



## Kathryn Lea Ryser

April 23, 1950 - October 21, 2022

Kathryn Lea Ryser was born on April 23, 1950, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to John Lowell Merrell and Nelda Jim (Ward) Merrell. She was raised and educated in Lubbock, Texas and graduated with the Monterey High School Class of 1968. After high school, she moved to Tulsa and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Oral Roberts University. She then went on to earn a Master of Teaching Arts Degree from the University of Tulsa. Kathy was married on December 28, 1974, in Lubbock, Texas to Tony A. Ryser. She took time off from working to raise her three daughters. Kathy returned to work and taught as an elementary physical education teacher at Broken Arrow Public Schools and Jenks Public Schools for four years. She then moved to Owasso, Oklahoma in 1989 and started as a math lab tutor for five years at Mills Elementary before spending the next 15 years as the physical education teacher. Kathy has been a faithful member of First Methodist Church in Downtown Tulsa for over 40 years. Kathy's primary focus in life was loving and serving Jesus as demonstrated in her tireless deeds of helping, caring, giving, encouraging, praying, and supporting those whom God placed in her path. She had a variety of pastimes such as being outdoors, playing tennis, swimming, water skiing, and playing the guitar, but most of all she loved spending time with her family and especially her seven grandchildren. She leaves behind many beloved family members including:

Her husband;

Tony Ryser

3 Daughters;

Julia Soules and husband Steve

Mary Thomas and husband Brian

Rebekah Davies and husband Walter

7 Grandchildren;

Sheridan, Aspen, Bristol, Eli, Tori, Dru, and Asher

4 Siblings;

John Merrell and wife Ruth

Judy Merrell

Barry Merrell and wife Edde

Joe Merrell

Father;

Lowell Merrell

Mother-in-Law;

Cardella Ryser

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nelda, and her father-in-law, Fred Ryser.

A memorial service will be held 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at First Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Private family graveside service will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Bible Blast and Bible Biz of First Methodist Church, 1115 S. Boulder Ave., Tulsa, OK 74119

# Previous Events

## Memorial Fund

NOV 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Bible Blast and Bible Biz of First Methodist Church  
1115 S. Boulder Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74119

## Memorial Service

NOV 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Methodist Church  
1115 South Boulder Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74119

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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November 02, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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November 02, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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November 01, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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November 01, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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October 31, 2022 at 02:58 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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October 30, 2022 at 11:09 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Kathryn Lea Ryser.*



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October 29, 2022 at 02:46 PM



“ *Kathy  
Coach Connie says a big thank you for all the years of service in the Children’s ministry! Especially teaching Babies Bible with that fun, encouraging and delightful Texas accent! I love Tony, and Julia, Mary and Rebekah will take care of him. There must of been rejoicing in heaven since the most radiant smile and effervescent personality walked through the gate! See you soon friend! Coach Connie*

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**Rev. Connie “Coach” Ichord** - October 28, 2022 at 12:07 AM