



Joyce Amelia Pirtle

April 2, 1940 - May 31, 2020

Joyce Amelia Pirtle passed away on May 31, 2020, at home in Vancouver, Washington, at the age of 80. She was born on April 2, 1940, to Paul and Effie Mortensen in Pasadena, California. She is preceded in death by her parents. Joyce is survived by her husband of 61 years, Rosco Pirtle, her son Kyle Pirtle (Debby), her daughters Melody Hoffman and Natalie Hendricks (Kirk), all of Vancouver, Washington, and by her brothers Keith Mortensen (Ann) of Anchorage, Alaska, Chris Mortensen (Barbara), and Alan Mortensen (Karen) of Yakima, Washington. She is also survived by her grandchildren Ben Pirtle (Aubrie) of Austin, Texas, Jamie Tate (Patrick) of Houston, Texas, and Erin Buell, Jeff Hoffman (Lisa), Camille Hendricks, and Chloe Hendricks of Vancouver, Washington, and by great grandchildren Jackson Tate, Carter Hoffman and Elysia Hoffman.

Joyce graduated from Zillah High School in 1958. She was voted Miss Owego of her high school her senior year. That fall, she was homecoming queen at Columbia Christian College. While a student there, she met and fell in love with Rosco Pirtle, a young pharmacist in Vancouver, Washington. The two married on September 7, 1959 and settled in Vancouver.

Our firstborn child was full term but died at birth, that traumatic event gave her a great love for all newborns that she loved to hold.

Joyce stayed home with their 3 children, Kyle, Melody, and Natalie. When the kids got older, Joyce started an in-home daycare, which she ran for 20 years. She soon limited her children from birth to 1st grade, they were not as rough

playing as older children. During that time, "Mama Joyce" poured love into the lives of countless children and many grateful parents.

For decades, Joyce was a faithful member, an elder's wife, and a leader in her own right at Vancouver Church of Christ. When Joyce was included in the elder's meetings, she counted that as one of her best blessings. Joyce was delighted to open her home for church meetings and classrooms, so her home was often referred to as the second church office, taking calls and helping when the office was closed.

She served others with grace and gentleness, great compassion, and a surprising twist of humor. She loved the Lord with all her heart. She fed more meals to more people than could ever be counted. She took people into her home and heart without asking for anything in return. She and Rosco were the Executive Northwest Team couple with Marriage Encounter for many years, helping couples strengthen their marriages.

One of Joyce's great joys was cooking. She made birthday cakes for all Rosco's co-workers every year. If you asked Joyce to bring some cookies for a youth event or a church potluck, she would likely show up with 10 dozen in several varieties, each one tastier than the last. She compiled hundreds of her favorite recipes into a cookbook-several inches thick-that she gifted to generations of newlyweds and missionaries in many countries. Flower gardening was a passion in her life, she loved the way God created color and beauty in her garden, she would often work so late she had to turn on the lights to finish her gardening

Joyce saw the best in people. She did not draw attention to herself, but everyone who met her knew they had found a friend. She was an excellent listener and question asker, which made people instantly recognize she cared for them. She showed this care through sending birthday and anniversary cards faithfully to hundreds of people a year, by sewing baby blankets and burp cloths for new mommies and babies, and by quietly "adopting" people that she would check in with regularly.

Joyce was loved by many. She blessed countless people through the years.

The love she shared will live on through her family, friends, and recipes. In lieu of a service, Joyce's family is considering this season a "living memorial" as loved ones share photos and memories via cards and texts. Cards can be sent to 6704 Kansas St. Vancouver, WA 98661. Memorial gifts in her honor can be made to Vancouver Church of Christ.

Tribute Wall



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Evergreen Memorial Gardens - July 03, 2025 at 05:45 PM



“ I miss Joyce's smile so much. She and Rosco were so kind to me and invited me for lunch after I became a member of the church. Joyce is an amazing lady, loving and hardworking. Glad she is not suffering and in God's arms.

Joan Chiu - May 28, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so grateful to God for allowing us to have experienced such wonderful love and concern that Joyce had for others. Although at times in pain, she continued to serve with such grace and humility. We will miss her dearly.

