



## Susan Owen

October 27, 1953 - September 29, 2024

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of Susan Owen on September 29, 2024 after a sudden illness. Susan was born in Riverside, CA on Oct 27, 1953, the beloved daughter of Jackie and Bill Owen of Worthington, Ohio. She graduated from Princeton University with high honors in Religion before earning a Doctorate from the University of Virginia in religious studies, with a concentration in ethics. She was ordained to the ministry by the United Church of Christ and wore many hats through the years, including a parish minister, an adjunct assistant professor at Quinnipiac and Southern Connecticut State Universities, a health care ethicist with the Veteran's Administration National Center for Ethics in Health Care, and a lecturer on medical ethics at the Yale Divinity School. She worked with veterans and others who live with brain injuries and initiated and co-developed Hope House, a pilot transitional living facility for persons reintegrating into the community after suffering from traumatic brain injuries. As this array of commitments makes clear, Susan was a dynamic force with a strong sense of mission and vocation. She is survived by her daughter Jacqueline Outka (Abuzer Rafey); sister Ann North, and nephews David North (Lorin Wolf) and Mark North (Lindsay). She was predeceased by her brother David Owen and former husband, Gene Outka. Susan once said "When I counsel people focus a lot on the reassurance that one hopes certain things will be so-and on the fact that the hope can have its own reality". In that spirit, we as her family and friends hope for her peaceful rest and honor her memory. A graveside service

will be held on Thursday October 10, 2024 at 1:00pm at the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Worthington, Ohio with Rev. Tim Ahrens officiating. A public Memorial Celebration will be held at the Mount Carmel Congregational Church in Hamden, CT. Donations may be made to Smile Train, Kobacker House in Cols OH, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For anyone who would like to send flowers, tulips and easter lilies were some of her favorites. RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Walnut Grove

Worthington, OH 43085

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Walnut Grove Cemetery  
5561 Milton Ave.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-5033

# Tribute Wall

VK

“ I worked with Susan at the Carolton in Fairfield,Ct. I would visit Susan when I had appointments in Hamden. I just reached out to send her birthday wishes and to catch up. I am so sorry to hear of her passing. Her spirit and kindness touched many residents and peers during her time here. Susan I will miss our talks. Virgie Kelly

virginia kelly - October 30, 2024 at 09:21 AM

DS

“ My husband and I were good friends with Susan. We enjoyed visits with her and always had wonderful, stimulating conversations. She had a wonderful mind. We were shocked to hear of her passing so suddenly. She helped us with groceries when we were both sick and we visited her often when she was recovering from surgery. We will miss her calm presence. My sympathies to her family and to all who loved her.  
Diane Scott and Leon Fiftal

Diane Scott - October 23, 2024 at 05:21 PM

TF

“ I live in the same neighborhood, and was a friend of Susan's. We talked with some regularity about everything -- career, family, politics. I was shocked by her sudden passing and will miss hearing her friendly and thoughtful voice.

TOM FREI - October 22, 2024 at 04:01 PM

ML

“ On behalf of the New Haven Association of the United Church of Christ, I want to extend our deepest sympathies to Susan's family. Many of us walked with Susan through her discernment process that led to her ordination. We were so sad to hear the news of her passing. May your memories bring you comfort.

*Martha Lape, Registrar*

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**Martha Lape** - October 16, 2024 at 03:30 PM

CA

“ As a neighbor of Suzie's parents in UA, we had great opportunities to get to know Suzie during her college/post-college years. She was always a delight to visit with—her good humor, keen intellect, and caring spirit. We were so sad to read of her passing and send our condolences to her sister Ann, daughter Julie and the rest of the family. With sympathy, Carol and Dick Meyer

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**carol** - October 14, 2024 at 11:18 AM

TC

“ Trudy Condio purchased the "Sending You an Angel" Statue to Express Sympathy for Funeral Or Memorial for the family of Susan Owen.



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**Trudy Condio** - October 08, 2024 at 10:24 AM

TC

“ I was heartbroken as was all of us at Second Church when her passing was announced Sunday. She was a very special person. She and I shared many conversations that allowed me to get to know her on somewhat a deeper level. She truly was a teacher and I learned an awful lot from her. I enjoyed the many stories and experiences she told as part of her sermons about her family, TBI patients and Veterans. Prayers of comfort to her family for your loss.

Trudy Condio - October 07, 2024 at 06:18 PM

AN

Thank you. Trudy

Ann North - October 11, 2024 at 07:09 PM

LL

“ Susan was a great pastor and friend. Her passing has affected us all at 2nd congregation church of Manchester. Prayers for her her daughter brother and all of us who mourn. A special lady

Louise Leitao - October 07, 2024 at 05:45 PM

LG

“ Reverend Susan was a very special addition to Second Congregational Church in Manchester, CT for the 18 months she was our Pastor. We all mourn her unexpected passing.

Linda Grey - October 07, 2024 at 05:37 PM

DS

“ Debbie Streeter lit a candle in memory of Susan Owen



Debbie Streeter - October 07, 2024 at 05:35 PM

DS

“ Susan was great at encouraging everyone in our congregation to extend themselves a little bit more than they thought they were capable of. She made sure to tie up all of the loose ends even after she left us. We are all shocked and saddened by her sudden passing and will cherish the memory of her time with us.

Debbie Streeter 🙏  
Second Congregational Church of Manchester

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**Debbie Streeter** - October 07, 2024 at 05:35 PM

LT

“ Susan was my minister for about 1 and 1/2 years leaving just over a month ago. I am chair of deacons so worked closely with her. She had a calming affect on us when we needed it. She was a gentle kind and caring woman and pastor

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**lisa trombly** - October 06, 2024 at 02:58 PM