The Memorial Service of

**Gayle Anderson**

Anderson-Marry Funeral Home

Tecumseh Chapel

1448 Short St.
Tecumseh, Michigan 49286

Phone: 517-424-1848

Friday February 22, 2019

**SCRIPTURE**

The Scripture says…

***7****I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.****8****Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

When a person places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ… there is a hope that is born within their heart…for life after this life…it gives us hope…even after the grave.

So let’s turn to God in prayer and ask Him to help us through this time.

Would you pray with me?

**PRAYER**

Father we come to you this morning with a great burden on our hearts…we are saddened with the loss of Gayle Anderson…

and the thought of never again seeing her on this earth.

So we ask that you would lift us into the presence of Jesus who brings comfort and encouragement at times like these.

Help us today as we remember her life…

and give strength to those who were close to her…

the strength they will need to go on in the coming weeks and months ahead…

Those who’s lives were intertwined with hers will think back, and recall her life, and all she meant to them…

and as they realize the profound effect she had on them…

they will miss her deeply.

So we ask for mercy and grace to help them through this time,

this service today will be especially difficult for them.

We ask these things in Christ’s name. AMEN

**EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY**

We’ve gathered here this morning because someone you knew and loved went to be with the Lord on Friday Feb. 15th…

so we’re here today to begin the process of healing…

but we’re also here to **honor and celebrate Gayle’s life.**

So on behalf of CedarCreek Church, I am Ed Bellner

And we would like to offer our condolences first of all to…

**You - Kim, Kendra, & Ken**

As well to all the rest of her **family members** and **friends**…

 who knew and loved her…

 please accept our deepest sympathy at your loss.

**Obituary of Gayle Anderson**

Gayle (Ives) Anderson was born April 29, 1937, to Kenneth and Florence (Baldwin) Ives in Adrian Michigan.

Gayle was the youngest of 5 children; Russell, Mary (Renner), Frances (Fox), and Douglas Ives.  She married James K. Anderson on April 27, 1956, later divorced in 1976. Together they shared three children; Kim S. Wahl, Kendra (Gary) Ondrus, and Kenneth (Tanya) Anderson.  She leaves behind grandchildren: Jamie Gayle Wahl, Jacob (Nicci) Wahl, Michael (Carly) Wahl, Erika Kayser Box (Brad Aemisegger), Kirk (Sarah) Kayser, Kristen (Kevin) Kowalewski, Kayla Sims and Isabelle Anderson.  Gayle is also survived by her great grandchildren: Cody and Connor Wahl, Anthony, Landon, and Kaitlyn Wahl, Jayden and Caleb James Palmer, Lillian Box and Selena Aemisegger, Mary and Johanna Kayser.

Gayle graduated from Adrian High school in 1954.  She held secretarial positions, got married in 1956, had their first child, and then worked as a licensed beautician after graduating from Jackson Beauty College.  Gayle worked in several beauty salons, then opened her own salon in her home (Gayle’s Country Beauty Salon).  Much later she worked at Merillat Industries/Masco for 26 years, retiring in 2001.

Contrary to her claim that she “didn’t like to travel”, she traveled to New York City, Canada, looped through the western states, numerous trips to California, Mexico, Hawaii, Florida, the Outer Banks, Wisconsin (Geneva Lake), Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and the Straights of Mackinaw via ferry prior to the building of the bridge.

Gayle was raised on the family farm, and loved horses, later volunteering assisting handicapped riders.  She also volunteered for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).  Gayle was an avid bowler on and off throughout her life, the last being in a senior league in 2018.  She loved her Michigan Wolverines and Detroit Tigers.  She was an avid sports fan, most recently developing a greater appreciation for soccer.  Gayle enjoyed playing sports herself and passed her love of sports onto her children.  She found great joy in watching them compete as well as cheering on her grandchildren.

Gayle will be greatly missed by all who’s lives she has touched, but she is leaving behind quite a legacy of love, strength and generosity.

At Gayle’s request, cremation has taken place.

