

Memorial Service for Bertha Beachy

June 19, 2026

Prelude

Tribute Video

Praising and Giving Thanks

Welcome, reading of Psalm 139, and opening prayer

Hymn - I Sing the Mighty Power of God VT 182

Hymn - When All Thy Mercies VT 119

Remembering

Remembrance and Psalm 91 - Rose Shetler, niece

Hymn - Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God VT 653

Remembrance - Ahmed Jirreh, Somali friend

Hymn - Siyahamba VT 793

The Lord's Prayer in Somali

Proclaiming

Scripture - Romans 11:29

Homily

Hymn - Gott ist die Liebe VT 158

The Lord's Prayer in German

Blessing and Sending

The Lord's Prayer in English VT 989(B)

Sending blessing and instructions for fellowship time

Hymn - Praise God (Dedication Anthem) VT 70

Homily: Anna Yoder Schlabach | Worship Leader: Karl Shelly
Song leader: James Nelson Gingerich | Remembrances: Rose Shetler, Ahmed Jirreh

All are warmly invited to stay for a meal and a time of informal storytelling facilitated by André Gingerich Stoner, nephew.

Obituary

Bertha Marie Beachy was born to Andrew and Elizabeth (Beachy) Beachy on July 2, 1931, near Kokomo, IN. She died in Goshen, IN, on January 27, 2026, at the age of 94. Bertha was born into an Amish family that was deeply committed to family, community, the church, and justice issues. She was the eighth of ten children. When she was nine, her family moved to Kalona, IA.

By the time she was in the fifth grade, Bertha knew she wanted to be a teacher. She attended Eastern Mennonite College (now University) in Harrisonburg, VA. While in college, she immersed herself in her studies and in activities such as clubs, choirs, chairing the dorm council, and serving as announcer on the WEMC radio station. As a young adult, she left the Old Order Amish church and joined Sunnyside Conservative Mennonite Church in Kalona.

She graduated in 1958 with a BS in Elementary Education and a minor in English. In September of that year, she set sail for Africa with five of her classmates. She spent the next 20 years working with Muslim Somali people with Eastern Mennonite Missions (EMM).

She began an English-language day school in Southern Somalia. She later moved to Mogadishu, the capital city, to manage an English-language bookstore. She taught English in secondary school, at the College of Education, and in adult classes. She taught Bible and sewing classes as well. In 1976, when the Somali government no longer welcomed English teachers, she relocated to Nairobi, Kenya, where she helped prepare three literacy primers in the Somali language for the National Christian Council of Kenya for Somalis living in North Eastern Kenya. She returned to the U.S. in 1978 and found numerous ways to share the Somali story.

Over the years, Bertha did graduate studies in anthropology, linguistics, Islam, Arabic, religious and literacy journalism, peacemaking, and women's studies. In 1990, she joined the first Christian Peacemaker Team to Iraq before the Gulf War.

After she retired from Provident Bookstore, Bertha returned to Nairobi, Kenya, from 1995 to 2000 to manage a joint Somali office for EMM and Mennonite Central Committee's programs in East Africa. She related to believers and refugees and worked with educational and development

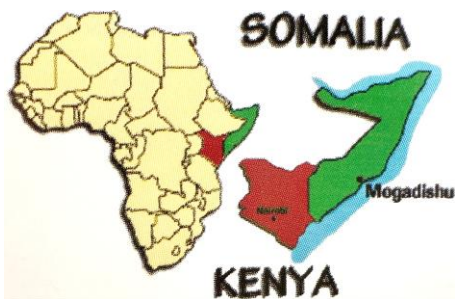
issues inside Somalia. She also organized peacemaking conferences for women and traditional elders. She returned to the U.S. in October 2000.

In the decades that followed, she continued to build bridges between Muslims and Christians. She was a passionate advocate for peace in her church, community, and around the world. Bertha will be remembered for her engaging questions and the ensuing conversations, her beautiful prayers, and her love for family and friends.

Memorial gifts in Bertha's memory may be made to Mennonite Central Committee, 21 South 12th Street PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500, online at <https://mcc.org> or Eastern Mennonite Missions, PO Box 8617, Lancaster, PA 17604-8617, online at <https://www.emm.org>.

A private family ceremony for committal of ashes at Greencroft Memorial Prayer Garden preceded the memorial service.

The family wishes to thank Bertha's church family, Assembly Mennonite Church, and Greencroft staff for their care and support.



Bertha Marie Beachy

July 2, 1931 - January 27, 2026



*For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.
Romans 11:29*

Assembly Mennonite Church
Goshen, Indiana

June 19, 2026

10 a.m