



## Ruth Van Kirk

January 21, 1924 - April 15, 2020

Ruth Marie (Fleming) Van Kirk

At age 96, Ruth left this world peacefully in her sleep to be with our Lord on April 15, 2020 from complications associated with kidney disease. A resident of the Lutheran Senior Life, Passavant Community in Zelienople, Pennsylvania for the past four years, she was born to the late John F. Fleming and Flora Belle Weddle on January 21, 1924 in their home on Center Street, West Newton, Pennsylvania.

Ruth attended the Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in music. She taught music for several years in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania prior to marrying the late Dr. John (Jack) Scott Van Kirk Jr. on June 9, 1950. For the first few years of married life they lived in Mt. Pleasant before moving to the North Hills of Pittsburgh where she raised her children and has lived ever since. She was a wonderful mother and adored all her grandchildren. Before her arthritis made it difficult, she enjoyed singing, playing the piano, knitting, needlepoint and refinishing antiques. She always enjoyed working on genealogy, and collaborated with other researchers on various publications. Ruth was a member of the Memorial Park Presbyterian church in Allison Park and considered life a precious gift from God which should be lived every day to its fullest.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, and three brothers. She leaves behind her loving sister Martha Jane Murray, four children and their spouses, Nancy A. and Jim Kneff of Wexford, John S. and Barbara of Murrysville, Stuart

H. and Donna of Pittsburgh, and William R. and Jan of Allison Park. Also survived by nine grandchildren, Dr. James C. (Bethany) Kneff, Michael J. Kneff, Sarah M. Rosato, J. Scott (Laura) VanKirk IV, Bethany M. VanKirk, Megan L. (Blake) Baer, William R. Van Kirk Jr., Jonathan S. Van Kirk, Matthew T. Van Kirk, as well as four great grandchildren; Oliver, Isabella, Nicholas, and Jack.

A private viewing for family members will be held Saturday at Simons Funeral Home [www.simonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.simonsfuneralhome.com) with a ceremony and interment to follow at West Newton Cemetery. The family suggests donations be made to the Lutheran Senior Life Foundation Benevolent Care Fund, 105 Burgess Dr., Zelienople, PA 16046, or Memorial Park Presbyterian Church 8800 Peebles Road, Allison Park, 15101.

# Cemetery Details

## West Newton Cemetery

210 Vernon Dr,  
West Newton, 15089

# Tribute Wall

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“ *What a blessing to be able to care for the senior loved ones of others. They enrich your mind with their past, they bring laughter to you in their joyous moments and tears to your eyes in their sad times. Through it all, they claim a small corner in your heart. Just as Mrs. Kirk did. She will forever remain in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her. I know she will be greatly missed by her loved ones so my prayers of comfort are with each of you. Isaiah 26:19*

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**Annie** - April 20, 2020 at 12:50 AM

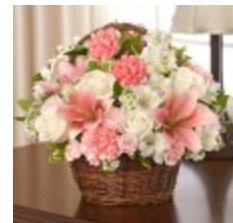
CG

“ *The first time I met Ruth was for a haircut which I might add she had a hand drawn picture for me as a guide and was asked to keep it so I would not forget . I had only known her for a short time but what I can say is she was a wonderful person and she knew what she did and do not want. Ruth was always a joy to me for the short time we spent together in the chair. For the past few years I have gone to the nursing home where she lived. She never forgot who I was and always asked how I was doing. She holds a special place in my heart and She will be truly missed. Rest In Peace Ruth ♡♡ Thank you Nancy for bringing her into my life.*

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**Cathy Grayson** - April 19, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Pink and White was purchased for the family of Ruth Van Kirk.*



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April 17, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ *Lavender & White Tied Nosegay was purchased for the family of Ruth Van Kirk.*



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April 17, 2020 at 07:40 AM