Charitable contributions in Gayle’s memory may be made to:

ProMedica Hospice and Dr. Denise Faustman via Massachusetts General Hospital and include “Cure Diabetes Now Fund”, [www.faustmanlab.org](http://www.faustmanlab.org/).  Envelopes are available at Anderson-Marry Funeral Home.

**SCRIPTURE**

In Psalm 34:18 the scriptures promise that…

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

**EULOGIES**

I know Kendra and Gary, and I have enjoyed meeting so many in the family, but to be honest I didn’t know Gayle, I did not have the privilege so many of you have, to have experienced the opportunity to do life with her…

So what I’d like to do is give you, the ones close to her, an opportunity to come up and share a brief story or memory with us.

Give invitation for anyone to come up…

Hearing the stories of someone’s life…

can at the same time, be both **fun to remember**… and **painful to hear…**

when you think back over her life…

many of the interactions and memories are the little things that seem almost insignificant at the time…

**REMARKS**

Tuesday as I sat around with the family, I enjoyed the snapshot into the life of their mom & grandma they provided me with.

1One of the first things that stuck out to me was the dynamic way she was able to connect uniquely with each person.

* When they started talking about her, I would hear them tell of her boldness, loyalty & humility. As well as her quite demeanor and desire to mend conflict that may arise.

I was amazed, it was if they each were talking about someone totally different, and that’s when it struck me!

* She was a master at knowing who she was with,
* meeting them in the moment,
* and making them the most important person in the room. [pause]

2 I also picked up that she had a sporty competitive nature about her.

3 but those sheep… can we talk sheep for a minute? So it is my understanding that she had a lot of sheep…, um, I’m going to say stuff,

sheep stuff.

* So most of her life the kids and others bought her many pieces of sheep paraphernalia. Including but not limited to a large concrete sheep that is now residing in Kendra & Gary’s back yard. The news flash they received just a short time ago is… she didn’t like sheep! She knew them to be dirty and stubborn animals!!!
* Horses yes, sheep… not so much

4 But my biggest take away, from all they shared, came to me in the form of a passage of scripture;

***19****My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. James 1:19*

* This was a prevalent theme that each of them shared, regardless of the story I was hearing. They all would tell of how she would listen quietly, and would pause so long at times, they wondered if she was paying attention at all, then she would very deliberately respond.
* She had mastered what eludes so many of us, the art and ability to live out James 1:19 to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry

Kristen sent a text to her mom that I was invited to read and I feel embodies the Legacy her Grandma has left.

At this time I would like to ask her [or Erika] to come read it for us.

Erika is going to share with us…

If what we call love doesn’t take us beyond ourselves, it is not really love.

**MESSAGE**

Our Lord’s Cross is the gateway into His life. His resurrection means that He has the power to convey His life to me.

I would like to take a few minutes and talk about the love of Christ that we read about in  **Romans 8:35-39** which reads like this;

35Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36(As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) 37No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

The Love, Acceptance & Forgiveness that God offers… is offered to you and I through the person of Jesus Christ.

You may be sitting here today saying, “Jesus wouldn’t want me.”

I’d like to help you see that’s not true….

I love what Pastor Rick Warren says as he answers this simple question.

**Who did Jesus come for?**

Jesus came for the chewed up and the pushed around, the cracked up and the put down, the crossed off and the ripped off, the crying out and the run down.

Jesus came for the dropped out, the run over, the edged out, and the shrugged off. The shut in, the flamed out, the shut out, the smashed up.

Jesus came for the have not’s and the squeezed outs, the held back, and the stacked against.

Jesus came for the hung over, the strung out, the knocked down and the kicked around, the torn up and the thrown away. The left out, the loaded down, turned off and used up. Jesus came for the looked over, lorded over, the walked over and the washed out. For the led astray, the laid off, the leaned on, the letdown. He came for the messed up, the mixed up, the past over. The picked on, pilled on, the pinned down. Jesus came for the wiped out and the written off.

(Pause)

Jesus came for Gayle, Jesus came for me, Jesus came for you. God has never made a person he doesn’t love.

God has never made a person he doesn’t have a purpose for.

God has never made a person he doesn’t want to know.

