



## Pat Whitchurch

October 27, 1939 - April 4, 2026

Patricia Ruth (Mollet) Whitchurch, 86, of Decatur, IL, formerly of Centralia, died Saturday, April 4, 2026, at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

She was the youngest of seven children of Mike and Polly (Willeford) Mollet. Known as "Pat" to many and "Patty" to her family, she was born on October 27, 1939, at her parents' home in rural Greenville, IL.

Pat often said she must have had the best childhood. She knew love from the beginning of her life - the love of family and the love of the Lord. Because she was so loved, she was able to extend love to everyone she met. Her lifelong character was defined by this love and the kindness, care, and contentment that flowed from it.

Her life took Pat from Greenville to school at the University of Illinois, several months in Germany with the International Farm Youth Exchange organization, an early career as a Home Advisor with the Cooperative Extension Service, and eventually to Marion County. Later, she enjoyed a 25-year career as a Case Manager with Senior Services of Marion County, serving countless seniors in the area.

It was in Marion County where she met Jerrold Whitchurch. Pat and Jerrold wed on October 19, 1969, at her childhood home, then settled on Jerrold's family farm in rural Centralia. They spent their married life there and raised

their three children, instilling in them the same values they received from their parents.

Pat was a devoted wife until Jerrold's passing in 2017. She was a constant supporter of her children, serving as a 4-H club leader and attending their activities and events.

Faith in Jesus was foundational to Pat's life, and she lived it out in ways that were evident to all who knew her. She was a longtime member of Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church in Bond County, describing it as "the most beautiful place on earth". She was also active at Zion Hill Baptist Church in rural Centralia.

Pat is survived by her children, Mike (Janet) Whitchurch, Patrick Whitchurch, and Polly Whitchurch; grandchildren Sarah (Jacob) Bell, Anna (Conner) Fisher, Arthur, Elysa, and Colin Whitchurch, and Artem, Bohdan, Amelie, Quentin, and Valia Whitchurch; sister-in-law Shirley Prewitt, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters and brothers-in-law Doris and Carl Jacobs, Martha and Gerald Jenner, and Evelyn and Joe Whitehead; brother and sister-in-law Marshall and Carla Mollet; brother Marion Mollet; sister Polly Alice Mollet; and in-laws Joan and Cotton Hester, David and Raydell Whitchurch, Bob Martin, and Bill Prewitt.

To honor Pat's life, a visitation will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia, IL. Private family burial will be held at a later date in Zion Hill Cemetery in Centralia. A Celebration of Life Service will be held May 16, 2026 at Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church in Greenville, IL at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Mt. Nebo Primitive Baptist Church or Cemetery and will be accepted by the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home, 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, IL 62801, (618)532-3523, which is honored to be of service to Pat's family. Online condolences may be made by visiting [www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com) and the funeral home Facebook page. To

send flowers or a memorial gift to the family, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 9. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home  
235 N. Sycamore Street  
Centralia, IL 62801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Pat Whitchurch*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - April 09 at 12:06 PM



“ *Mike, Patrick, & Polly, your mother was a beautiful lady! The first Commandment with a promise is Honor your father & mother & your days will be long on this earth. She, your dad, & grandmother honored their parents as you all have. Although, you are never ready for times such as these, your strong faith as well as your parent's will see you through. Keep your eyes on Jesus, the Author & Finisher of our Faith.*

Floyd Pyle - April 10 at 10:45 AM



“ *We loved Pat. I shared a birthday with her. She was so supportive while we were living in Centralia. I know the family will miss her -- but what a joyful time she is having with her Savior. Prayers to everyone.*

Sheila Pyle - April 10 at 10:09 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



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April 09 at 12:18 PM



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

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April 09 at 12:18 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



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April 08 at 03:33 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



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April 08 at 10:52 AM

TR

“ The Mollet Girls Marilyn, Emily & Rachel purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Pat Whitchurch.



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**The Mollet Girls Marilyn, Emily & Rachel** - April 07 at 10:29 PM

TR

“ The Mollet Girls Marilyn, Emily & Rachel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pat Whitchurch.

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**The Mollet Girls Marilyn, Emily & Rachel** - April 07 at 10:29 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.



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April 07 at 03:26 PM



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

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April 07 at 03:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



April 07 at 03:07 PM



“ *Your Team at Caterpillar purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



**Your Team at Caterpillar** - April 07 at 02:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



April 07 at 10:44 AM



“ *I am so glad I had the honor of working with Pat for twenty plus years. She was truly one of the most caring, kindest persons I have ever known and so dedicated to her faith and family. I know she will be missed but she is safe in the arms of her Savior.*

**Tonia Oberg** - April 06 at 11:39 PM

DC

“ *She was such a sweet soul. Always a smile and up for a chat. I consider an honor to have been part of her story.*

*Darla*

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**Darla Coit** - April 06 at 09:47 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Pat Whitchurch.*



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April 06 at 03:41 PM