



Mrs. Martha A. Freshler

June 16, 1935 - August 16, 2023

Martha Alice (Shock) Freshler, 88, of Hinsdale passed away peacefully at Lee Healthcare Nursing Facility on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. She was born in Big Springs, Ohio to the late Gerald and Rayda (Haas) Shock on June 16, 1935. At the age of 8, she went to live with the late Lawrence and Phyllis Parrish Dingman in Worthington, MA. She was an honors graduate from Pittsfield High, Class of 1953. She attended Westfield College and matriculated to North Adams State College where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1969 and Master of Education in 1973. Martha was married to Harry E. Freshler, Jr for over 67 years.

Martha was a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her family was her heartbeat! She was affectionally called Dear, Mom, Ma, Ga, and Grandma. She received Christ at an early age and was a faithful member and devoted servant at the 1st Congregational Church of Hinsdale since 1956. Martha served with a heart of love as: Sunday School Superintendent, Deacon, Church Historian/Secretary, Senior Choir, Food Pantry, and Pilgrim Fellowship Team Sport's Mom to name a few. She was a recipient of the Roy Barnes Volunteer Service Award for her compassionate servant's heart within the church.

Martha first met the love of her life, Harry "Junie" Freshler when she was 14 while attending square dance classes. Too young to date, it would be 5 years

later after his return home from service in the Army they would meet again at a square dance in 1954. They were married on September 25, 1955, and to this union three children were born.

Martha started her employment in education as a substitute teacher in Middlefield teaching kindergarten for 2 years. She then went to Kittredge Elementary School, where she taught 2nd – 4th grade from 1968 -1993. Martha retired from Central Berkshire Regional School District after 27 years. After retiring, her favorite thing to do was going out to lunch with Harry every day.

Martha was a beloved member of the Hinsdale community. She was Chairman of the Counseling of Aging for many years, Co-founder of the Hinsdale Food Pantry, and a Dalton's Sunday Lunch volunteer and cook. She supported the Lion's Club Dinners, numerous community events by donating hundreds of pounds of fudge, and hours of dedicated service toward the education of youth.

She enjoyed family gatherings and cook-outs, reading contemporary romance novels, and Spring/Fall vacations with Mary Lou and the late Bob Galliher in Maine. Martha was well known for her culinary skills. Favorite requests from family and friends were her chocolate fudge, Whoopi pies, Jello cakes, Zucchini bread, Cherry Jubilee, Banana Cream pies, and potato salad! She would affectionally encourage family and friends alike when face with life challenges with "This too shall pass."

Martha leaves to cherish her memories her loving and devoted Sons: Donald (Jean) of St Petersburg FL, Lawrence (Sonia) of Spokane Washington, Son-in-Law; Hal Ross; Foster Sister: Shirley Robinson, Brother-in-Law: Allen Freshler, Grandchildren: Peter Ross, Barrett and Brett Freshler; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and special friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry E. Freshler, Jr, her daughter, Joan Marie (Freshler) Ross, her parents, Gerald and Rayda (Haas) Shock, her Foster parents, Lawrence and Phyllis Parrish Dingman, and her brothers, Eugene and Donald Shock.

Funeral Notice:

Celebration of Life services for Martha will be Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 11 am at the First Congregational Church of Hinsdale, 129 Maple Street, Hinsdale, MA 01235. An hour of visitation at the church will be held prior to the service, from 10 am to 11am.

Interment: Private burial for family at a later date at the Maple Street Cemetery, Hinsdale, MA 01235

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Martha's memory be made to the Hinsdale Food Pantry at 371 Old Dalton Rd, Hinsdale MA 01235 and 1st Congregational Church of Hinsdale.

Cemetery Details

Maple Street Cemetery

Hinsdale, MA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Hinsdale
129 Maple Street
Hinsdale, MA 01235

Service

AUG **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Hinsdale
129 Maple Street
Hinsdale, MA 01235

Tribute Wall

SS

“ God bless you Mrs. Freshler! To Mrs. Freshler's family, I offer my heartfelt condolences for the loss of your beloved Dear, Mom, Ma, Ga, and Grandma. May God's Angels of mercy comfort your hearts as you mourn your beloved. I remember Mrs. Freshler so well, and she had a great impact on my life! I was in her 4th-grade class at Kittredge School in 1984. She was a kind and devoted teacher who helped me raise my own standards to learn and achieve! I remember that she had her red official grade book, and I she offered to me (and all of my classmates) that we could redo any assignment in order to raise the grade. This was a revelation to me! I realized that I could learn from my mistakes, redo and earn 100%! This had a profound effect on me wherein I realized that learning is about revising and continuing to put in effort to achieve the highest goal. I am a college professor myself, and this is a policy I teach and uphold with my own students! I tell them I learned about learning from my 4th-grade teacher, beloved Mrs. Freshler. Your mom showed me that teaching is a noble, honored and joyful profession!

I also remember your Mom and Dad coming to Bonanza - my first-time clock job! Larry, you were the manager there, and you were a great positive leader and role model! I remember how much your Mom and Dad loved to come see you and enjoy the experience. We were all blessed!

God bless you beloved Mrs. Freshler, devote to the Way of Jesus Christ!

Sarah Sullivan - August 27, 2023 at 01:47 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Martha (and Harry too). They adopted one of my cats when I could no longer keep him, and they gave him the best life possible. Martha and Harry, I hope you meet Piewackett again soon (plus all of your other fur family members). Cindy Golin*

Cindy Golin - August 25, 2023 at 12:59 PM

DM

“ *To the family of Martha,
She was such a nice person and always upbeat at Laurel Landing. She knew my dad from the a luncheon spot in Dalton and even made him one of her famous cream pies. It wasn't always easy visiting my dad there but Harry and Martha were always a welcome sight. My deepest condolences on your loss. Deborah Barzottini Matteodo*

Deborah Matteodo - August 23, 2023 at 09:13 PM