



Mrs. Thelma Elizabeth Dillard “Ted” Ethridge

April 12, 1928 – September 9, 2026

Elberton First Methodist Church
Friday, September 18, 2026, at 2:00 PM

SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Prelude		Joe Jossey
Processional	“Canon in D”	Johann Pachelbel
Welcome		Rev. John Donaldson <i>(Pastor, Elberton First Methodist Church)</i>
The Word of Grace		Rev. Jim McCollough <i>(Pastor, Grace United Methodist Church)</i>
Hymn	“Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”	
Prayer		
Apostles’ Creed		
Solo	“Others”	Rev. Gary Purvis
Remarks from family		Brian Jossey Lee Ethridge
Scripture		John 13:33-35
Eulogy		Rev. Jessica Ethridge Chicken <i>(Granddaughter)</i>
Hymn		“Receive This Servant” <i>(Words by Glenn Ethridge)</i>
Prayer		
Benediction		
Recessional	“Ode to Joy”	Ludwig Van Beethoven

Words of Remembrance...

Where do I start when describing Mom? If you see a sunrise or sunset you stand in awe, but the words to describe the magnificence are difficult to find. I feel that way about Mom. There are so many things I can say and would like to say but they all seem trite and unworthy for what I truly feel.

I do know that I was born into a family fortress. Like the walls of old Jerusalem, our family fortress seemed impenetrable. However, the family fortress was built of love and respect instead of stones and it helped us weather all adversity.

Many of you sitting here today understand the nature of that fortress and learned that in Mom's world the word family was not about lineage. Family described anyone who came to the gate and claimed the title. Mom and Dad created a loving environment to support not only our traditional family but also to support people in need, to extend community, to provide a little additional support and love for those who already were part of loving relationships, and to push people to reach out and stretch their limits to achieve more.

Make no mistake that Mom could be tough. Love and support notwithstanding, she had high expectations and she was not shy about sharing her opinion. I'm sure Mom has written to many of you to share an unsolicited opinion and you probably smiled while reading her communication, but you never felt admonished or criticized only challenged to do better. She was keenly interested in you on a personal level, and you could tell she was sincere in wishing only the best for you.

Mom and Dad both wanted their home in Elberton and at the lake to be a place to gather and connect and they purposely and unfailingly focused on making that happen. It held the family close and pushed us to be better people aware of our surroundings and people who could be friends or needed a hand. We are forever grateful for the community they helped us build.

Mom also taught us about grace. More than a Bible verse it was a way of living. Her goal was to be loving to all. God would take care of the rest.

We will miss you Mom but know you will always live in our hearts. We pray that in living in our hearts we too can be faithful loving people looking for ways to share and live our lives for others. Mom, look down on those of us gathered today and help us achieve the magnificence God has planned for us.

We love you



ELBERTON
First Methodist Church
— A Global Methodist Church —

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