



## Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard

April 27, 1929 - October 25, 2025

Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard was born on Wednesday, April 27, 1929, in York, Pennsylvania, to the late Kathleen (Hires) Thomas and the late Guy Robinson Sr., and was lovingly raised by the late Viola “Nanny” Washington.

Emma was a graduate of William Penn Senior High School. During her senior year in 1947, she was awarded a full scholarship to Columbia University in New York to major in Journalism. In 1957, she enrolled at Thompson Business College in York, Pennsylvania, where she majored in Data Processing and earned her Certificate of Completion. Later, in 1980, she attended Harrisburg Area Community College, majoring in English and Computer Languages. In 1990, she earned Certificates of Completion in Bible Studies from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Emma was employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for twenty-six years with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA). In 1975, she and her husband, Elmer, began an arts and crafts business where they personally handmade detailed leather belts, wooden decoupage wall art, and sculptures in their shop on Walnut Street in downtown Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, before Strawberry Square was built.

In 1976, Emma and her husband, Elmer, committed their lives to Christ, were baptized, and became members of Shiloh Church of God in Christ under the

leadership of Elder Carl Hines. Pastor Hines appointed Emma as the founder and editor of The Shiloh Light, the church's monthly newsletter. In 1987, Emma responded to the call to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Two years later, in 1989, she and her husband joined Trinity Church of the Living God under the leadership of Bishop Ivy Ann Hopkins, where she was ordained as an Evangelist and later as a Reverend. During her service, she initiated a church library, was appointed President of the State Youth Congress in 1992 and again in 2005 and served on the Harrisburg District Ordination Board from 1998 to 2004.

Guided by God's direction and blessings, Emma responded to the call to become a pastor in 1990. She established and led The New Covenant Community Church of the Living God until 2005. During her leadership, the church expanded its ministry and outreach efforts. In 1992, they acquired their church building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and launched the Covenant Community Day Care Center and Food Pantry. They also started Woodyard's Restaurant & Catering Business and offered space for numerous community groups and ministries, including the Harrisburg Urban League, Harrisburg Youth Reconstruction Group, and several local churches. Together with her husband, children, grandchildren, friends, and community members, she provided countless free meals and services to those in need, reflecting her compassionate and servant-hearted nature.

Emma was a longtime member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of Rev. Martin Odom. Throughout her life, she stayed a dedicated Servant of God, teaching, mentoring, and inspiring others in faith and love.

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, at ninety-six years of age, Emma transitioned from this life into eternal rest, joining in eternal life her beloved husband, Elmer Carl Woodyard, Sr; sisters, Alice

Chavis and Isabelle (Thomas) Ferguson; brother, Jake Fisher; and her sons, Michael David Woodyard, Jeffrey Charles Woodyard (Robin), and Stanley Woodyard.

She leaves to cherish her memory her sons, Elmer Carl Woodyard, Jr, Larry Cornel Woodyard (Rosalind) and Eric Woodyard; daughters, Terri Allen (Harold), Wendy Renee Brice (Ben), Karen Viola Williams (James), Stacy Woodyard (Brian) and Deidre McDonald (James); and her brothers, Donald Fisher and William Thomas (Paula); nineteen grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLICK ON THE SHARE A MEMORY TAB TO POST VIDEOS, SHARE MEMORIES, CONDOLENCES, REFLECTIONS OR SIMPLY LEAVE YOUR NAME.

Flower delivery, 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 12, at WFD.

# Cemetery Details

## Indiantown Gap National

Indiantown Gap Road  
Anville, PA 17003

# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wallace Funeral Directors Inc.  
106 Agnes St  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
(717) 939-9950  
wallacefuneraldirectors@gmail.com  
<https://www.wallacefuneraldirectorsinc.com>

## Service

NOV 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall



“ Wallace Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard



Wallace Funeral Directors - November 12, 2025 at 10:32 AM

AC

“ RIP Rev Woodard... Thanks for your sweet spiritual leadership. You will be truly missed.. Love Anna M Cobb & family

Anna Cobb - November 18, 2025 at 10:09 PM

SB

“ Rest in Peace Pastor Emma woman of God. God is pleased with you. Well, done! May God continue to comfort the family.



