



Joyce Ann Free

JAN 12, 1935 - JAN 23, 2026



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Harper's
Community Funeral Home

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Joyce Ann Free

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Joyce Ann Free, 91, of Fort Wayne, went home to be with her Lord on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Saint Anne Home, Fort Wayne. Born in Frankton, she was the daughter of the late Clemens and Inez (Bowers) Free and was a 1954 graduate of Frankton High School. She then earned a teaching degree from Ball State Teachers College and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin. For 40 years, she loved teaching second grade students at East Allen County Schools, retiring in 1998. She also loved her nieces and cousins as well as her many close friends. She enjoyed storytelling, crafts, chalk art, dressing in costume and cooking for themed dinners. Throughout her life she held closely her faith in Jesus. She was a faithful member of several churches throughout her life and has been blessed by her church family at Blackhawk Ministries since 1977. She is survived by nieces, Laura Sherry and Linda Aldridge. She was also preceded in death by her sister Barbara Hughes. Memorial service is Noon Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Blackhawk Ministries, 7400 E State Blvd, Fort Wayne with visitation one hour prior. Burial in IOOF Cemetery, Frankton. Preferred memorials Blackhawk Ministries Mission Fund. Family would like to thank the staff at Saint Anne's for the past month of wonderful care. For online condolences please visit <https://www.harperfuneralhome.com>



Events

Joyce Ann Free

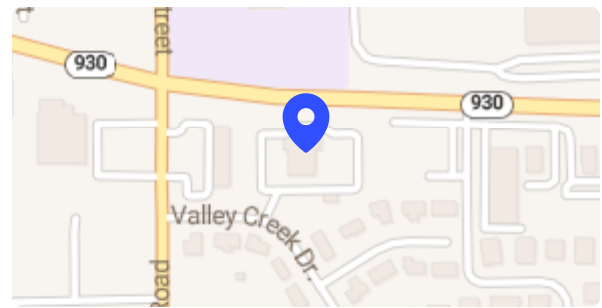
JAN 12, 1935 - JAN 23, 2026

Visitation

Saturday, January 24, 2026

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Harper's Community Funeral Home
740 State Road 930 E, New Haven IN 46774

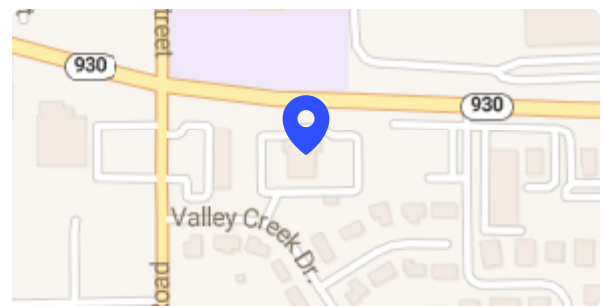


Service

Sunday, January 25, 2026

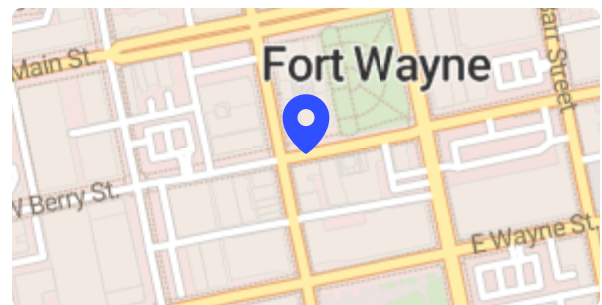
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET

Harper's Community Funeral Home
740 State Road 930 E, New Haven IN 46774



Cemetery Details

Bowers
Fort Wayne IN





Tribute Wall

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MT

Marty Temple posted:

I have such great memories of Joyce. She taught me and many others to use sign language. We were able to sign during services and for kids in Children's services. She was part of the Discovery class. She shared such great stories and we loved her shadow art. When my husband retired, he and 2 friends went to Angel's Cafe for breakfast, where Joyce would be having her oatmeal. We valued her friendship and tenacity. She blessed our lives. I am happy she gets a new body and gets to be with Jesus.

January 29 at 6:53 PM



Gary Cook posted:

I had Miss Free for second grade in 1979. My parents had just separated, and she somehow was aware of it. She provided all the warmest love and tenderness, but was also very firm and disciplinary. These are all things I needed at the time. I still count in French occasionally and think of her. God bless her and her contribution to humanity. RIP. ♥♥

January 27 at 6:28 PM

SM

Sharon Mejeur posted:

I am writing my thoughts with such warm memories of my years of friendship with Joyce. Her relationship with Jesus is what led her to live with such devotion as a teacher, friend, aunt, neighbor and member of her church community. In her home she welcomed so many of us for Bible Study, dinners, and fourth of July and New Year's Eve parties. Joyce and I started to eat out every Sunday and before long we enjoyed the company of a group of ladies. The color of pink is permanently associated with Joyce in my mind. What a blessing to have a friend who was steadfast in her faith, loving and generous. Sharon Mejeur

January 26 at 6:24 PM

J

Jeanne posted:

I knew Joyce from teaching. We use to meet for breakfast at Hall's or Richard's restaurants before going to school. Joyce was such a great friend and comrade. She accepted some of my cadet teachers in her classroom. Joyce also did tatting and made a gift for my granddaughter 29 years ago Joyce and I reconnected when she was living at Georgetown Place through the Baptist church Bible study. She will be greatly missed for her wonderful heart and love of Jesus.

January 26 at 5:03 PM



Tribute Wall

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Jan Asher-Harnish posted:

She was my second grade teacher and I loved being in her classroom. I still remember some of the poems we learned. I was fortunate to keep in touch with her. She will not be forgotten.

January 25 at 3:26 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joyce by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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