



Ruth Ann Martin

October 6, 1943 - May 24, 2026

Ruth Ann Martin (1943-2026)

Known for her heartfelt love for others, for Jesus, and for the Word of God, Ruth Ann Martin died of cancer on May 24, 2026, surrounded by her loving family.

Ruth Ann was born in Williamston, Michigan on October 6, 1943 to Charles and Beth Dietz. She was a farm girl through and through, and grew up in a rural community together with her two brothers and her many Risch and Dietz cousins, strongly influenced by the preaching of Harold Reese at Williamston First Baptist Church. She graduated from Williamston High School and then Michigan State University in the 1960s, and spent several years teaching at schools in the Grand Rapids area and teaching English to Latin American immigrant children in Lansing. During this period she took a short-term mission trip to Colombia, an experience that would plant the seeds of her love for missions that would flourish for many years to come.

Ruth Ann always wanted nothing more than to be a wife and mother, and this dream was fulfilled when, at a church singles group in 1968, she met a young grad student from Pennsylvania named David Martin. The two were married on August 16, 1969, and despite the dire (and perhaps tongue-in-cheek) prophecy of a close friend (“A Baptist and a Mennonite? That’ll never work”), Dave and Ruth Ann spent more than 56 years as an exemplary husband and wife whose marriage was richly blessed by God and inspired the admiration of all who knew them. Their son Karl was born in East Lansing, Michigan in

1972, and two years later, their daughter Kristina entered the world in Columbus, Ohio.

Ruth Ann's passion for mothering overshadowed any thought of pursuing a professional career, and she spent the next couple decades as a devoted homemaker at her family's residences in Hilliard, Ohio; Lake Orion, Michigan; and Powell, Ohio. Years later, her love for family spanned another generation when her grandchildren, Grace and Davy Hoblet, were born in the early 2000s. With her natural love for children, "Granny" became a devoted and trusted influence who provided many treasured memories.

Having spent many years praying for and supporting Christian missionaries, Dave and Ruth Ann traveled to Argentina on a short-term mission trip in 1997. Missionary leader Dave Guiles was so deeply impressed by their commitment to the gospel, their humble unassuming service, and their seamless integration with the other missionaries, that he asked them if they would consider joining the team full-time. After much prayer and thought, the couple accepted, and spent the next ten years as part of a church-planting team in Buenos Aires. Ruth Ann was dearly loved both by the Argentines in the churches and neighborhoods where they lived and by her fellow missionaries. In both American and Argentine churches, Ruth Ann had a profound impact particularly on younger Christian women, whom she loved to disciple and mentor. She was an embodiment of Paul's instruction to older women in Titus 2, that they be "reverent in their behavior . . . so that they may encourage the young women." At every church she was involved in, one may find to this day dozens of women who will gladly testify to her influence in their lives, whether through her Scripture teaching in organized Bible studies, her wise and compassionate counsel, or her faithful prayers for one family after another.

Ruth Ann had first been stricken with cancer in 1984, when she underwent surgery and a year of chemotherapy. Thirty-four years later, the cancer reappeared in her hip. As a two-time cancer survivor, she and her family were grieved when the disease emerged one last time in her liver.

On each occasion, she faced her trials with steadfast courage, clinging to Christ and to the word of God. Her Bibles and her journals are filled with underlinings and dates for the passages that strengthened her heart in her most difficult days. On Monday, May 18, 2026, when a kind but grim-faced doctor appeared in her hospital room to tell her she had only days or weeks to live, she immediately turned to her family and reminded them of the Bible passage she had been clinging to in this final trial, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Ruth Ann was preceded in death by her father, Charles Dietz, and her mother, Beth Dietz. She is survived by her husband, David Martin; her brothers, Gene Dietz and Ron Dietz; her children, Karl Martin and Kristina Hoblet; her son-in-law, Ben Hoblet; and her grandchildren, Anna Grace Grover (married to Tyler Grover) and David Hoblet.

The burial will be held privately. Calling hours will be 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at Cornerstone Community Church and the funeral will be at 3:30 PM. Donations to Encompass World Partners, Grace Clinics of Ohio, or Cornerstone would be appreciated. Donations can be made through these following links:

<https://app.clovergive.com/App/Giving/ohiocornerstone>

<https://encompassworldpartners.org/projects>

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/graceclinicsfohio>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **31**. 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Community Church
233 S State St
Westerville, OH 43081

Funeral

MAY **31**. 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Cornerstone Community Church
233 S State St
Westerville, OH 43081

Tribute Wall

JD

“ I had the blessing of knowing Ruth Ann via our zoom Bible Study Fellowship class every Wednesday morning. She was such an inspirational example to me of a Proverbs 31 woman, quiet strength and a memorized scripture for every situation and need. What a gift she was in my life for the short two years we shared in BSF. I will miss her earthly presence but know she is in His heavenly presence. Doesn't get any better than that. Blessings to you, her family as you continue her legacy. Joyce Dorsey

Joyce Dorsey - June 09 at 02:58 PM

RC

“ Ruth Ann was a most dear, quiet, kind childhood friend, from the very beginning of our lives at Williamston Baptist Church. My mother and dad loved and admired her parents (my dad was also a farmer at heart) and spent time with them. Beth Dietz, Ruth Ann's mother, was one of my favorite and most remembered Sunday School teachers.

