



Rev. Dr. Rachel S. Stahle

September 21, 1969 - June 21, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Rachel S. Stahle, PhD, born on September 21, 1969, passed away on Friday, June 21, 2024 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her mother L. Susan Kelly Simon, stepfather Patrick Simon, and her grandfather, George E. Kelly, age 92. Rachel was predeceased by her brother Matthew Stahle and her father Edward Stahle. She leaves her half-brother Joseph Stahle (wife Melissa) and her godsons Dean Stahle and David Snyder as well as many cousins and close friends. Rachel graduated from Dallastown Area Senior High School in 1987. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Grove City College, graduating in 1991. She continued her education receiving a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, graduating in 1994. She received her Ph.D. from Boston University, class of 1999. She pastored the First Presbyterian Church of Carteret, New Jersey from July 2009-July 2011. From there Rachel moved to Towanda to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church from 2011 to 2021. Most recently she worked online for Sioux Falls Seminary/Kairos University as Affiliate Faculty. She was also a member of ECO Cornerstone Presbytery and served on the denomination's Standing Theology Task Force. Rev. Dr. Stahle is the author of numerous articles and book reviews, as well as published author of *The Great Work of Providence: Jonathan Edwards for Life Today*.

Rachel had a passion for worship, and she loved playing her guitar while leading the praise team at Towanda First Presbyterian. She served as the

Treasurer for Towanda Area Clergy Association for many years and played guitar in the Towanda Pastor's Band. In recent years she learned to play the cello. She led and participated in many Bible studies.

Rachel loved to learn about her own heritage and that of her friends. She was honored to learn that Michael and Lydia Shellenberger were her 4th great grandparents. She was an active Board Member of the French Azilum Historical Site.

Rachel loved sports. Go Steelers!! Most recently she was excited to umpire for girls' softball. She enjoyed tennis and had a close group of friends that she loved dearly and had many great times on the courts with them.

Rachel facilitated youth group mission trips during her tenure at Towanda First Presbyterian. Those were fun times and happy memories that will stay with the youth for a long time.

Rachel enthusiastically worked her flower garden and always gave glory to God when describing their beauty. She was a generous hostess, opening her home for clergy gatherings which included potlucks and rousing board games. Finally, Rachel had 6 beloved cats. Frodo who led half the neighborhood on a game of hide and seek a few years back and has most recently embraced home life! Bilbo, the most friendly and attentive cat! Grace, shy and always looking for a cool place to sit. Pixie who is a brave soul when new friends come to the house, and finally, Sam and Lucy - shy kitties that would only come out when it was just their momma at home.

Rachel was a leader, a teacher, a student, an active member of our community, and a friend. She was humble, generous, loving, kind, funny and will be missed terribly by many.

Donations in the Rev. Dr. Rachel S. Stahle's memory may be given to:

☐ Gordon-Conwell Scholarship Fund, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dept. of Advancement, 130 Essex Street, South Hamilton MA 01982 or <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/giving/online/>

☐ The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation, P.O. Box 781352, Philadelphia, PA 19178-1352 or <https://give2.chop.edu/give/241805/#!/donatio>

n/checkout

□ Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or go to Memorials and Dedications at <https://www.stjude.org/give.html> #other

Interment will be in Mount Rose Cemetery, York. A memorial service will take place in Rachel's hometown area of York at a future date. A memorial service celebrating Rachel's life will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd at 11:00 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 5 Court Street, Towanda. The service will be livestreamed via the church Facebook Page, Fans of Towanda Presbyterian. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Rose Cemetery

York, PA

Previous Events

Service

JUL 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
5 Court Street
Towanda, PA 18848

Tribute Wall

AA

“ Rachel was like an aunt to me growing up. She came to my softball games, she was around when we needed her, and she even gave me my first car. She had an incredibly generous soul and a powerful love for Jesus. I am blessed to have known her.

Amanda Bakker Austin - September 09, 2024 at 05:27 AM

CG

“ Rachel and I hosted one another as exchange students in high school. Over the years we managed to stay in contact with each other. Rachel was a quiet, gentle, strong, and faith filled soul. Heaven has gained another angel and you have earned your wings rest well my friend.

Charlotte (Cochran) Gilliard - December 28, 2024 at 10:54 AM

SM

“ 1 file added to the album Grove City College



Sean McFeely - September 07, 2024 at 12:02 PM

SM

“ Rachel was someone that Jesus deeply loved and cherished. I knew her as an angry atheist in High School and then as one of my bestest and kindest Christian friends in college after Jesus revealed Himself to her in chapel one night. Not everyone meets Him this way, but she walked the rest of her life in His care despite many trials, and with much joy too. Her time pastoring at Towanda was truly her favorite and most fulfilling season. Thank you everyone in the church and town for making her time there rich in friendship, love and affection.

Sean McFeely - August 05, 2024 at 04:20 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Rachel S. Stahle.



July 01, 2024 at 11:23 AM

RC

“ Pastor Rachel was such a warm and wonderful person. I knew her through my sister. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time.

Rebecca Crist - July 01, 2024 at 06:42 AM

LB

“ To the family of the Rev. Dr. Rachel Stahle. Rachel and I attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary at the same time. It was wrenching to learn about the passing of a wonderful person who I considered a friend. May she rest secure in Jesus Christ. Lorne Bean

Lorne Bean - June 30, 2024 at 10:57 PM

KL

“ My deepest condolences to Rachel's family. I'm so sad to hear of her passing.

Rachel was my friend in high school, and we met up a few times over the years. May she rest in peace. Kelly Lutz

Kelly Lutz - June 30, 2024 at 05:54 PM

SM

“ Dear family of Dr. Rachel Stahle, I remember Rachel from Grove City College where we were roommates together for our junior year I believe. I was looking forward to possibly visiting her out in Towanda in a couple of months, and of course was sorry to hear of her passing. I know now though that she is rejoicing with the angels in heaven. God bless you and my thoughts and prayers are with you. Shelley Boyles McIntire

Shelley Boyles McIntire - June 29, 2024 at 05:45 PM

AO

“ Dr. Rachel--a glorious Spirit and an Inspiration.
We hold you in our hearts, Sweet One.
Amy O'Rourke

Amy O'Rourke - June 29, 2024 at 03:59 AM

KE

“ Dear Family and Friends of Rev. Dr. Stahle, we at the Rafiki Foundation had the privilege of having her do some editing and proofing work for us in the past few months - she was a gem! We wish we had known her longer and we pray for her family who are left with this loss too soon. Grace and peace, Karen Elliott, Executive Director.

Karen Elliott - June 28, 2024 at 11:21 AM

JH

“ Dear Family of Pastor Rachel Stahle, It is with much sadness that we have learned the passing of Rachel. May she rest in peace. Please accept my sincere condolences and know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. She was a wonderful Pastor, and Friend to my Family during her time as Pastor with us. May God Bless!

Joyce Hinkson - June 27, 2024 at 11:18 AM