



Lora Cunningham

July 17, 1961 - February 15, 2021

Reverend Lora Cunningham, age 59, of Versailles, entered the gates of Heaven on Monday, February 15, 2021, at Arrowhead Senior Living in Osage Beach. She was born July 17, 1961, in Liberty, Missouri, a daughter of the late Frank Douglas and Georgia (Stephens) Mattenlee.

She graduated from Liberty High School, class of 1979, and then attended William Jewell College.

As a child she was active in the Girl Scouts and earned the highest rank of the time, First Class. She continued to be a lifelong scout and led her children's troops in both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America, eventually joining the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Within these organizations she dedicated her time and effort to help further the programs' outreach and community service efforts.

Lora served as a Youth Minister at multiple United Methodist Churches and was involved with youth ministry at the district and state level. She maintained a passion for working with children throughout her life. Later as a full-time pastor, leading teenagers through confirmation continued to be one of her most honored and fulfilling roles.

Lora attended the St. Paul School of Theology later in life and was currently

serving as the Pastor of Versailles and Glensted United Methodist Churches, where she will be truly missed. She was instrumental in establishing the JAM after school program for children. Prior to her assignment in Versailles, Lora served at Fredericktown UMC, Liberty-Pleasant Grove in Chillicothe, and Huffman Memorial in St. Joseph. Lora led her churches with her God centered heart and spirit filled messages. She also volunteered her time in Disaster Response through the United Methodist Committee on Relief and through mission work in Mozambique, Haiti, and various other callings within the United States. Lora was active in many other committees and organizations throughout her life, too numerous to mention. She had a servant heart and led with grace and dedication.

Lora was a devoted mother and a loyal and loving friend. She enjoyed spending time on the lake and also taking annual trips to Alabama with her parents. Most of all, she loved her family and her grandchildren held a special place in her heart.

She is survived by her children, Nathaniel Mattenlee and wife Niki of Kansas City, Missouri, Abigail Lauritson and husband George of Camdenton, Missouri and Jessica Parker of Versailles, Missouri; her grandchildren, Lily, Skyler and Zori; sister, Beth Holder and husband Michael of Laurie, Missouri and many other relatives, friends and her church family.

A celebration of Lora's life will be held virtually via Zoom using the following link <https://osageschools-org.zoom.us/j/97527320337> on March 12, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Donations in her honor can be made to Versailles & Glensted United Methodist Churches, 210 North Monroe, Versailles, Missouri 65084

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral

Home of Versailles.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 12. 3:00 PM.

ONLINE ONLY - click link in obituary

Tribute Wall



“ Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Lora Cunningham



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - February 25, 2021 at 05:52 PM

AJ

*Lora was the kind of person you only stumbled across in this life a few rare times and when you do...it is very powerful, memorable and life changing. She was a sparkle that made you smile and laugh. She was one of those humans that you meet that you immediately feel that you've known all of your life. I will never ever forget you Lora, you beautiful shining star. May your spirit soar to the heavens. Until we meet again my friend.
On a very personal note, she helped me to overcome my fear of organized religion.*

Annette Jones - February 26, 2021 at 11:45 AM

RB

I came to the churches Pastor Lora was serving here when she began needing help. I came to lead worship services. We exchanged emails, but we never met. Eventually, I became Interim Pastor when she went on medical disability, but I never met her. The well written and very helpful obituary convinces me I missed meeting a very caring person and is my loss. We speak of her every time I am at the church. The members miss her and her leadership tremendously. We pray for her and her family.

Ron Brooks - March 06, 2021 at 11:07 AM

JC

“ I first met Lora through a group called cursillo. When I had my stroke in 2015 Lora came to see me and concerned about depression which had already set in. Oh how I wish she had been here when I had another brain injury in August of 2020. I know she would have been there beside me again. Thank you Lora and Thank you for sharing God's love with me. Decolores my sister in Christ.

Janice Chance - May 26, 2021 at 11:51 PM

ED

“ I met Lora on an Israel trip a couple of years ago she was a wonderful lady

Emma Durfee - February 27, 2021 at 11:47 AM

BH

“ I met Lora through her dad, Doug, and we just hit it off. Lora liked to come to my lake house and swim or just sit on deck and we just enjoyed talking about anything and everything. Loved her laugh. One of my memories was when Lora was coming to my house and we were going to go out and get a burger. Lora pulled up and got out of her car and her first words were “I'm so mad (that wasn't quite the word she used), I'm so mad”. Seems all the way from Versailles to my house in Laurie a policeman was right behind her. When she got to Laurie he pulls her over. Lora couldn't understand why. He told her she had turned her turning signal on a couple of times but never turned. Lora explained she did that cause guy in front of her was turning and she was going to have to stop and didn't want to get hit from behind. She kept asking if that was wrong . He said no. She was so upset. Needless to say, we didn't go for that burger. What a loving, strong, and inspirational person. I am so blessed that I got to know her and call her my friend. We will see each other again. I love you, Lora!

Bettie Hunnius - February 26, 2021 at 09:07 AM

PP

“ I was honored to be on the trip to the Holy Land with Lora. I remember her smile and her interesting stories. It was a delight to share this trip with her. I want to offer my deepest condolences.

Peggy Peregrine - February 26, 2021 at 08:40 AM

TM

“ I had the pleasure of being Lora's daughter-in-law. Although we have many fond memories, my favorite was a group text between her and her son. We were sending texts back and fourth about him damaging my car while I was with her. I'll never forget when she texted she was laughing so hard that she needed to sit on the floor because the laughter was crippling her and already being on the floor was safer. This was so Lora. She laughed at everything like it was the funniest joke she ever heard even when you weren't that funny. She was a truly loving person and I will miss her so much. I love you Lora!



Tanika Mattenlee - February 26, 2021 at 12:08 AM

JW

“ I met Lora a few years ago through Festival of Sharing. Such a loving, caring person. She blessed my life and, I am sure, all others that she came into contact with. She will be missed by many.....so happy our paths crossed this side of heaven. Jo Warnke

Jo Warnke - February 22, 2021 at 02:49 PM

AF

“ *Our visits to Grandma Evelyn's making our delicious mud pies and lemonade(water with lemon slice in it)...Aunt Carol taking us for rides in white Chevrolet convertible...I will miss your laugh. No goodbyes... rest in peace sweet cousin until we meet again*
Angie



Angie Fanning - February 19, 2021 at 10:00 PM