What a living “fragrance of Christ” was Ruth Ann! Bill and I send our felt condolences and our love to her precious family. ❤️

Ruth Conard - June 04 at 10:19 AM

MW

“ Mandy Voitovich sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Ann Martin



Mandy Voitovich - May 31 at 02:55 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.*



May 29 at 02:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

May 29 at 02:07 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.*



May 29 at 01:14 PM

IK

“ Dear Dave, Karl, Kristina, Ben, Grace, and David, I'm so sorry to hear about Ruth Ann's passing but also know that she is rejoicing at being with the Lord in heaven. She was the most wonderful host mom to me when I was at OWU. Being far away from home and not knowing many people at first, she and Dave made my friends and me feel so welcome and loved from the start. At moments when I felt stressed or homesick, I was buoyed by getting a care package from her. I was also always impressed by her strength of her faith and how she really lived it in everything she did and said. I'll remember her and treasure her friendship and care for the rest of my life. Praying for you all during this time! Love, Ing Wei, Fernando, and Hannah

Ing Khor - May 29 at 11:20 AM

IW

“ Ing Wei purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.



Ing Wei - May 29 at 11:10 AM

MT

“ Dear Dave, Carl, Kristen, and family,

My heart is deeply saddened to hear of Ruth Ann's passing. She was truly one of the kindest and most compassionate people I had the privilege to know during my time in the US.



As a foreign student far away from home, Ruth Ann's warmth and generosity meant so much to me. I will always remember how she faithfully picked me up from the dorms for church on Sundays, welcomed me into her home for lunch after church, and opened her heart to us international students during Thanksgiving. Those moments made us feel loved, cared for, and far less homesick.

Ruth Ann lived out her Christian faith so beautifully through her kindness, hospitality, and servant heart. She touched so many lives quietly and deeply, and I am personally very grateful for the love and care she showed me during an important season of my life.

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. May God surround your family with His comfort, peace, and strength, and may the precious memories of Ruth Ann continue to live on in all the lives she touched.

With deepest sympathy and love, Min Min Tay & family ❤️🙏

Min-Min Tay - May 29 at 09:19 AM

WT

“ *With Much Love Min Min Tay purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.*



With Much Love Min Min Tay - May 29 at 09:10 AM

WT

“ With Much Love Min Min Tay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

With Much Love Min Min Tay - May 29 at 09:10 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.



May 28 at 09:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

May 28 at 09:38 AM

WB

“ Warren Brown purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.

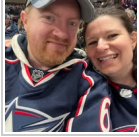


Warren Brown - May 28 at 05:36 AM

WB

“ Warren Brown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

Warren Brown - May 28 at 05:36 AM



“ Ruth Ann was such a sweet soul and I will miss her kind interactions at church. She always inquired about our family with caring and encouragement. Praying for love and encouragement to her family at this time ❤️



MacKenzie Clark - May 27 at 09:07 PM

LM

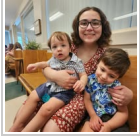
“ I will never forget Ruth Anne’s kindness and welcoming hospitality during my time in Buenos Aires, Argentina! I am confident that Ruth Anne’s faith and living Christ’s love has had a profound impact on countless individuals wherever she has traveled!

Lucas Marquardt - May 27 at 09:05 PM

MC

“ Mackenzie C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

Mackenzie C. - May 27 at 09:02 PM



“ *The devotional RuthAnn gave me at my grad party has survived three moves and is a reminder of the advice she gave me. Back in 2014 or 2015 she took me to Wendy's so we could talk about mission work. The piece of advice that has echoed in my thoughts since then is that life is God's classroom. Everything that happens to us serves to teach us the lessons need to bear tomorrow's burdens. That was a huge relief to me who felt incredibly unequipped for college, let alone living overseas as a missionary. She instilled in me a desire to seek after God and cling to His word. I'm honored to have brushed shoulders with her.*



Becca Silveus - May 27 at 08:28 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.*



May 27 at 04:48 PM



“ *Anna Grace, James, Ken and Yvonne purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.*



Anna Grace, James, Ken and Yvonne - May 27 at 04:36 PM

LT

“ Love, Brigette, Katie, Kim and Tricia purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.



Love, Brigette, Katie, Kim and Tricia - May 27 at 04:22 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.



May 27 at 04:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Ann Martin.

May 27 at 04:20 PM

GD

“ Gene, Ron, Tim, Stephanie, Kim and Dan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ruth Ann Martin.



Gene, Ron, Tim, Stephanie, Kim and Dan - May 27 at 11:55 AM