



## Donna Sue Cook

October 3, 2023

It is with great sadness that the family of Donna Sue Cook (nee Jenkins) of Sewell, NJ announces her unexpected passing on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at the age of 73. Donna was lovingly surrounded by her husband, son, family, and friends as she quietly and safely arrived Home.

Donna was born in Woodbury, New Jersey on October 14, 1949, the eldest child of father Walter E. Jenkins and mother Ruth Jackson Jenkins. The family settled in Elmer, New Jersey. Soon a sister, Eileen, and a brother, Timothy, joined the household. Donna and her siblings were blessed with a childhood filled with sunset rides, nature walks, bird watching, arrowhead and seashell hunts, extended-family visits, road trips, books, church activities, and a lot of love.

After graduating from Bridgeton High School in 1968, Donna pursued her bachelor's and master's degrees at Glassboro State College. She later earned her doctorate from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Donna combined her passions for teaching and for special needs children by returning to Glassboro State College and eventually becoming a professor in the Special Education Department. Donna spent her career training her beloved students to be the best special needs teachers that they could possibly become. She was an excellent teacher, mentor, and advisor.

In 2002, Donna married the love of her life, Charles Andrew Cook, "Andy." After retirement, the couple became "snowbirds" and split their time between their homes in St. Augustine, FL, and Sewell. Donna particularly loved being

home in New Jersey so she could be near her son, Joshua Hathaway, his wife, Lisa Ogle Hathaway, and her three grandchildren, Kate, Emma, and JJ, as well as children Cindy and Mark Thomas and their daughter and son-in-law, Chelsea and Dan Hovern, Tracy Cook and Rick Amburg and their children, Austin and Madison, Jessi And Steve Oliver and children, Bethany, Matthew, and Christian, and Alex and Molly Cook. Donna also loved spending time with her niece and nephews who she fondly referred to as her “first babies.”

Outgoing and fun, Donna was fiercely loyal, extravagantly generous, and passionately loving to her family, friends, students, neighbors, colleagues, and dogs. Whether she was talking to her violets and orchids, reading, needle working, collecting Pez or Campbell Soup memorabilia, telling a slightly exaggerated story for a laugh, snuggling with her precious pup, lunching with her dear friends, wrapping Goofy Gifts for Christmas, relaxing side by side with Andy, watching her grandkids play a game, celebrating a holiday with her family or shopping for anything (her most favorite sport!), Donna enjoyed her life. Even with innumerable surgeries and health challenges, she faced her circumstances, difficult or not, with courage, grit, grace, and a sturdy faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus. She lived and loved wide and well. Her bright smile said it all.

We invite you to please join us for a celebration of her life on her 74th birthday, Saturday, October 14, at Living Faith Alliance Church, 1987 South Lincoln Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey 08361. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:30 AM with the memorial service following.

In lieu of flowers, friends wishing to honor Donna and her lifelong concern for special needs children are encouraged to make a memorial contribution to Tanalian Bible Camp in Port Alsworth, Alaska. The camp has an urgent need to become handicap accessible so that they may accommodate more children. Donna’s great-nephew and niece, Matthew and Abi McWhorter, work at this camp in the Alaskan bush.

You can mail your donation to:

Tanalian Bible Camp, PO Box 176, Port Alsworth, AK 99653. You can also find them online at [tanalianbiblecamp.org/give](http://tanalianbiblecamp.org/give). Please designate the Kiononia project and indicate your gift is in Donna's memory. We would so appreciate it.

Thank you.

We know Donna, safe in the arms of Jesus, will be smiling.

# Cemetery Details

**Private Interment**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Visitation

OCT **14**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Living Faith Alliance Church  
1987 South Lincoln Ave.  
Vineland, NJ 08361

### Memorial Service

OCT **14**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Living Faith Alliance Church  
1987 South Lincoln Ave.  
Vineland, NJ 08361

# Tribute Wall

VL

“ Donna was so kind to me when I started at Rowan- she was a great mentor and an amazing educator. My condolences to all who are missing her dearly. Valarie Lee

Val Lee - October 16, 2023 at 11:40 AM

BB

“ Blaise B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donna Sue Cook.

Blaise B. - October 14, 2023 at 09:45 AM

DP

“ Donna was always a cheerful and lovely person who made you feel right at home wherever you found yourself. Her presence was warm and kind. We will miss you Donna. I appreciate all of the joy and kindness you showed me through the years. Love, Dawn

Dawn Purdom - October 14, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donna Sue Cook.



October 12, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donna Sue Cook.

October 12, 2023 at 01:44 PM



“ Donna was a bright and colorful light in a sometimes dim world. Smart, funny, and loving are three of the multitude of adjectives I think most succinct. Although often overused, God truly broke the mold with a gracious and loving soul. Jealous you are with our Father, save us a room. Until then, miss you cousin. All our love.  
Carmault & Nancy Jackson

Nancy Jackson - October 09, 2023 at 07:13 PM



“ Lonny Gomeringer lit a candle in memory of Donna Cook



Lonny Gomeringer - October 09, 2023 at 05:46 PM

LG

“ Donna was a sweet person. I meant her though my x daughter in law Stacey. Sat with her at many parties that Stacy had. And no matter where I saw her I always got a hug. She will be missed by many.

Lonny Gomeringer - October 09, 2023 at 05:43 PM

LB

“ Among her many gifts and talents (MANY!) Donna played the accordion 😊 She was the very best friend to share life with. An encourager, a leader, a teacher and a helper. To her husband, her son, her siblings and all the next generations who loved her, I offer my deepest sympathy.

Linda Carll Babcock - October 09, 2023 at 12:20 PM

FK

“ I was sorry to read about Donna passing. She was friendly in school as her whole life. I remember her well and anything everything she did she did it without giving up. Will miss her. RIP Donna

Frances Duffield Kiger - October 09, 2023 at 11:02 AM

LK

“ There are no words that I can offer except to say we will love and miss Donna forever. Love and sympathy to Andy. Josh and the whole family.  
Love, Linda and Frank Kisiel

Linda Kisiel - October 09, 2023 at 08:06 AM



“ Carol Molinari Monks lit a candle in memory of Donna Cook



Carol Molinari Monks - October 09, 2023 at 07:59 AM

JK

Donna was a wonderful friend We had so much fun playing with the kids. She will be missed forever. I wish for one more lunch together but we will see each other again. Love to Andy Josh and his family. Till we meet again. Love Cliff and JoAnn Knaub

JoAnn Knaub - October 09, 2023 at 08:57 PM

CD

Donna was always kind and sweet to me. She was a special women. May she always Rest In Peace. Charlotte Nelson DiMedio

Charlotte C Nelson DiMedio - October 10, 2023 at 04:57 AM

CT

*Donna was a wonderfully welcoming presence when I arrived at Rowan. Condolences to her family.*

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**Carol Thom** - October 16, 2023 at 01:53 PM

BW

*Donna Cook was a special person and an excellent professor at Rowan University as a member of the Department of Special Education. She was my colleague who was loved by all. I am shocked and saddened to learn of her death. My sympathy to her family.*

*Barbara Bole Williams*

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**Barbara Bole Williams** - October 16, 2023 at 03:31 PM

SM

*As you grieve Donna's passing may you be comforted by many joyful memories. I worked with Donna at Rowan and loved and respected her for her many gifts and her faith. Blessings to all. Sandy McHenry*

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**Sandra Mchenry** - October 18, 2023 at 06:58 PM