A Celebration of Life
for

Elizabeth "Beth" Beardsley

September 24, 1946—March 17, 2025

Houghton Wesleyan Church
Houghton, New York
June 14, 2025
6:30 P.M.

Trust in the Lord
with all your heart
and lean not on
your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will
make your paths straight.
~Proverbs 3:5,6

Prelude – Favorite Hymns

Words of Greeting/ Prayer

Scripture - Psalm 113
- Carson Beardsley, Liam O'Brien. Ioan O'Brien, Grandsons

Hymn - Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Remembrance
– Amy Morris, Niece

Hymn – *In Christ Alone*

Remembrance
– by Suzanne Ruoss, Sister; delivered by Glenn Ruoss, brother-in-law

Scripture – Psalm 139: 1-10
– Geoff Seidel, Nephew

Song – *He Will Hold Me Fast*
– Lois Warren, Friend

Remembrance
– Julia O'Brien, Daughter

Homily

Hymn – *And Can It Be*

Benediction

Postlude

Pianist – Rev. David Huizenga Officiant – Rev. Paul Shea

Elizabeth (Beth) Kay Seidel Beardsley of Houghton, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 17 at Teresa House in Geneseo, secure in the knowledge of God's love. Beth's steadfast faith touched everyone she met, and her kindness and warm smile will be remembered always. Born on September 24, 1946 to Josephine (Kline) and George Seidel, she married Willis Beardsley in 1971 in Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Reading, PA.

Beth graduated from Muhlenberg High School in 1964, where she loved singing in the choir. She earned a BA in Biblical and Christian Education from Columbia International University in 1968, and later a second BA in Education from Houghton University. After taking time to raise her children, she returned to graduate school and earned her master's degree in Education from SUNY Geneseo.

Beth began her career teaching 2nd grade at Harrisburg Christian School and then at Fillmore Central School. During her three children's early years, she embraced being a stay-at-home mom. She organized playgroups, taught Sunday school, led the Houghton chapter of Pioneer Girls, and created a home that was a welcoming sanctuary. After earning her master's degree, she supervised student teachers at Houghton University and worked as a substitute teacher before returning full-time to the classroom in 1993. For over a decade, she was a beloved kindergarten teacher at Fillmore Central School. Known for weaving music and creativity into her lessons and honoring each child's unique learning style, Beth often said that working with and learning from children brought her the greatest joy in life.

Beth's faith and love for her community were always evident through her active life. At Houghton Wesleyan Church, she served on many committees, led a women's Bible study, and shared her deep knowledge of Christian education. She remained active into retirement, volunteering at Powerhouse Youth Center and Fillmore Central School. She found deep fulfillment serving on the board of Wellspring Ministries, where she formed meaningful friendships while meeting the needs of people from Allegany County. Above all, she was a devoted mother, sister, grandmother, and aunt, never missing a birthday or holiday.

Beth is survived by her three children: Joel (Bridget) Beardsley, Julia (Michael) O'Brien, and Jonathan Beardsley; six grandchildren: Madeline and Carson Beardsley, Liam and Ioan O'Brien, and Davida and Ayowole Beardsley; her sister, Suzanne (Glenn) Ruoss; and many beloved nieces, nephews, and extended family. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Willis Beardsley, and her brothers, Barry and Stephen Seidel.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please make donations to Houghton Wesleyan Church https://hwchurch.org/giving/, Wellspring Ministries in Belfast, NY, and Teresa House, https://teresahouse.org/donation/.