



## Phyllis Wilkening

December 13, 1937 - November 11, 2023

A graveside memorial service for Phyllis Wilkening of Wadena will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, at the Wadena Cemetery, with Pastor Jim Stoneman presiding. Family and friends may gather starting at 12:30p.m. A reception celebrating Phyllis' life will follow at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wadena.

Peacefully, Phyllis passed away at her home in Wadena MN, on November 11, 2023, at the age of 85.

Phyllis Evon Braun was born one of five children to Lester and Ethel (Robinson) Braun on December 13, 1937, in Ambrose ND. The family moved to Wadena in 1945 where Phyllis graduated from High School.

On November 13, 1954, Phyllis was united in marriage with Alan L Nicoll in Wadena. They made their home in Wadena before moving to Great Falls MT, and later Baudette MN, all of which were DEW Line Air Force Bases. After Alan's death Phyllis raised their four young children while working out of her home as a seamstress, often doing alterations for Stern & Fields menswear in Wadena. She met Robert (Bob) Wilkening and they were married December 16, 1967, in Wadena. The community may remember her as the receptionist and secretary of Charles Rowe and later Erik Olson, CPA for 16 years.

Hours away from work and into retirement she enjoyed gardening, sewing, and sending cards for all occasions. Family and friends were dear to her and she kept friends for a lifetime. Her red velvet cake was that of a "baker extraordinaire" as were her church bazaar Pecan Tassies, and cheese spread recipe for funeral lunches. Phyllis was a dedicated member in numerous capacities since 1945 at the First Congregational UCC in Wadena, along with the VFW Auxiliary and a community birthday club.

Preceding Phyllis in death were her husbands, Alan L Nicoll (1961) and Robert Wilkening (2020); parents Lester and Ethel Braun; grandson Jesse Wilkening; brother Floyd Braun; and brother -in-law, John Monical.

Phyllis will be forever loved by her children Kathy (Ken) Widmer of Wasilla AK, Alan (Jody) Big Lake AK, Randy (Lisa ) Avon, Jeffrey (Jo Ann) Rice, step-son Dale (Melissa) Wilkening Deer River; nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren; sisters Delores Monical of Pequot Lakes, Mary Lynk (Russ) of Detroit Lakes and Joyce Perreten (Jerry Orbeck) of Ottertail; along with many nephews and nieces, friends and neighbors. She is also survived by her beloved canine companion, Babydoll.

Urn bearers will be her children and step-son. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Phyllis' name may be directed to the First Congregational Church UCC in Wadena.

# Cemetery Details

## Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family & Friends

NOV 17. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Wadena Cemetery  
Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Graveside Service

NOV 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Wadena Cemetery  
Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Celebration of Life Open House

NOV 17. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Colfax Ave. & 1st St. SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

*The luncheon celebrating Phyllis' life will follow the graveside service.*



# Tribute Wall

BP

“ *Barry Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



-----  
**Barry & Sandi Pratt** - December 07, 2023 at 01:10 PM

SM

“ *Susan McDonald lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



-----  
**Susan Halliwill McDonald** - November 19, 2023 at 10:32 PM

JH

“ *Jeanne Huggins lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



-----  
**Jeanne Huggins** - November 18, 2023 at 08:21 AM

JS

“ *Rest in Peace! Deepest condolences to the family.*

-----  
**John Stigman** - November 16, 2023 at 05:57 PM

DM

“ *Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



**Dixie Murray** - November 16, 2023 at 05:34 PM

RS

“ *Rick Debbie Schwartz lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



**Rick and Debbie Schwartz** - November 14, 2023 at 02:38 PM

BG

“ *I have known Phyllis for a long time. She always had a smile ready! Sorry for your loss Kathy and families.*



**bonnie gustafson** - November 13, 2023 at 03:54 PM

SB

“ *Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



**Sharon boline** - November 13, 2023 at 03:22 PM

KA

“ *Kathykaypeterson!@gmail.com lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Kathykaypeterson!@gmail.com** - November 13, 2023 at 02:43 PM

MF

“ *Marie Fraune lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Marie Fraune** - November 13, 2023 at 01:15 PM

GW

“ *Glen & Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Glen Donna Wood** - November 13, 2023 at 01:01 PM

RB

“ *Ray & Dorothy Beyer lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Ray and Dorothy Beyer** - November 13, 2023 at 08:10 AM

KM

“ I have known Phyllis for many years. We were church friends and in the same women's fellowship circle. My sincere, heartfelt sympathy to her family.



Karen Munson - November 13, 2023 at 08:10 AM

BE

“ Ben & Regina Tellers

Ben - November 13, 2023 at 07:23 AM

JJ

“ Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening



Jon Johnson - November 12, 2023 at 08:57 PM

LT

“ Phyllis & Bob were always a fun stop & visit but now they will be together again. Bob and I are neighbors at the Veterans Memorial Park. Phyllis and I have talked about it on occasion. RIP Phyllis!

Les Thorstenson - November 12, 2023 at 08:32 PM

KP

“ *Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Karen Priebe** - November 12, 2023 at 07:52 PM

MS

“ *Mike Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Phyllis Wilkening*



---

**Mike and Lea Snyder** - November 12, 2023 at 02:42 PM

RL

*A dear family friend, Ruby Lynk*

---

**Ruby Lynk** - November 16, 2023 at 06:10 PM