Bert & Bill Hunter - June 15, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ When I think of Joyce, I think of a person with a ready smile, a calm manner, and an open heart. She was known for her hospitality and loved to have people into her home for meals. She (with Rosco's help) shared many of her great recipes and everyone wanted one of Joyce's Cook Books. She found pleasure in simple things: her flowers, birds that visited, creating great meals in her kitchen, and working with the Church. One of Joyce's greatest pleasures was her day care - the love she shared (both giving and receiving) with the little kids touched many hearts of young and old alike. She treated everyone like they were family with hugs, prayers, guidance, and firm correction when necessary. She was a wise lady and a strong Christian example to everyone around her - truly a blessing to be her friend. Rich and Patty Kolb

Rich and Patty Kolb - June 14, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ We have always looked forward to the delightful and thoughtful cards they set for birthdays and anniversaries. My prayers are with Rosco and family. Joyce will be missed.

Marilyn Terry - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ New to VANchurch, in 2017, my receiving Joyce and Rosco's personal, and beautifully written notes of welcoming and encouragement were such a highlight of my day!!! May you experience Jesus' deep, comforting Shalom, Pirtle family, and may we all dance and rejoice together at the marriage feast of the Lamb!

Sheila Andonaegui - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Knowing so many wonderful people, like Joyce have gone before, makes me look that much more forward to being back together again. It hurts to lose her in this "mist" of our lives, but this world is not our home.

Monty - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Joyce was my couzin through my Grandma Alice Mortenson. I was a pleasure to take my mom to Vancouver worship and visit with Joyce. She was a lovely gracious lady. I'm sorry we didn't spend more time with her in this life, but my mother Florence Meads, my sister Judy and I look forward to the visits we will have when we join her in our fathers home. Love and prayers to the family..Sharon Rowe

Sharon Rowe - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Joyce was a lifesaver for our young family when she provided childcare for our kids Connor and Carly. I never had to worry about them in her care. She even helped out beyond hours when I needed extra help. The cookies were always a bonus ! Even though we lost contact - I always said a little hello in my mind when I was driving up in your area. Joyce was a special person.

Eric and Daphne Beck - June 11, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *What a beautiful Woman of God! Thank you Joyce for being the example to myself and others for your gracefulness and unselfish love. When our Son passed, you and Rosco provided such encouragement in hugs, and beautiful cards made with your hands. I will cherish that always. Will look forward to meeting you again in Heaven. Ben and Linda Martin*

Linda Martin - June 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *We moved our family here in 1973, we met the Pirtle family at Church, and have been so impressed with their loving , caring leadership by example! Joyce will be missed, but never forgotten! We love you Roscoe!*

LeRoy Brown - June 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EN

“ *dinner at the Pirtle's! what a graceful and kind hearted Christian! Edwin & Paula Nunnally!*

Edwin nunnally - June 10, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Wonderful person to know and be with. I will miss her smile and will treasure my memory of her. Charles Fikes*

Charles Fikes - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *One of the most beautiful women I have had the pleasure of knowing. To know Joyce is a blessing I shall cherish. Until we meet again sweet lady!*

Deborah Melton-Cox - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KW

“Joyce was a beautiful example of Christian love. My condolences to Roscoe and family.

Karel Wilmoth - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KB

“Joyce opened her daycare as a way to help others. We were lucky that our boys were safe, fed, guided & loved by here. Our boys love her cooking. Once at dinner my some told me "dinner is ok mommy. Not as good as Mama Joyce but you tried" LOL Thankfully she & Rosco gave me the coveted recipe book. We love you Joyce, Rosco & family. Thank You for being you.

Kathy Birchem - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

OR

“I will miss seeing her smile and friendly face. She was always a caring person. She will be greatly missed. Peace and comfort to the family Ofelia Romo

Ofelia Romo - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KT

“Joyce was an amazing baker, I worked at Kaiser with Rosco and every year on our birthday she would make us a cake and it was always whatever we chose. So sorry for your loss.

Kris Thompson - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DB

“Joyce was always so welcoming and had a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Denise Bratton - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JC

“Joyce was the most loving and beautiful person I have ever met. She has the most genuine smile and has a big heart. When I first joined Church of Christ, both Rosco and Joyce approached me and took me out for a lunch. They were completely strangers to me at first but they were so kind and interested in getting to know me. I admire them both so much and I will miss Joyce wholeheartedly!

Joan Chiu - June 09, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DW

“When church gatherings resume, I will miss her presence & beautiful smile SO much. Prayers of comfort for Rosco.

Denise Whitmire - June 01, 2020 at 12:00 AM