



Acknowledgement

The family of Karen Williams would like to extend their deepest gratitude to everyone who has offered love and support during this time of transition. Your impact has been felt in profound and immeasurable ways. In remembering Karen, let us celebrate the vibrancy with which she lived and the love she shared so freely. Her legacy will continue to shine brightly through the lives she touched, reminding us all to live boldly... and love deeply.



RENFRO PATTERSON & JORDAN FUNERAL HOME
— THE CHAPEL OF PEACE - CINCINNATI —

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2800 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

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SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

CINCINNATI CHAPEL
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CINCINNATI, OH 45225
513-221-4812

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM



In Loving Memory of



Karen

JEAN WILLIAMS

SUNRISE SUNSET
FEBRUARY 20, 1949 MAY 21, 2026

SATURDAY – JUNE 20, 2026

VISITATION: 11:30 AM
MEMORIAL SERVICE: 12:30 PM

METROPOLITAN CME CHURCH
2815 MELROSE AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45206
REV. IAN GIPSON – PASTOR

Celebrating Her Spirit

Karen Jean Williams transitioned peacefully into the arms of The Lord on May 21, 2026 in the comfort of her home. She was born on February 20, 1949, in Connersville, Indiana, to Jean and William Ware, both of whom instilled the values of compassion and resilience to their children. Their efforts culminated in a daughter who grew up to be a beacon of light to all who knew her.

A proud graduate of Connersville High School and Richmond Business School, Karen's ambition and fearlessness took her across the country. Although she loved her small-town community of Connersville, she coveted the "big city" experience of Los Angeles, California. Her professional career in LA began as an assistant to the legendary heavy-weight boxing champion, Archie Moore.

In 1980, Karen returned to the Midwest, joining The University of Cincinnati as a diversity program director. She also developed programs to help elevate the school's labor force to higher employment positions. Her 24-year tenure at UC was a testament to her commitment to inclusivity and understanding. She dedicated herself to providing countless job opportunities to anyone looking to work hard and better themselves. Karen also mentored many people throughout her career at UC, making a lasting impact on the university community and beyond.

Karen's faith and unwavering commitment to the Lord was an integral part of her life. In 2018, Karen was baptized in Christ by her son, Dustin. She was an active and cherished member of The Metropolitan CME Methodist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she cultivated many deep and meaningful friendships.

An artist at heart, Karen's natural creativity knew no bounds. She loved to paint, draw, sketch as well as write. She successfully published three Amazon books: *Lion In My Back Yard*, *J.C. Kattelle* and *C. Potts Private Investigators and Dead Man In My Bed*. Her paintings were more than just art; they were vibrant reflections of her colorful spirit and unique personality. Known for her bold and vivacious style, Karen's presence was as unmistakable as her colorful clothing.

She has traveled to 48 states... from New York to Colorado...with her son in the front seat of his semi-truck, offering humorous comments on his driving along the way. She was funny, artsy, high spirited, positive and wonderfully excentric. And she shared the gospel with others every opportunity she had. Karen was always in "The Word."

Karen was blessed with beautiful dark brown eyes and a "stunning" streak of natural gray hair that she donned in her youth. She was unapologetically herself, and her authenticity inspired all who had the privilege of knowing her throughout her 77-year journey.

Karen's transition reunites her with her parents and beloved brother, Billy Ware.

Her loving spirit and legacy lives on through her devoted *Son*: Dustin E. Ware; her treasured *Niece*: Crystal Ware, whom she helped raise with boundless love. Her family also includes her *Nieces*: Jessica Nicholson, Tyler Ware, Leilani Jones and her *Great-Nephew*: Kia Jaxson Davis, each of whom Karen held close to her heart.



Order Of Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN

"The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation"

PRAYER

Rev. Jake Johnson

SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Jake Johnson

Old Testament: Psalm 103
New Testament: John 14: 1-3

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

THE OBITUARY

(Read Silently)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/CONDOLENCES

REMARKS

Family and Friends
(Two Minutes Please)

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

WORDS OF COMFORT/THE EULOGY

Rev. Ian Gibson
Metropolitan CME Church

COMMITTAL/BENEDICTION

Pastor Billy Craig