



## Janet Lorraine Johnson

November 5, 1936 - May 24, 2017

Janet Lorraine Johnson, age 80, of Pickford, Michigan, died Wednesday, May 24, 2017, at home. She was born November 5, 1936, in Chelsea, Michigan, to Harold B. and Olga Edna (Heselschwerdt) Widmayer.

Jan grew up on a dairy farm in Chelsea and graduated from Chelsea High School. She earned a Bachelor Degree in Education at Michigan State University. After a year of teaching, she returned to Michigan State University to earn her Master Degree. After teaching one year in Crystal Falls, Michigan, she and her husband, Richard "Dick" Johnson, moved to Pickford where they both taught at Pickford High School until 1985. Jan was the Home Economics teacher who mentored countless students. She also was the advisor to an extremely active Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America. Over the years her FHA students were leaders in chapter, region, and state offices, and then, in the communities in which they lived as adults. The Pickford students were blessed for 25 years with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. The Pickford community was a better place because they were here the remainder of their lives.

Jan was active in the Pickford New Horizons Church of the Nazarene where she taught Sunday school, served as church secretary and treasurer, and planned and prepared food for many church events.

Jan loved to read and travel, often camping with the Good Sam Club. She and Dick visited every Canadian province and 48 of the 50 United States, missing only North and South Carolina. They also traveled to Egypt and did missionary work in the Bahamas. Jan also enjoyed sewing and made many clothes and costumes for her grandchildren. She liked playing dominos, cribbage, golf, and taking evening strolls around town with Dick.

Jan is survived by one son, Richard C. (Sandy) Johnson Jr. of Saginaw, Michigan; two daughters, Kay (Jerry) Stephens of Saginaw, and Gloria Johnson (Robert Laverty) of Cedarville, Michigan; grandchildren, Daniel (Ruth) Johnson, Diane (Pete) Donofrio, Michele (Keith) Hoolsema, Denise Kading, Marcy Johnson, David Johnson, and Betty Mayer; great grandchildren, Elizabeth (Everett), Ashleigh (Chris), Danny, Brandon (Hope), MaKena, Carver, David (Kathy), Christopher, Gabriele, Peter, Rachele, Jessica, Ryan, Stephanie, Tim, Louie John, Brett, Keith, Katie (Danny), Shianne, Branden, and R.J.; and sixteen great great grandchildren.

Jan was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Clare Johnson; daughter and son-in-law, Stephanie and Ernest Podoba; and grandsons, Del Podoba and Jason Johnson.

Visitation will be held Thursday, June 1, 2017 from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129 in Pickford and Friday, June 2, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. at New Horizons Church of the Nazarene, 401 N. M-129 in Pickford. The funeral service will begin at the church at 11:00 A.M. on Friday.

Burial will be at Oaklawn Chapel Gardens in Bruce Township, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be made to SHSS, (Memo: Pickford Pennington Home), 1501 W. 6th Ave., Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.



# Cemetery Details

## Oaklawn Chapel Gardens

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford  
24549 S. M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774  
(906) 647-3400  
[fifh@familylifefh.com](mailto:fifh@familylifefh.com)  
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

JUN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Horizons Church of the Nazarene  
401 N M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774

## Funeral Service

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JUN 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Horizons Church of the Nazarene  
401 N M-129  
Pickford, MI 49774

# Tribute Wall



“ Janet Lorraine Johnson

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Janet Lorraine Johnson

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Janet Lorraine Johnson

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *diane donofrio purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Janet Lorraine Johnson.*



**diane donofrio** - June 01, 2017 at 08:56 AM



“ *Deb Huyck lit a candle in memory of Janet Lorraine Johnson*



**Deb Huyck** - May 30, 2017 at 10:07 AM

RU

“ Thank you Grandma for giving us the honor to help you and care for you! You have given so much to so many it was an honor to give to you! You were a shining example of God's love here on earth. You taught me so many things in the past 10 years. I love you Gram and you will be forever missed!!!

Ruth - May 30, 2017 at 08:08 AM

YW

“ Your Cousin, Ken Widmayer purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Janet Lorraine Johnson.



Your Cousin, Ken Widmayer - May 30, 2017 at 06:57 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Janet Lorraine Johnson.



May 29, 2017 at 02:25 PM

PK

“ *What a wonderful woman who left her mark on this community forever! I was blessed to have her as a sister in Christ at New Horizons Church of the Nazarene. Jan was always there for anything needed or anyone who needed help. There is an empty place in our pew, but we rejoice she is with her God!! Her family was everything to her, and I know she was thankful for Dan and Rith being her caregivers which meant she could stay in her home till the end. God bless you all!!*

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**Penny Kovacs** - May 28, 2017 at 03:16 PM

PK

*I mean Ruth. Sorry wouldn't let me edit 😊*

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**Penny Kovacs** - May 28, 2017 at 03:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Janet Lorraine Johnson.*



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May 27, 2017 at 06:10 PM

DW

“ *Mrs. Johnson and her husband Dick were awesome teachers and friends to students of Pickford High School, they turned many students lives around in their many years of teaching. Mr. Johnson was our class "65" advisor and Mrs. Johnson was always right by his side. We shared many adventures together. They are gone now but never forgotten. Thoughts and prayers for their family.*

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**Donna Wiggins** - May 26, 2017 at 11:49 AM

DB

“ *She was such a giving wonderful "Mom" to so many extra children.  
Her wit will always be remembered.*

*Denise Mayer Binger*

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**DENISE j BINGER** - May 26, 2017 at 07:18 AM