



Dorothea Irene Feenstra

August 10, 1925 - October 28, 2025

Dorothea Irene Feenstra (Dorothy) was born to John and Irene Westerby on August 10, 1925, the second youngest of 8 children. She grew up on a farm near Ortonville, MI, and walked to school where she enjoyed sports, played the female lead in the senior play, and won the school spelling bee, the third girl in her family to do so. Her class of 1943 “giftatory” page noted that since she was the class “shorty,” she was bequeathed a pair of stilts so that she could be seen as well as heard.

After high school, she worked briefly as a secretary and then moved to Grand Rapids to attend beauty school. After graduating, she worked for an older sister, Bernice Westrate, who owned a salon in Grandville. Later, she met and married a handsome serviceman, Evert Feenstra, who had returned from serving in WWII. Evert built their home in Hudsonville, and he designed it with a side entrance to a room that could be converted to a beauty shop. Son Gary and later younger sister Gail joined the family. Gary was 1+1/2 and Gail still in the womb when Evert died suddenly of cardiac arrest. At 27, Dorothy showed strength and fortitude and raised her children well, by demonstrating faith in her Lord, and surrounded by hers and Evert’s family, as well as close friends, community, and church.

Hudsonville Baptist Church activities were important to Dorothy; she taught Sunday School and, as SS secretary, was responsible for printing the weekly

church bulletin. She also worked with AWANA and sang soprano in the church choir and in a ladies' trio. She also nurtured the involvement of Gary and Gail in Children's Bible Hour, driving them to many practices and performances.

Dorothy operated "Dot's Beauty Shop" in her home after her children entered school, and she had many loyal customers for over 60 years. After retirement, she sold her home in Hudsonville and moved to Maple Lake Village Condominiums in Zeeland, and she began attending Immanuel Church of Holland, where for years she served on the greeting team as well as being active in adult choir, women's ministry, and her ABF class.

Dorothy was predeceased by her husband Evert, her parents, her siblings, and her son-in-law Randy Gowman. She is survived by her two children: Gary (Diane) Feenstra, and Gail Gowman; her six grandchildren: Heidi (Damon) Remigailo, David (Anne) Gowman, Joel (Melody) Gowman, Katie (Michael) Barnes, Todd (Julianne) Feenstra, and Kelsi (Sean) Donovan. She is also survived by her 17 great-grandchildren: Dasia, Samia, Marya, and Alexa Remigailo; Anika and Bridget Gowman; Gabe, Mark, Annabella, and Emma Gowman; Cale, Adelyn, and Garrett Barnes; and Jay, Carrington, Everlee, and Smith Feenstra. They will remember her as the active, game-loving Gigi, who always sent them a five-dollar bill on their birthdays. She loved all of her family deeply, and she loved serving others, often through her baking. She provided pies for Joni & Friends camps and various sweet treats for others. Friends and staff at doctor offices, banks, and mechanic shops will remember her as the little woman who baked and delivered Texas sheet cake to brighten their day.

Services will be 1:00 PM, Saturday, November 8, 2025, Immanuel Church of Holland, 325 104th Avenue, Holland MI 49423. Visitation will be held from 4-7 PM on Friday, November 7, at the Yntema Funeral Home, 251 S. State St, Zeeland MI 49464. Visitation also at Immanuel Church one hour before the service on November 8.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Dorothy's memory can be made to Immanuel Church of Holland Missions Fund, to Maranatha Bible and Missionary Conference Building Fund, or to Hospice of Holland.

www.yntemafh.com

Below is a livestream link to watch Dorothy's funeral service.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=2d3MkksCwaY>

Cemetery Details

Georgetown Cemetery

28th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Yntema Funeral Home
251 South State Street
Zeeland, MI 49464

Visitation

NOV 8. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Immanuel Church
325 104th Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

One Hour Prior to the Service.

Service

NOV 8. 1:00 PM - 2:05 PM (ET)

Immanuel Church
325 104th Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Dorothea Irene Feenstra*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - November 06, 2025 at 12:19 PM



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Dorothea Irene Feenstra*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - November 03, 2025 at 02:25 PM

JF

*Dorothy is one of my relatives who I could talk about our lives and how thankful we were for Gods plan and love for us, What a gift she was to me! How thankful I am to have had a friend who could love me and we could praise God together!
Jill grassmid fryling*

jill and greg fryling - November 08, 2025 at 08:03 PM

JF

*Our sympathy to Gary, Diane, and Gail, very disappointed we couldn't make it to funeral! Prayers , hugs.
Jill and Greg fryling*

jill and greg fryling - November 08, 2025 at 08:08 PM

JF

Greg and Jill planted memorial tree in memory of Dorothea Feenstra!

jill and greg fryling - November 08, 2025 at 08:12 PM

JU

“ *Little Dorothy was my next door neighbor for 21 years. I called her my "surrogate mom". She and I shared families, time together, and so many memories. She is missed by me. I have the sweet assurance of seeing her again. We Christians have that blessed hope. She is now at her Savior's side, singing with the angels in heaven. I'm blessed to have had her in my life* ❤️

My heart felt sympathy to the family members. May comfort and peace surround you. Judy Ulberg

Judy Ulberg - November 06, 2025 at 09:37 PM

DA

“ *What a delightful woman! I loved that she what come up to me in church, and in a conspiratorial way, half whisper, “Can you believe that I’m (almost) a hundred years old?..” as if she were part of a grand joke God was playing on the rest of us mortals. And she was indeed a grand gesture, from God, in placing her in our lives. A gracious, lovely person. I’m sure she’s in heaven shaking old friends’ hands and still saying, “Can you believe, He let me stay there for a hundred years?...”*

dan - October 31, 2025 at 01:12 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dorothea Irene Feenstra.*



October 30, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ *Kevin Schneider planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothea Irene Feenstra.*

Kevin Schneider - October 30, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ *I remember Grandma Feenstras from my debates days at HHS with Diane Feenstras, babysitting the Feenstras kiddos, and my friendship with both Gary and Diane. She was a complete light in this world, a wonderful woman and example..... far beyond her immediate families. She will be missed. Love to all of you. Alison Clay*

Alison Clay - October 30, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ *BRAND COMPANY purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Dorothea Irene Feenstra.*



BRAND COMPANY - October 30, 2025 at 03:03 PM

BC

“ BRAND COMPANY planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothea Irene Feenstra.

BRAND COMPANY - October 30, 2025 at 03:03 PM

LF

“ Larry and Jennifer Orr and families purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Dorothea Irene Feenstra.



Larry and Jennifer Orr and families - October 30, 2025 at 02:37 PM

PK

“ Wonderful memories of meeting her a few times here in Tennessee. She always had a smile on her face and so full of energy! And wow, that lady could really eat a lot of pizza! #blackhorsepizza.

Perry Keenan - October 29, 2025 at 09:56 AM

MB

“ Sympathy to Gail and Gary and their families on the death of their dear mother. She was always so kind and welcoming. Blessings, Marianne (VanHeest) Bouwens

marianne bouwens - October 28, 2025 at 09:11 PM

RK

“*What a wonderful woman of God who was so dearly loved by so many. She will be GREATLY missed but we rejoice that she is “finally home.” Over 100 years of faithful service to her LORD and Savior. Please be assured of our prayers for her dear family. Rich and Barb Kornoelje*

Rich Kornoelje - October 28, 2025 at 08:39 PM