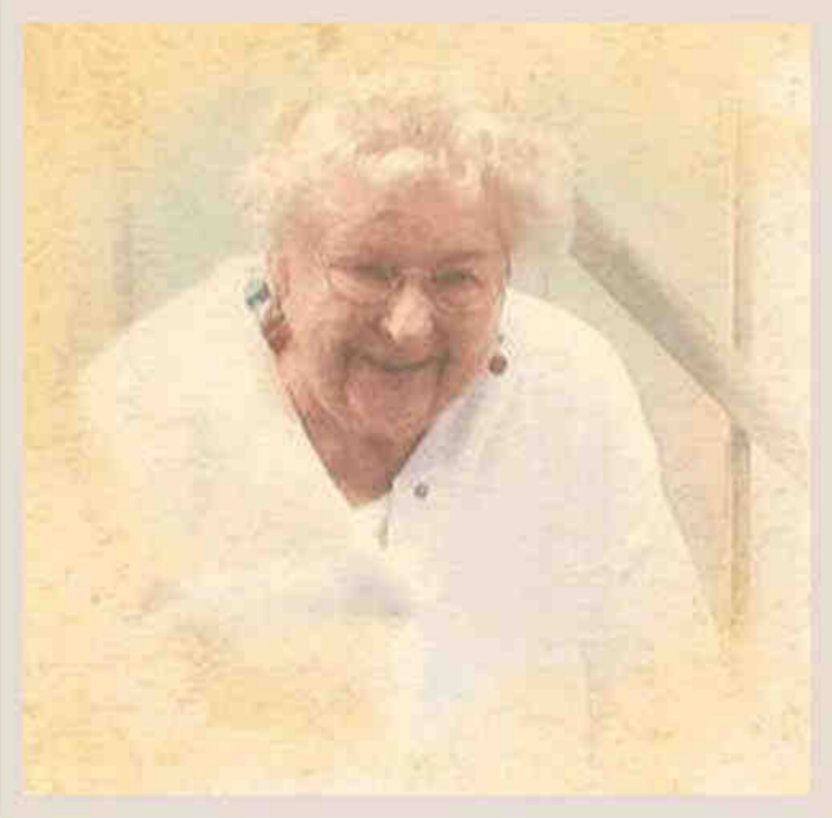




# Norma Avery

August 13, 1922 - August 30, 2009  
Kalamazoo, MI

## LIFE STORY / OBITUARY



Norma Avery was a caring wife, mother and grandmother who, through her commitment to her family, redefines the concept of unconditional love. She had a full, caring heart, and everyone who spent time with her felt the warmth of her presence.

Under the leadership of President Warren G. Harding, America entered into the 1920s with confidence. The politics of the time were turbulent as ever, yet industry had made the U.S. economy surge. Ralph and Vesta (Claiborne) Glidden were far removed from these things that characterized the 1920s. They lived a modest life in Paw Paw, Michigan, and in the summer of 1922, they were preparing their home for the arrival of their first child. On August 13, 1922, the couple delighted in welcoming the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Norma Jean. She was later joined by five younger siblings: Jim, Patricia, Mariam, Bob and Ada who she became like a second mother to. The family lived in a small home on 9th Street and Oshtemo, and the children attended the area schools.

Norma was a teenager when she met her future husband, LeRoy Avery, at her place of work, the Aargon Restaurant (now Ted & Marie's). Roy was working at the sanitarium on 9th Street and would stop in regularly for coffee. Sometimes he would even stay and help Norma do the dishes, during which time they would talk and get to know each other better. As fate would have it, Norma and Roy fell hopelessly in love and were happily married on May 8, 1941, in Defiance, Ohio. It wasn't long before the couple filled their hearts and home with the joy of their sons: Larry born in 1948, but sadly died a year later, Kenneth born in 1950, and Robert born in 1952.

Norma stayed home when the boys arrived, wanting to dedicate her time to raising them well. Because of Roy's military background, he liked structure in his household and frowned upon change. A dutiful wife, Norma learned to run a tight ship and a predictable routine for the entire family. She never had to contemplate what was for dinner each night because that was set in stone: Sundays were roast beef dinners, while Monday was fish sticks, and so on for the rest of the week. Norma was never a picky eater and liked just about anything, just as long as it wasn't plain. When it came to her sweet tooth, a little dab of chocolate was all it took.

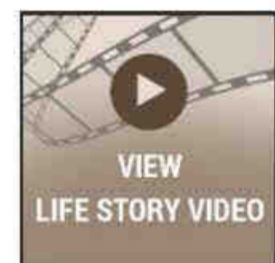
Besides being a devoted wife and mother, Norma worked for almost 20 years in the Catalog Department of JCPenney. At home, she kept busy knitting countless pairs of mittens, which she gave every year to her church for a fundraiser or donated to those less fortunate. Norma and Roy lived in a cozy 2-story home in Oakwood for 36 years, until the stairs became too much for Norma. They then bought a ranch style home on Grace Street in the Westwood neighborhood. The couple was also longtime members of the Christian Disciples of Christ Church on Winchell.

For Norma, family was the greatest source of happiness in her life. She wanted nothing more than to spend time with her 3 precious grandchildren, and shower them with her love. It was said that Norma's whole life was in a 30-mile radius of her home, needless to say she didn't have to venture far for anything. However, Norma was an avid reader of Harlequin Romance books, and through these love stories she could venture to far off lands in just a moment. In her quiet time, Norma liked listening to "musak" style music on WKZO, as well as Lawrence Welk and Glen Miller. She also enjoyed watching Bonanza, I Love Lucy, Wheel of Fortune and the Price is Right.

Norma was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother, and will be dearly missed and fondly remembered always.

Norma Jean Avery died on Sunday, August 30, 2009, at Borgess Medical Center. Learn more about Norma view her life story film and visit with her family and friends on Wednesday, September 2, from 6-8 p.m. at the Life Story Funeral Home, Betzler, 6080 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo (375-2900). A service to honor her life will be held on Thursday, September 3, at 11 a.m. at the Christian Disciples of Christ Church. Coffee and cookies will follow the service then she will be interred at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan.

Norma was preceded in death by her husband, LeRoy "Roy" Avery in 2005, her parents, one son, Larry, and three siblings: James (Sally) Glidden, Patricia Glidden and Mariam (Gordon) Jonas. Surviving are two sons: Kenneth (Deborah) Avery of Rancho Santa Margerita, CA, Robert (Joan) Avery of Sand Point, ID; 3 grandchildren: Sarah and Eric Buck, Luke Avery; one great-grandchild, Aden; one brother, Robert (Florence) Glidden; one sister, Ada Nutt, all of Kalamazoo; and a special friend, Audrey Taylor. Please visit Norma's personal web page at [www.lifestorynet.com](http://www.lifestorynet.com) where you may sign her online guest book or share a memory or photo with her family. Memorial contributions may be made to the Christian Disciples of Christ



### VISITATION

Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EDT  
Betzler Life Story Funeral Homes  
Kalamazoo Location  
6080 Stadium Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269) 375-2900  
[Driving Directions](#)

### SERVICE

Thursday, September 3, 2009  
11:00 AM EDT  
Christian Disciples of Christ Church  
2208 Winchell Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
(269) 342-5852

### CONTRIBUTIONS

At the family's request memorial contributions are to be made to those listed below. Please forward payment directly to the memorial of your choice.

Christian Disciples of Christ Church  
2208 Winchell Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
(269) 342-5852

