all our days.

Bearers of the Casket

Grandsons

Honorary Bearers

Men of Union Missionary Baptist Church



Flower Bearers

Granddaughters



Our Thanks

We, the family of Carolyn Marie Hamilton Gray, would like to thank each one of you for your prayers, calls, flowers, food, cards and heartfelt condolences. We want you to know that it does not go unnoticed. We appreciate you for being so kind to us during this time of bereavement.

We would like to acknowledge Carolyn's care team through the years of her ailment: CHI Hospital, CHI Rehabilitation Department, Elite Hospice, Gentiva Hospice, Area of Agency, Village Springs Nursing and Rehab, Belvedere Nursing and Rehab; her Bingo family; her caregivers during this time, Linda, Sheila, Stefanie, and Pam; her devoted son, Michal Gray, her special niece, Terri Whitley, her granddaughters, Ebony Carrigan and Sierra Goffigan; her great grandchildren, Aziyah Natt, "Dr. Z" Zaden Carrigan and Tremendous Cain; all of her wonderful nurses; and her village: the Brown family, the Black family, Meiaa Tubbs, Monique Wakefield, Sondra Thomas, Willa Steward, Sharran Webb, Velma Davis and Ruth Pettway. In the words of Carolyn if your name starts with A-Z, we truly thank you.

"In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'." Acts 20:35

We pray God's blessing over each and every one!

Love always,

The family of Carolyn Marie Hamilton Gray

Earthly Resting Place

Cave Hill #2 Cemetery
Hope, AR



Ministry of Comfort provided by

Carrigan Memorial Funeral Services, Inc.

Chester Carrigan, Founder Constance Hamilton Carrigan, Owner

Ebony Carrigan-Cain, Director • Jonathan Carrigan, Director

336 East Grand Ave.

Hot Springs, AR 71901

(501) 623-7664 • Fax (501) 623-7811

"Funeral Services Beyond the Ordinary and More Than Just the Acceptable"

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE
of



Carolyn
MARIE
HAMILTON GRAY

Services

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 • 3:00 PM

Union Missionary Baptist Church

219 Gulpha St.

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Pastor Corey D. Scott, Officiating

Remembering Carolyn

Carolyn Marie Hamilton Gray, 85, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, transitioned peacefully on Friday, October 31, 2025. She was born on July 28, 1940, in Hope, Arkansas, the fourth of fifteen children born to Dan and Carney Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, John Hamilton, Willie (Wanda) Hamilton and George Hamilton; her sisters, Edrene (Theopilous) McKnight, Jessie Bell (Ralph) Campbell, Maxine (David) Winley, and Ruby Mae (Floyd) Whitley; brother-in-law Marcell Todd; and son-in-law, Chester Carrigan.

From an early age, Carolyn was surrounded by the warmth of family and a strong foundation of faith. She attended Hopewell Elementary and later graduated from Henry C. Yerger High School, where she became known for her kindness, resilience, and natural gift for cooking.

As a child, Carolyn found joy in singing in the choir at Beebe Memorial CME Church, her voice harmonizing beautifully in songs of praise. While she loved music, her most extraordinary talent shone in the kitchen. Cooking for her was more than a skill; it was an expression of love. She mastered the art of preparing meals that brought people together, from perfectly seasoned fried chicken and pork chops to cakes and pies that left lasting memories. Among her many recipes, her famous Hershey Bar Cake became a family favorite.

Carolyn enjoyed reading, watching Family Feud, and wearing her sunglasses indoors, adding her signature touch of personality wherever she went. But nothing brought her more joy than spending time with her family, especially relaxing on her front porch, affectionately known as "The Gallery," laughing and playing with her great-grandchildren.

A Lifetime of Compassion and Dedication

Carolyn held various jobs throughout her life before discovering her true calling in healthcare. Once she found her purpose, she dedicated 38 years of service as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), caring for residents at Hope Nursing Home and Heather Manor Nursing Home.

Her compassion, dedication, and gentle spirit made her beloved by both patients and coworkers. She took pride in her work, believing that caring for others was both a duty and a blessing. The lessons and stories she gathered from those she served remained with her, shaping her perspective on life and strengthening her heart for helping others.

A New Chapter in Hot Springs

After retiring, Carolyn made a life-changing decision in 2007, to move to Hot Springs at the invitation of her daughter, Constance, and son-in-law, Chester Carrigan. Though she left the familiar behind, she embraced this new season of life with courage and faith.

She soon joined Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. Douglas E. Jones. Carolyn quickly became a beloved and respected member of the congregation, later serving as a Mother of the Church on the Mother Board. In this role, she helped prepare communion, organized senior activities, mentored younger members, and shared words of encouragement with everyone she encountered. Whether through a kind word, a warm hug, or one of her home-cooked meals, she made sure everyone felt loved and valued.

Her compassion extended far beyond church walls. She became well-known throughout the Hot Springs community for her wisdom, humor, and ability to make anyone feel like family. Her door was always open, and her home was a haven of comfort and kindness.

A Faith That Never Wavered

Carolyn's faith was her anchor throughout life. After joining Union Missionary Baptist Church, she made the powerful decision to be baptized under the leadership of Pastor Corey D. Scott, a moment made even more special as she was baptized by her grandsons, Jarvis and Jonathan. It was a day she cherished deeply.

In 2022, Carolyn was diagnosed with cancer. Through faith, treatment, and God's grace, she was healed. In April 2024, she experienced new health challenges but continued to face them with strength and unwavering faith. Surrounded by family, she chose hospice care at home. She remained steadfast in spirit, still attending virtual services and even making it to the church building one final time on February 9, 2025.

Her perseverance and radiant smile reminded all who knew her that faith truly moves mountains.

A Legacy of Strength and Family

Carolyn's greatest pride and joy was her family. She was the loving mother of five children: Michal Gray, Kirk Gray, Sharon (Lacy) Griffith, Constance Carrigan, and John (Dea) Langston. She shared a close bond with her nieces and nephews, Carney Dorsey, Terri Whitley, and Floyd Whitley. She also cherished her siblings, especially her brother, Samuel C. (Betty) Hamilton of Silver Spring, Maryland, and her sister, Maslyn Todd of Detroit, Michigan. Her legacy continues through her 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, and a host of grandchildren in love, all of whom were shaped by her love, guidance, and unshakable faith.

Carolyn's story is one of faith, family, and love, a woman whose presence brought comfort, whose words inspired, and whose meals always tasted like home. Her legacy will forever live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

