Miriam McDonald Childress died peacefully in her sleep at home on December 18, 2025 surrounded by loved ones.

Born in 1927, Miriam was the daughter of the late John Percy McDonald and the late Louise Rogers McDonald. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bob Childress, her sisters Vivian Hayes and Jeannette Hamilton, and her brother J.P. McDonald. Miriam is survived by her daughter, Tanya Gross (Brian), and her sons, Kris Childress (Lynette) and Eric Childress (Yan). She was a proud grandmother to Ashley, Laura, Elizbeth, and Amelia. Miriam is also survived by many cherished nieces and nephews.

At age sixteen, she enrolled at Columbia College in South Carolina, where she helped start the student newspaper *The Postscript* and edited the literary magazine *The Criterion*. She later became an educator, sharing her lifelong love of learning.

Miriam and Bob married in 1950 and built a life rooted in faith, partnership, and adventure. Guided by her faith, Miriam was one of the church's first women elders, served on the Women of the Church board, and founded the Paw Creek Players, writing and directing plays that brought joy to many.

She loved learning, creating, and experiencing new places—especially when she could do so with her family. She and Bob treasured their many travels in country and abroad, including welcoming their oldest granddaughter, Ashley, in Neu Ulm, Germany, and celebrating Kris and Lynette's wedding in Singapore. One of her most cherished memories was visiting Scotland with her sister Jeannette.

A gifted painter, poet, and writer, Miriam loved books, travel, and time with family. She will be remembered for her warmth, optimism, and her ability to make others feel truly seen. Above all, she treasured her family and friends, leaving a legacy of love and devotion.

With Gratitude
The family thanks you for your prayers, kindness, and support, and for honoring Miriam's life today.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.woodlawnfuneral.org.

A Service Witnessing the Resurrection Promise of

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

And Honoring and Celebrating the Life of

Miriam McDonald Childress

John 17:25 "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,"

December 27, 2025 • 4:00 pm
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church
Paw Creek, North Carolina

Officiant.....Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Grosse
Pianist.....Mr. Mark Burleson

Miriam McDonald Childress

December 12, 1927 – December 18, 2025

Prelude

*The Entrance of the Family

Please stand as the music begins

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

* Hymn 14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Old Testament Readings

Proverbs 2: 6-11

Proverbs 3: 5-8

Psalm 23

*Hymn 825 *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*

New Testament Readings

John 11: 25-26

Romans 8: 38-39

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

Words of Remembrance and Celebration

Tanya Childress Gross – Daughter

Kris Childress – Son

Ashley Gross Fernandez – Granddaughter

*Hymn **(see insert)** *In the Garden*

Prayers of the People

Pastoral, Lord's Prayer ("debts")

* Hymn 69 *Here I Am Lord*

*Commendation and Blessing

*Recession of the Family

*Postlude

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Prior to the service, all are invited to the Church parlor to visit with the family