



Missing Mom,

As many of you know, my mom passed away Saturday, August 7th. My dad and I had left Williston, on the 5th, to attend a family reunion in Seattle. We picked up his sister Fairy in Havre, MT and completed the 600 mile trip to Missoula, when my sister called and said mom was having trouble, so she had called the ambulance. Mom had a 12 year history of cardiopulmonary problems, and we knew she was dwindling, but didn't expect any problems while we were gone. I had already driven 1,000 miles in two days, and I wasn't up to an all-night drive, so we spent the night in Missoula before returning home.

We arrived in Williston around 3:30 p.m., on Friday, and learned mom had a had a heart attack, so the doctors placed her on comfort care. This was her wish. We hugged my sister and shared important tears. Sarah and our son Michael drove to Williston on Friday evening.

She would wake up for a few minutes and talk to us, but she was often confused and wondered where she was or if she could go home. We talked to her about dying, but she would forget her circumstance. That evening, Pastor Ross Reinhiller came to visit mom and she stayed awake for five minutes and remained lucid for the entire time. One of the things she said was: "Ross, I want you to do my funeral." This was an important statement, because she has three sons who are United Methodist Pastors, and it was her way of telling us that on that day we were her sons and Ross was her pastor. I thank her for that gift.

Mom died quietly around 3:00 p.m., on Saturday afternoon. She was surrounded by eight family members, and we all had the opportunity to take turns holding her hand.

All but one granddaughter and her family attended the service. She wasn't able to be with us because her son had a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, after spending only four days in pre-school. Mom would have wanted them to stay home, wear their masks, and stay safe.

If you want to learn a little bit about my mom, I encourage you to read her obituary on the [Everson-Coughlin Funeral home webpage](#). It will give you a glimpse into her life.



I thank everyone who called, wrote email, commented on Facebook, or sent cards. Your words of comfort meant the world to us.

I will end by saying thank God for mothers. I hope everyone had a mom like mine.