

Celebrating the Life
of

Sunrise:
December 22, 1950

Sunset:
February 7, 2022



Minister

Sarah Yvonne Penn

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
Family Hour: 10:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary

Sarah Yvonne Penn was born on December 22, 1950, in Greensboro, North Carolina, to Ivery and Arabella Best. The only female among her siblings was affectionately known as “Yvonne Best” in her hometown. She went home to be with her personal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on February 7, 2022.

As a young woman, Sarah relocated to the Washington metropolitan area and subsequently earned a degree from the University of Maryland Global Campus. Special Education was her life’s work. She was committed to helping meet the needs of students with disabilities in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), an opportunity she took very seriously. Sarah worked in the public school system for over 30 years before retiring in 2012.

While working as a schoolteacher, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. In the 1980s, she was called to the ministry as a volunteer with the Prince George’s County Correctional Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Reflecting on her years as a schoolteacher, there were times when one or more of her students went missing from the classroom. And Sarah concerned about their welfare, would call the Correctional Center, specifically the Chaplain, to determine if the absent youths were being held there. In 1989, Sarah met Reverend James Penn, the “new” Chaplain. The two began a friendship that ultimately led to 32 years of marriage. Additionally, they spent 29 years together in ministry, spreading the Word of God and reconciling others to Christ.

In 1991, the faithful woman of God received her ministerial license. And in 1992, the Penn’s joined From the Heart Church Ministries (FTH) and were engaged in the life of the church. Minister Sarah Penn volunteered in the Prison and Community Outreach Ministries; and was a dedicated member of the Ministerial Staff. She genuinely loved her FTH family—they were important to her.

Sarah experienced some health challenges along life’s journey; however, she persevered through them all, never wavering in her faith. She always found the strength to share the faithfulness of God, and to encourage and uplift others, even in the midst of adversity. As a result of her challenges, she retired from PGCPS and joined her husband in full-time ministry as Chaplain Assistant at the Correctional Center. The admirable pair effectively trained countless volunteers for ministry at the facility. Sarah was dubbed “First Lady of the Jail” by the many volunteers under her tutelage. While there, she formed a toy drive that supported over 600 children of inmates at Christmastime. She was very passionate about her work. Moreover, she used the gift of speaking to minister to those with whom she came in contact. Sarah accompanied her husband and co-labored in the Gospel to bring the Word of God each year to congregants in forty or more churches in the Washington metropolitan area.

Sarah was known for her wit and profound sense of humor. Furthermore, she could absolutely light up a room with her warm personality. A compassionate woman, she was a tremendous witness to everyone she met. Apart from this, she was eternally grateful for all that God was doing in her, and through her. Likewise, those who knew Sarah were thankful to God for allowing her to be an integral part of their lives. One of her favorite gospel songs was “It’s Alright Now.” And for Sarah, it’s alright now because Jesus has heard her prayer. She is absent from her body; and is present with the God and Father who created her.

Sarah will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband, Reverend James Penn; mother, Arabella Best; brothers: Ivery (Elizabeth), Michael (Jackie), Jeffrey, Hal (Madaline), and Joseph (Nancy); daughter, Monique (Lester); son, James (Thelma); thirteen grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends; as well as her From the Heart Church Ministries Family.

Sarah was preceded in death by her father, Ivery Best.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 27:1-5
New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Prayer of Comfort

Selection FTH Adult Choir

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Ms. Lonna Swann (Friend)
Minister Michael Best (Brother)
Ms. Monique White, Elder James Montague and Mr. Matthew Penn (Children)

Obituary (Read Silently)

Song of Preparation FTH Adult Choir

Message of Hope Bishop John A. Cherry, II

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional



My Timex Has Stopped Ticking

*My Timex has stopped ticking—more than my partner
you took a licking and kept on ticking!*

*Every day for over 20 years it has been hard for
you to live but you kept on ticking!*

*You got up to three dialysis treatments
a week, at three hours each time,
but you kept on ticking!*

*It was hard on you to go there five appointments a month,
but you kept on ticking!*

Now though I cannot hear you ticking...I know you are still ticking!

***Eternally mine; with all my love,
Reverend Penn***





Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.


*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

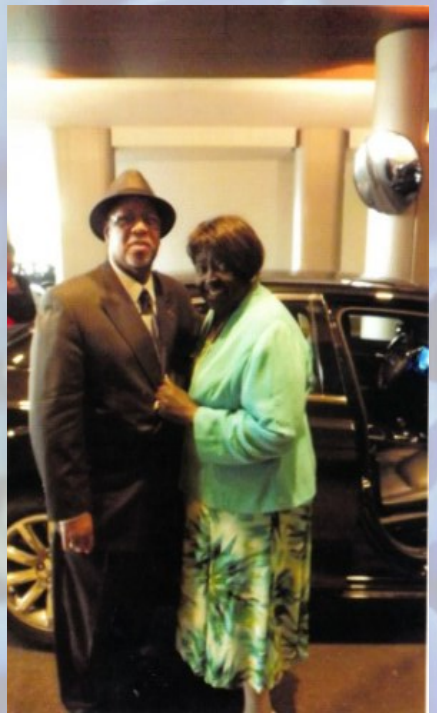
*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD for ever.*









Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement


The family is grateful beyond measure for your visits, phone calls, emails, text messages, cards, flowers, and other generous outpourings of loving concern and kindness. We ask for your continued prayers; and we ask God's blessings upon each of you.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Bishop John A. Cherry, II and Reverend LaWanda M. Cherry as well as the entire From the Heart Church Ministries Family for all your love, and overwhelming support during our time of loss.



"It's Alright Now"



Services Entrusted to:
Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
3910 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746