Shelly Branch - November 13, 2025 at 08:40 AM

MP

“ On behalf of the Wright family to yours, we offer our sincere condolences. We all loved Ms Emmalee, such a beautiful soul and servant. Karen, Stacy, my heart to yours, take care, God bless. ( Marsha Wright - San Antonio TX)

Marsha Pinion - November 12, 2025 at 09:02 PM

JC

*She was such a kind and giving soul.  
Rest in Peace Rev. Woodyard.*

**Johninne Johnson Bethel AME Church** - November 13, 2025 at 05:00 PM

LT

“ *Lynette Tinley lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard*



**Lynette Tinley** - November 12, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ *I want to send my love to you, Auntie, and give you much respect  
for choosing to serve God above all else. That’s all He truly asks of  
us — to serve Him before we serve ourselves. In return, we receive  
His unconditional love, forgiveness, and countless blessings  
throughout the years. I’m grateful for your example and the light you  
brought into our lives.”*

*Love from your nephew Keith* ❤️

**Sunni Bliss** - November 12, 2025 at 10:17 AM

KR

“ *Sending love, light and prayers to the entire Woodyard family. Ms  
Emma will be missed as a beacon of what "community Moms"  
exemplifies. Stacey, mom sends her love and condolences. We love  
you!*

**Karen Reed** - November 12, 2025 at 08:39 AM

NB

“ *Such a sweet, sweet woman of God. She and her husband were my pew partners at Bethel Church. She loved people and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Reverend Woodyard would bring a Word from time to time and Mr Woodyard would shout the house down! Hallelujah! I will miss them both. Rest in Paradise beloveds.*

Nanette Burney-Mitchell - November 12, 2025 at 05:56 AM

RL

“ *I loved this woman as much as I loved my own Mother. She was always so kind to me, loved me and she lovingly called me her white boy with a birds name. 😭 I loved her Son with all my heart ❤️ and soul. He was my Husband and I always thanked my Mother-In-Law for raising such a wonderful Son whose name was Jeffrey Charles Woodyard. Mom Emma always welcomed me with loving arms. She was always a joy for me to be around. I will sincerely miss her but I am so thankful that she is now with our Lord and Savior. My memories of Non Emma will always be fond ones.*

*I love ❤️ you,  
Robin L. Leibold-Woodyard*



Robin Leibold-Woodyard - November 11, 2025 at 04:22 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard.*



November 11, 2025 at 01:36 PM

WN

“ Wendy Lloyd (Arney Rd. Neighbor) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard.

Wendy Lloyd (Arney Rd. Neighbor) - November 11, 2025 at 01:36 PM

SJ

“ To the woman that welcomed everyone with open arms, love and laughter! You will be missed. We all have some of the best memories of you! From the door always, always always being unlocked for anyone to come in, take up a seat, have a meal and just be loved on, to your sense of humor that really made me wonder if you missed your true calling. Your spirit was genuine and your love can never be questioned! You poured into everyone. You were a woman of God, so I know that He welcomed a true and faithful servant home. You poured into everyone. Love you, Sandra

Sandra Johnson - November 11, 2025 at 01:27 PM

MP

“ My Heartfelt Sincere Condolences To The Family,Praying For Strength,Healing And Comfort 🙏🙏

Mike Poole - November 11, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard.



November 11, 2025 at 09:28 AM

KW

“ My deepest sympathy during this difficult time. I want to offer my sincere condolences to the Woodyard family.

Kendra Washington - November 10, 2025 at 09:04 PM

KL

“ Kathleen Little purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard.



Kathleen Little - November 10, 2025 at 07:41 PM

SM

“ Sandra, Azza and Marquis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Emma Lee Woodyard.



Sandra, Azza and Marquis - November 10, 2025 at 07:15 PM