

Joanne Swan

December 24, 1929 - December 1, 2025

Princeton - Joanne "Jo" Conley Swan, 95, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Monday, December 1, 2025, at Liberty Village in Princeton, IL.

Joanne was born on December 24, 1929, in Princeton, IL, to the late Clarence Conley and Edith Holman Conley. She graduated from Princeton High School with the Class of 1947 and later continued her education with additional college courses at IVCC.

Joanne met the love of her life, Roger Neal Swan, in Princeton, they married on May 15, 1949, at the First United Methodist Church. Their marriage was a beautiful partnership built on faith, devotion, and deep affection. They shared 70 years of marriage before Rogers passing in 2019.

Over the years, Joanne dedicated herself to service and community. She worked as the County Board Secretary in the County Clerk's Office at the Bureau County Courthouse. She also served as a remote reporter for the Peoria Journal Star. Her life reflected a profound love for people, learning, and her hometown.

A lifelong and deeply committed member of the First United Methodist Church, Joanne shared her musical gifts generously for more than 40 years as the church organist. She also sang in the choir, played both handbells and chimes, and was the director of the Elm City Bells at FUMC. Her presence in the music ministry enriched countless worship services, weddings, funerals, holidays, and community celebrations.

Joanne's passion for service extended far beyond the church walls. She was an active member of Friends in Council, DAR, United Methodist Women, FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Hospital Auxiliary, Friends of the Library, YCBF, Fortnightly Club and multiple bridge clubs. She had the honor of being a recipient of the FUMC Choir Candle Award and served as Grand Marshal of the Princeton Homestead Festival Parade with Roger. She participated in the Bureau County Chorus, Community Concerts, and Homestead Festival Plays.

A woman of boundless energy and curiosity, Joanne embraced life with enthusiasm. Her hobbies included knitting, sewing, quilting, painting, golf, cross-country skiing, fishing, running 5Ks, bike riding all over town, reading, music, and baking-especially her famous brownies. She was a lifelong learner whose creativity and zest for life inspired everyone who knew her.

Surviving are her four children: Christy (Cal) Gramer of Princeton, IL, Tom Swan of DeKalb, IL, Tim (Connie) Swan of Westmont, IL, Jennifer (Robert) Merth of Princeton, IL; Her beloved grandchildren: Noah Grove, Ethan (Sarah Joynt) Grove, Tiffany Grove, Caley Grove, Nick Merth, Chelsea (Charles) Labozzetta, Kylie (Kyle) Minden, Austin (Allison) Swan, Conner Swan, Carsen

Swan, Carrie (Brook) Predeger, and Andy (Brooke) Gramer; Great-grandchildren: Kamera, Jarred, Matthew, Kira (Gabe), Lina, Noah Jr., Kaitlyn, Finn, Reid, Quillan (Stephanie), Verity, Mannix, Leopold, Xavier, Elvio, and Evan; Great-great-grandchildren: Elias, Ivan, and Emilia; one sister, Marcia (Bob) Hudson as well as many nieces, nephews, and loved ones who cherished her.

Joanne was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Edith Conley; her husband, Roger Swan; her brothers Max and Doug; and her sister, Doris.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments. 701 E Thompson St, Princeton, IL.

Funeral services will take place on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Princeton, officiated by Pastor Michael Hickok, music accompaniment Charlie GeBeck organist, Clare Suarez, and Victoria Yepsen vocalist, as well as a dedication from the Elm City Bells.

Graveside services to follow at Oakland Cemetery in Princeton IL with pastor Hickok offering a few words of comfort.

Pallbearers: Cal Gramer, Austin Swan, Conner Swan, Kyle Minden, Robert Merth and Ethan Grove.

Honorary Pallbearers: Tom Swan and Tim Swan.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church of Princeton, IL.

Online condolences may be shared at www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Cemetery Details

Oakland Cemetery

Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 7. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Norberg Memorial Home, Inc.
701 E. Thompson Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Funeral Service

DEC 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
316 S Church Street
Princeton, IL 61356

Graveside Service

DEC 8. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
Park Avenue
Princeton, IL 61356

Tribute Wall

NM

“ *She hated me because my father is a cheater.*

Nick Merth - February 25 at 10:42 PM

DJ

“ *Mrs. Swan was a very gracious and lovely lady. She played the organ at Norbergs for me for many years. She was very talented. People like her and Roger made the world a better place.*
Dennis Johnson - Orange City, Florida

Dennis Johnson - December 31, 2025 at 02:39 PM

JG

“ *Jody (Cherrie) Gordon lit a candle in memory of Joanne Swan*



Jody (Cherrie) Gordon - December 11, 2025 at 09:21 PM

JG

“ When my mother injured her back, she moved to Princeton and lived at Greenfield because I was still teaching. Her one request was that we take her to the Methodist church every Sunday morning. Joanne was the organist at that time, and my mother was in a wheelchair. Every Sunday during the "Passing of the Peace," Joanne would leave the dais and kneel before my mother and speak with her. Mom, suffering from Parkinson's disease that had partially frozen her throat, struggled to respond, and Joanne would wait patiently for her to speak. Joanne's compassion and Christian love spoke volumes about the love in the congregation and the love in her heart. I know the Lord has welcomed her with open arms, and I know my mom was one of the throng singing her home. Today is the anniversary of the day my mom made her own journey home to my dad and to the Lord. God bless you, Joanne.



Jeany Gewin - December 07, 2025 at 03:28 PM

LH

“ Love, Shelley and Holland planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne Swan.

Love, Shelley and Holland - December 06, 2025 at 04:05 PM

LH

“ Love, Shelley and Holland purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Joanne Swan.



Love, Shelley and Holland - December 06, 2025 at 04:05 PM

NY

“ *Joanne was such lovely person and, with Roger, a vibrant part of Princeton. we will always remember her fondly.*

-- Nick and Deborah Yeazel

Nick Yeazel - December 06, 2025 at 03:40 PM

DF

“ *Debbie, Sam and Jeri & family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Joanne Swan.*



Debbie, Sam and Jeri & family - December 06, 2025 at 09:40 AM

JL

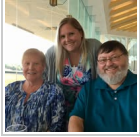
“ *Joanne and Roger Swan welcomed us into the PHS family in 1964. We spent many wonderful years in that family and part of the Princeton community. It was like we never left with Joanne and Roger always welcoming us back. Joanne and her family were such a vital part of Princeton; she will be sorely missed.*

James and Nancy Lowers - December 04, 2025 at 09:32 PM

CD

“ *Mrs. Swan was a beautiful person. Her enthusiasm for life brought JOY to those around her. I am thankful that our paths crossed. Sending heartfelt condolences to her family.* ❤️🙏❤️

Carolyn Dailey - December 04, 2025 at 11:25 AM



“ Joe, Kristin and I would like to give our condolences to Christy, Tom, Tim and Jennifer - along with their families - for the loss of their mom. She was a wonderful person and loving mom. I called her Aunt Jo as a kid, along with Uncle Roger. My mom was Roger's first cousin. My parents were both only children - so Mom's cousins were like my aunts and uncles. I know how much you'll miss her - but she's no longer in the grasp of that horrible disease that took my mom, too. She is now with your dad and other passed family members.

Wendy, Joe and Kristin Filip

Wendy Filip - December 03, 2025 at 06:21 PM



“ Wendy F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joanne Swan.

Wendy F. - December 03, 2025 at 06:06 PM