



Cynthia Ann Panik

February 3, 1951 - February 23, 2021

Cynthia Ann (McDonald) Panik, age 70, of Dafter, Michigan, died on February 23, 2021 at Regions Hospital in St Paul, Minnesota after a four day battle with acute myeloid leukemia. She was born on February 3, 1951 in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan to William C. and Verva (Lawson) McDonald.

Cindy grew up in Pickford, Michigan and graduated from Pickford High School in 1969. Growing up she ran the lunch counter with her sister at the family-owned Old McDonald Auction Barn, making 30 pies each week to sell. Cindy attended Asbury College then transferred to Michigan State University graduating in 1973. After graduation she was on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in Pittsburg, then taught home economics at Grand Rapids Junior College before marrying Dennis M. Panik on July 10, 1976. They raised their family in Dafter, Michigan near her hometown. She taught many years at Sault Ste. Marie Area Publics Schools retiring in 2010.

As a young married couple, Cindy and Dennis helped coordinate many outings for Pioneer Spirits at Pickford United Methodist Church. She worked on crew at Cedar Campus in the kitchen for many summers and as a child spent much time at Cedar Campus since her parents were involved from its early beginnings. Her outreach involved community, church, and school to include: Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, MOPS childcare, Homework Lab, Youth Group Leader, United Methodist Women, and AΔK

Honorary Sorority for Women Educators. Since retiring she enjoyed many vacations with one of her favorite trips being to the Holy Land in 2018.

She was a proud mother to three sons, Michael (Cassie), Christopher, and Daniel (Danielle) and a cherished grandmother to Parker, Marion, Nathaniel, Darla, Harriet and Levi. She dedicated much of her life to the special care that Christopher requires and did it all with grace and unending patience that came from her unwavering faith in God. She was overjoyed to finally have daughters and never turned down an opportunity to watch her grandchildren.

Cindy was known for having a servant heart, always thinking of others first. Her passion for teaching and her love of Jesus was evident in her daily life. You could often find her in "her kitchen" preparing meals and pies with ease and passing her skills on to the next generations. She made many beautiful quilts for new babies in the family, each hand-embroidered, and would never forget to send a birthday card. She was the family seamstress, even sewing her own wedding dress and bridesmaids' dresses, and altering many others.

Cindy is survived by her husband of 44 years, Dennis, and children, Michael (Cassie) Panik of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan; Christopher Panik of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan; and Daniel (Danielle) Panik of Centuria, Wisconsin; grandchildren Parker, Marion, Nathaniel, Darla, Harriet, Levi; siblings Linda (Jay) Six of Greenwood, Indiana and Irwin (Carol) McDonald of Pickford, Michigan, and sisters-in-law Paulette (Ric) Batty of DeWitt, Michigan and Debbie (Jeff) Luxenberg of Sausalito, California.

Cynthia is preceded in death by her mother and father.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 4 from 3-7 PM at Pickford United Methodist Church in Pickford, Michigan. A private funeral service will be held on Friday, March 5 at 2 PM and will be live streamed on the Pickford United

Methodist Church YouTube channel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be mailed to:

Chippewa County Community Foundation

Cindy Panik Memorial Fund

PO Box 1979

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Online contributions at www.chippewacountycommunityfoundation.org

R. Galer Funeral Home of Pickford, Michigan is serving the family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

15264 South M-129
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church
115 E Church St
Pickford, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Cynthia Ann Panik*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Cynthia Ann Panik*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Cynthia Ann Panik*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Dennis and family, I was saddened to hear of Cindy's passing. She was such a warm and nurturing person who simply exuded "goodness". I feel so sad for you, your family, her community and all who knew her. What a blessing to have had her in your lives.*

Linda Dalimonte - March 12, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ *Cindy was such a kind and caring individual. She always loved to sew a newborn quilt for new members of the extended family. She told me that she sends "love and prayers with every stitch" of the quilts. What a beautiful perspective. Alison and I were grateful to receive a quilt for our newborn August just a few weeks ago.*

Send love and wishing we could be with you in person. <3 Alison, Jared, and August

Alison, Jared, and August - March 05, 2021 at 05:46 PM

LL

“ Will be thinking of the Panik family today as they celebrate Cynthia Ann Panik, wife, mother, daughter, grandmother, aunt, neighbor and more, much more. Our family had the honor of being a neighbor. During the years we were neighbors, there were meals at their table, rides to school, emergency home repairs made and many treasured conversations as friends. In times of need Cindy was there, no questions asked, she just stepped up and asked what it is she could do to help out. She was a strong, committed person that was kind to myself and my family, always. It is kindness that I remember the most. With all the respect and sympathy possible, I offer it to Dennis, Michael, Christopher, Dan and their families. Always and forever, Linda LeBombard

Linda LeBombard - March 05, 2021 at 09:58 AM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Cynthia Ann Panik.



March 03, 2021 at 05:19 PM

DN

“ David Nure sent a virtual gift in memory of Cynthia Ann Panik



David Nure - March 03, 2021 at 09:24 AM

DN

“ *My condolences to the family .We loved you mom but God Loved you most. I know God needed you just before we met. I have hope in Jesus and we shall meet in heaven. You have been a lovely mom and I have heard a lot about you through my brother Daniel Panik .May your soul rest in eternal peace. Lots of Love from David Nure - Marsabit Kenya East Africa*

David Nure - March 03, 2021 at 07:12 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Cynthia Ann Panik.*



March 02, 2021 at 12:57 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Cynthia Ann Panik.*



March 02, 2021 at 11:37 AM

DM

“ *I had only one opportunity to meet Cindy and her family which are my cousins. She was a warm and welcoming person. Our prayers are with her entire family.*

Dennis McDonald - March 02, 2021 at 09:28 AM



“ *Cindi was a beautiful person inside and out. Frances wood*

Frances MacDonald Wood - March 02, 2021 at 08:27 AM

BH

“ *Cindy was the epitome of hospitality. She was welcoming and kind when I was new in the area and she invited me to her home to share dinner(s) with her family often on Sunday afternoons. She was an amazing cook and just made everyone feel at home. She was a wonderful example to so many as a mom and as a grandma. Her grandkids absolutely adored her and she was always active in their lives. She was also a wonderful example of how to be a great mom to an adult child with special needs. I felt so comfortable around Dennis and Cindy and Christopher because she (they) modeled what may have been hard to do at times but was so loving that everyone could see the beautiful relationship she had with Chris.*

Since I now live about 8 hours away, I will miss her facebook posts about how the snow is piling up, sledding off the roof of their house (last year) and the fun activities she would enjoy with her family. Watching the grandchildren get older was so sweet to follow as well. So to Dennis, Michael and Cassie, Daniel and Danielle, Christopher, and the grandkiddos, I am so sorry for the earthly loss of your wife, mom, mother-in-law, and grandma. Although she is irreplaceable, you can be proud of the strong legacy she has left you. I am thankful that we will all see each other again someday, in the hope of Jesus Christ. Until then, may the fun and cherished memories of her live happily in your hearts. I am a better person for having known Cindy.

Becky Hull - March 01, 2021 at 10:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cynthia Ann Panik.*



March 01, 2021 at 07:44 PM



“ *I knew Cindy as such a wonderful person. I shared many experiences about our children with her especially Chris and my son Ryan. She will be sorely missed by many. My condolences to Dennis and their sons.*

Robin Savoie - March 01, 2021 at 03:40 PM