

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Violet* Elizabeth  
**BROWN**

*Sunrise:* September 25, 1922 - *Sunset:* October 22, 2021

**Friday, November 5, 2021**

Family Hour: 10:00 AM | Service: 11:00 AM

**Bethesda Christian Church**

14000 Metropolitan Parkway | Sterling Heights, MI 48312

*Officiating: Pastor Pat Visger*



A portrait of Violet Elizabeth Hurst, an elderly woman with short dark hair, wearing a red cable-knit sweater and a necklace with large white and gold beads. She is smiling slightly. In the background, there is a faded image of a younger woman with dark hair.

# Life Story

**Violet Elizabeth Hurst** was born on September 25, 1922, in Detroit, Michigan, to Charles Johnson and Myrtle Hurst. Violet was the oldest of eleven children, and she attended the Detroit Public School system. After high school, she was joined in holy matrimony with Charles Brown in 1942. Early in her marriage, while her husband served in World War II, Violet was a "Rosie the Riveter" – and worked in the US aircraft industry during the war. She was one of the many women workers that entered the workforce during World War II. Their union lasted 31 years and created eight children.

When her children were older, Violet returned to the workforce. She restarted her career working for Detroit Public Schools. During her tenure with DPS, Violet had several different roles; she started working as a lunchroom attendant, then moved to a paraprofessional role supporting various teachers, and even served as the President of the Parent-Teacher Association. Many years after she retired from the public school system, Violet decided to work with the Urban League of Detroit & Southeastern Michigan.

Violet's life is a story that contains many chapters, mainly because she was always willing to start over. She had a special type of resilience and inner strength because it got stronger as she got older. Well into the second half of her life, she enjoyed living an independent life, traveling, and being open to trying new things. Anyone that met Violet could tell you that to know her is to love her. She was the person you wanted to be around, a mother figure to many, and she made you feel special when she fixed her attention on you.

Some of her favorite things included meeting new people and watching the amazement on their faces when she told them how old she was, going to the movies, manicures, and pedicures, receiving flowers and gardening when she could, and the color purple. Also, she enjoyed artistic things, like drawing or painting, and her creativity was passed on to her children and grandchildren.

The thing that Violet cherished most in the world was her family. She was candid to some about her childhood and how she felt like an outsider at times. However, she ended up creating the family and the love that she always wanted. Violet would sometimes marvel at the fact that she and Charles made generations of people. She loved for her family to gather together, and the last time that she celebrated with her family was on her ninety-ninth birthday in September 2021.

After many years of heart issues, Violet peacefully departed this life on October 22, 2021. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: Wallace Bogans, Edward Bogans, Dorothy Catching, Jeannette Nash, Irene Romera, Lillian Sessom, and Betty Jane Williams; her former husband; Charles Brown; her oldest child, Barbara Sharon Brown; and her grandson, Tony Dwayne Calhoun.

She leaves to cherish her memories her loving children: Saundra Scott, Charles Brown, Jr. (Talesha), Corliss Medaris (Robert), Phyllis Odour-Opande (Solomon), Cynthia Vaughn-Campbell (Al), Douglas Brown, and Dianna Lynne Jackson (Todd); her surviving siblings: Claude Bogans, Robert Bogans, Margaret Robinson, and Marilyn Wilson; 21 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.



# ORDER *of Service*

Processional ..... Bethesda Christian Church

Scripture ..... Rev. Barry Allen

Prayer ..... Rev. Barry Allen

Song ..... Michael and Belinda Spencer

Acknowledgements and Condolences ..... Carmen Lynum

Obituary ..... Carmen Lynum

Remarks (2 minutes please) ..... Phyllis Odour-Opande  
The Brown Family  
Bethesda Members

Song ..... Sherri Heath

Eulogy ..... Pastor Pat Visger

Recessional ..... Bethesda Christian Church

*Repast immediately following service.*

***I AM THE RESURRECTION, AND THE LIFE: HE THAT  
BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WRE DEAD, YET  
SHALL HE LIVE: AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BE-  
LIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE.***

***ST. JOHN 11:25-26***



# SHADES OF *Violet*



# VIOLET BROWN





# A LETTER FROM *Heaven*

When tomorrow starts without me,  
And I'm not there to see;  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes,  
All filled with tears for me.  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry,  
The way you did today;  
While thinking of the many things,  
We didn't get to say.  
I know how much you love me,  
As much as I love you;  
And each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.  
When tomorrow starts without me,  
Don't think we're far apart;  
For every time you think of me,  
I'm right here in your heart.













### *Pallbearers*

Janiro Brown  
Jason Hopkins  
Ismail Irdgnel  
Christopher Kidd, Jr.  
Robert Maynie  
Randy Medaris

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

Mark Bridges  
Charles Brown, Jr.  
Douglas Brown  
Al Campbell  
Todd Jackson  
Robert Medaris

### *Flower Bearers*

Family and Friends

### *Repast*

**Bethesda Christian Church**  
14000 Metropolitan Parkway  
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312

### *Interment*

**Woodlawn Cemetery**  
19975 Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan 48203

### *Final Arrangements*

**James H. Cole Home for Funerals, Inc.**  
16100 Schaefer Hwy.  
Detroit, Michigan 48235

## *Acknowledgment*

The family of the late Violet Elizabeth Brown acknowledges, with sincere appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes and other expressions of kindness evidenced at this time in thought and deeds.

