



The Rev. Sylvia J. Baker

April 16, 1934 - April 22, 2025

The Rev. Sylvia J. Baker, whose pastoral work in Shanksville, Pa., included ministering to thousands who went to the tiny town after the crash of Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001, died Tuesday, April 22, 2025, in East McKeesport. She was 91.

Rev. Baker was pastor of the Shanksville Assembly of God Church from 1999 until her retirement in 2021. Her life as a minister was a second career she began in her early 60s after the death of her husband, Roy D. Baker.

After the plane crash on 9/11, she and another local pastor went to the scene to minister to emergency workers. For months after the crash, her church was visited by people who wanted to visit the site.

She did missionary work in the Philippines and throughout Central and South America. She was active in leadership of the PennDel District Assemblies of God.

She worked for many years at D'Appolonia Engineering, and raised her family in Penn Hills before moving to Shanksville. She became an avid jogger and participated in many 5K and 10K races. She joked that as the only runner in her age category, she always finished first.

She enjoyed many summer days at her cabin in Ridgeview Park in Derry Township, and was a past president of the park association. She was a member of the Society of Farm Women of Pennsylvania and served as judge of elections in Shanksville for many years.

Rev. Baker was born April 16, 1934, in Swissvale, daughter of the late William and Marie Pearl (Wampler) Mount. She is survived by her children, Debra Lee Lesko of Gilbert, AZ; Susan Marie Whittaker (Mark) of East McKeesport; and Roy Donald Baker Jr. (Tia) of Tulsa, OK; her grandchildren Dawn, Mary, Teresa, Rebecca, Marie, Olivia, and Michael; 8 great grandchildren; and brothers Charles Mount and Gay Mount.

Friends will be received from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the Forgie-Snyder Funeral Home, 1032 Broadway, East McKeesport. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home. Family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Interment will follow in Crossroads Cemetery, Monroeville. For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bridges From Kuwait cat rescue at <https://bridgesfromkuwait.org/donate/>

Cemetery Details

Crossroads Cemetery

2700 Stroschein Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 25. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

APR 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

APR 26. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *Sylvia was a great friend to our family. She stayed with us many times and always had a great time. She shared her love with so many people and will be missed very much. To God be the glory for her life. Scolforo family*

Pam Scolforo - April 27, 2025 at 05:58 PM

CB

“ *Sylvia was such a joy to work with. She and I shared time together on the Ridgeview Park Association Board where she was Board president for a number of years. May she rest in peace and may her family know that she was loved and appreciated.*

Crist Berry - April 27, 2025 at 12:49 PM

RS

“ *I had the joy of working with Sylvia as members of the Shanksville Ministerium. I always appreciated her insights and sense of humor, My wife and I shared many meals with Sylvia and two visits to her cabin. She touched so many lives in humble service. Rev. Jay E. Shaffer*

Rev. Jay E. Shaffer - April 25, 2025 at 11:51 AM

NK

“ *sylvia was such an encourager. She always took time to minister to those hurting. She was always kind and compassionate. I will miss her. A real servant of the Kingdom. Heaven's gain my loss. One day will be reunited.*

Nancy Korzeniowski - April 24, 2025 at 05:14 PM

CQ

“ *Deepest sympathy, she was an extraordinarily amazing woman.*

Cathy A Queer - April 24, 2025 at 07:39 AM

BG

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family & friends of Sylvia. We were blessed to know & love Sylvia at Ridgeview Park where we spent many porch hours sharing thoughts about faith, family, & worldly issues. May she rest in peace in her Heavenly home.* 🙏❤️🙏

Brooke & Debbie Gunsallus - April 23, 2025 at 06:23 PM