We have the opportunity to trust in Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

I don’t know **how your life has gone…**

What you have been overwhelmed with. What **sorrows you have faced…**

and the **challenges** of life on this earth…

or if deep inside you have an eager hope… if you’ve been looking for something you can truly count on.

As we read about in Romans 8…

18Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. :18-21

We find His forgiveness in…

**Romans 3:23-24**

I would like to read it to you from ‘The Message’

*Since we’ve compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

In a moment, I’m going to say a closing prayer. If you haven’t done so already, you can open yourself up to Jesus during this time. I will invite those of you, who would like to experience a life with Christ, to pray with me. So, feel free to pray silently to him, right there in your chair. He’ll hear your every thought.

Let’s pray

**PRAYER**

With humble respect we come before the Father, 15from whom every familyin heaven and on earth is named, 16that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18may have strength to comprehend, 19and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now God we turn to you, I have been doing life on my own for too long. I want to receive the gift of faith and security that you have made available, by taking care of my sin on the cross. To receive the gift of hope, of eternal life with you. The gift of love. That you made possible by coming back from the dead. I want to walk with you from this day forward. I want to find my home with you. God, I know that I have sinned and fallen short of yourglory. But today I take comfort in your grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**COMMITTAL**

You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she’ll come back, or you can open your eyes and see all she’s left. Your heart can be empty because you can’t see her, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her only that she is gone, or you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back. Or you can do what she’d want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

* David Harkins

When we’re gathered around a graveside…

people often ask the question…why?

What’s the point of it all?

What’s the purpose of life anyway?

Well God’s Word tells us that…

He made us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven…

so in reality, this life is preparation for eternity.

He didn’t put us on this earth just to fulfill a to-do list.

The scripture reads…

“*As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a*

 *flower of the field;*

The wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with

 those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children-with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.” *(Ps.103:15-18)*

We are gathered here today commit the **body**…of Gayle Anderson to its kindred dust;

…earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust…

…but we are committing her **spirit** to God.

Listen to the tremendous encouragement He gives us in the Bible…

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;*

 *I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters,*

 *I will be with you;*

*and when you pass through the rivers,*

 *they will not sweep over you.*

*When you walk through the fire,*

 *you will not be burned;*

*the flames will not set you ablaze.*

 *For I am the Lord, your God,*

*the Holy One of Israel, your Savior*;…” (Is.43:1-3)

The Bible assures us that when we pass from this life to the next…that God will be there with us.

He encourages us like a gentle and loving Father…

who has compassion on his children…

and He does this so that we will be comforted.

And we trust also in His Son Jesus Christ who said…

*“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25)*

So even though Gayle’s **body** is no more…

we can take comfort in knowing that her **spirit…**is now with God.

The confidence that we have as we stand here today,

Is knowing that Gayle is in the presence of God…

in a place so wonderful that Christ referred to it as **Paradise**.

The Apostle Paul tells us that it’s natural to grieve at the parting of a loved one, but he said that…

“*we are not to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.”*

*(1 Thess. 4:13)*

…because we do have hope…

in fact, we have a promise from God that our parting is not the end of our relationship…

but rather a temporary interruption…

and one day, in a glorious and magnificent reunion…

they and we…

*“will be with the Lord forever. Therefore* (the Bible says) *to* *encourage each other with these words”* (1 Thess. 4:17-18).

So I want to encourage you that Gayle is not here, but in Heaven with God.

**PRAYER**

Father we thank you for the hope that we have.

We know that even when life doesn’t make sense, that you have not lost control…and that you want us to trust you.

We are promised throughout scripture that we are never left to fight our own battles…and that you are right there with us.

The Bible tells us to cast our cares on you and that you will sustains us and that you will never let the righteous fall.

So that is what we are doing today Lord…

We are casting all our care upon you.

But even so Lord, it is a painful time for those close to Gayle…

so I ask your blessing on each of them today…

and pray that you would comfort them as only you can.

I ask you Lord to come close to the broken hearted…

and replace their despair with hope…

and help them to realize that Gayle is safely home with her Savior.

And we pray this in His name…

the one Lord and only Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN