



Mrs. Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly

July 1, 1957 - September 23, 2025

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly, 68, who entered into rest on Tuesday, September 23, will be held at 4 o'clock on Friday, September 26, 2025, in First Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Ashley Cheek will officiate, and the family will receive friends in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. A private family burial will be held. The Directors of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home are caring for the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her honor to the First Presbyterian Church Music Fund, 213 West Home Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550, or Rubicon Family Counseling Center, 510 E. Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550, or on their website: <https://donorbox.org/support-rubicon-sc>

Denise was born on July 1, 1957, in Concord, NC. She was the daughter of the late Gallant and Govanna Miller. For 35 years, Denise dedicated her career to Rubicon Family Counseling Services, beginning as a counselor and rising to become treatment director. Through her compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment, she touched countless lives and helped shape the future of care at Rubicon. In recognition of her service, a lasting tribute has been made in her name: the Denise Miller Kelly Treatment Wing. She also carried on the vision of her late husband by continuing to operate W&K Enterprise, LLC, a business built from his work and goals since 2006.

She was a member and current Elder of First Presbyterian Church of Hartsville, where she once served as Director of Christian Education, a beloved member of the choir, and gave her time to several church committees over the years. She loved her flower gardens, making birthday cakes, sewing, shopping, the waterway, and making memories. Her children and grandchildren were the lights of her life. More than anything, Denise lived by one simple word: joy. She found joy in her everyday life, in her faith, and in the people around her. Her SASS group held a special place in her heart. She found joy and strength in this circle of friends.

She is survived by her daughters, Dara Kelly (Cam), Anna-Spencer Tyner (Lee); grandchildren, her beloved Willow Mixon, Rivers Tyner, Pentlee Tyner, Georgia Minnehan, Huntlan Tyner; her and Willow's dog, Bossman; siblings, Diane Keever (Doyle), David Miller (Judy), Sandy Miller all of Davidson, NC; and her brothers and sisters in-laws, Sharron Kelly, Lynnette Dutton (Toy), Etral Shumate (Steve), all of Hartsville, SC, Tommy Kelly (Mary) of Florence, SC.

Denise was preceded in death by her loving husband of almost 35 years, Terry George Kelly, her parents, Gallant and Govanna Miller; brother, Doug Miller; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Hart and Bennie Mae Kelly; and five angel babies.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP **26**. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
213 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC

Reception

SEP **26**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
213 W. Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - September 26, 2025 at 10:57 AM

CA

“ *Denise grew up in the same community as I, we went through school together and graduated together. She used to visit my Great Aunt and keep her company, Denise was just that type of person. She will be missed by many but the Lord has gained a beautiful soul.*



Curt Andrews - September 29, 2025 at 12:30 PM

TL

“ *So saddened to hear this news. Denise was enormously kind with a light that never ceased to shine. Sending love and strength to Dara, Anna Spencer and their families.*



Tru Lawton - September 26, 2025 at 10:33 PM

MW

“ Sorry for your loss. Mike, Pam, Brandy and Andrew



Mike Ward - September 26, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ Dara Willow Georgia Mac and family I'm am so very sorry for the loss of Denise she was a good lady who loved God and her family. Always helping others and always doing things for the church. She was so smart and talented and we will sure miss her sweet smile praying for you all gone too soon but will never be forgotten 🙏



Crystal Minnehan - September 26, 2025 at 03:24 PM



“ 51 files added to the album LifeTributes



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - September 26, 2025 at 10:54 AM

DM

*Love you little Denise & your Family.
Donna & Manuel Mouriz*

Donna Mouriz - September 26, 2025 at 11:58 AM

AB

“ *Amy Blackburn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly*



Amy Blackburn - September 25, 2025 at 10:35 PM

AD

“ *I met Denise at UNC-G, and right off the bat she was friendly, kind, and hilarious. If I could tell her one more thing, it would be this: Denise, you made an eternal, forever good difference on this earth, and it will never fade. Your smile reveals your kind and genuine heart, even though you also used it when sharing things that were so funny. When I remember that, I have to smile too. If God lets you save me a place, I want to be your neighbor please. In my deepest heart, I do. I want to be with my parents and so many loved ones who have gone before me, and two other dear friends who also left earth this year- but I really really really want to be near you too. Again, when I remember the things you shared that were hilarious, I can see that smile- but I know who lives in there behind it. Sure do love you.*

Amy Dockery - September 25, 2025 at 05:45 PM

RM

“ *I went to high school with Denise. She was a kind and friendly person. I am so blessed by how she lived her life.*

Rev. Dr. Eddie McClure - September 25, 2025 at 04:58 PM

 Wanda Robinson

“ Denise and I have been friends since second grade. She was always kind, sincere and helpful to all. I loved her family so much. I am thankful she is with Terry and out of pain.

Wanda Robinson - September 25, 2025 at 03:01 PM

DD

“ I started working at Rubicon about the same time Denise did. We did so many adolescent groups together and participated together in many meetings and family therapy training. Once we happily drove around the Darlington Race track in her car, giggling all the way, a favorite memory of mine. We kept up via Facebook posts through the years. I live out of town and just learned of her passing. I always enjoyed my time with Denise.

Debbie (Buckner) Dukes - September 25, 2025 at 01:10 PM

HA

“ Lynnette, Toy. Thinking of you and the W&K family. They were always good to me.

Harden - September 25, 2025 at 12:58 PM

LH

“ I knew Denise from her days at Hibben UMC back in early 80s. She was my You Minister, but she had a HUGE impact on me. We all got to meet Terry before they got married and moved away, and I've kept in contact with Denise over the years. I've heard some many stories about the girls and grands and when my own husband passed away last year, Denise was there to help me with encouraging words and prayers. She was a light for many people through the years. This breaks my heart, but I'll see her one day again

Leslie Miller Hodge - September 25, 2025 at 12:45 PM

CG

“ *Connee Gamble Grantham lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly*



Connee Gamble Grantham - September 25, 2025 at 12:44 PM

LN

“ *Praying for all of you now and in the days years to come. May God give you all the strength, comfort and peace that only He can give you in this season.*

Lynn Newsom - September 25, 2025 at 09:21 AM

JK

“ *Anna Spencer I am so very sorry about your mom. My deepest condolences for you and your family. Will keep you and your sweet family in my prayers...*



JoFrieda Kelley - September 25, 2025 at 05:55 AM

AT

“ *Our hearts are broken...there are no words. We love you Anna-Spencer and ALL the family! We all will surely miss this sweet, sweet soul who loved you all very much, more than you will ever know! Hang on to all the awesome memories that you have and look around for her, she will always show up... love never ends ❤️ we love you!*

Abby and Allen Tyner - September 25, 2025 at 12:08 AM

MG

“ Mrs. Denise was One in Millions and a True friend whom I was honored to know. Such a beautiful Lady inside and out. Praying for you all for comfort and strength during this time and peace in the days to come 🙏



Marie Gardner - September 24, 2025 at 11:03 PM

CG

“ Denise was a precious soul. She touched the lives of so many. Her professional career gave love, hope and courage to so many.

Cyndie Gerries - September 24, 2025 at 10:48 PM

MH

“ Willow and family, we are so sorry to hear about Ms. Denise! She made such an impact in our lives over the few short years we have known her! It was a privilege to know her. I pray that you all seek comfort from the same God she did! Only He can give you peace! Prayers for you all!
-Douglas, Miranda, Vance & Scarlet Horton



Miranda Horton - September 24, 2025 at 09:42 PM

“Denise Kelly made a difference in many lives. Mine was one. About 16 years ago, as a Rubicon official, she helped change the trajectory of my life by caring and guiding; I didn’t always get it right, but today I live in a season of harmony with God because of caring Good Samaritans like her. One of the greatest lessons she ever taught me was tough love. My wife, Amy, and I send condolences to her daughters and family, along with the love of the church congregations we both serve in ministry: Darlington Presbyterian Church (Amy) and Elim Methodist Church of Lamar/Oates (me).

For the family:

Everyone wants to be special and feel valued, and you all are. God created you with His own hand in your mother’s womb. Intricately and carefully, He formed you. God wanted you and wants you even now. Please don’t give up hope. He loves you and calls you His own (Isaiah 43:1–4).

We are all different, but being unlike someone else doesn’t mean there is something wrong with us; it means we are unique. I like being unique, because unique things are more valuable than duplicates or replicas.

God has His eye on you all the time (Psalm 32:8). He is always watching over you and taking care of you, even when you don’t recognize His working in your life. When you feel alone, you’re not. When you feel worthless, you’re not. God loves you so much that He sent His only Son to die for you and pay for your sins (John 3:16). When you wonder whether or not you have a purpose in life, the answer is yes. You are not an accident. God has a good plan for you!

“Father, I want to all to believe that they are special, even at times of loss. Help all of us, and this family, receive this truth by faith and value ourselves as You value us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Yours in Him,

Rev. Andy Williams and Amy W. Williams, FNP- C

**The family of Denise M. Kelly has been added to the Elim Methodist Church prayer list, where I pastor. - Andy*

Rev. Andy Williams - September 24, 2025 at 08:40 PM

JB

“ *Denise was a very special lady! Doing always for others! She will be missed by all that loved and knew her 😭*

Jill Beckham - September 24, 2025 at 08:15 PM

KL

“ *Praying for this precious family. Denise was a special lady who will be missed by many. Hold tight to wonderful memories shared by each of you. Love and Hugs, Kathy Lawhon*

Kathy Lawhon - September 24, 2025 at 07:44 PM

RS

“ *Our prayers are with your sweet family! LOVE you Anna Spencer*

Rose and Robert Steen



Rose Steen - September 24, 2025 at 07:20 PM

DC

“ Our sincere condolences to the family of Denise Kelley. May God comfort you all during this difficult time .



Dawn Holloman Crawford and Bill Crawford - September 24, 2025 at 07:08 PM

LL

“ Denise was such a beautiful, sweet person inside and out. She would do anything for anyone, anytime it was just who she was. A kind and sweet soul. I will miss knowing she's not in this world anymore but I know she is in the arms of our Lord and savior and back with Terry again
Sending love, hugs and prayers to all of you ❤️🙏



Lawrence, Cindy, Lance, Tyler&Liv Lowe - September 24, 2025 at 07:03 PM



Jeanette Blackmon

“ Jeanette Blackmon lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dorothy Denise Miller Kelly



Jeanette Blackmon - September 24, 2025 at 06:51 PM

VS

“ To the Kelly and Tyner Family, Joel and I are so sadden about your mom. She was the sweetest lady and I enjoyed our last visit at the lake. Always smiling. Please keep your family and friends close and may the Lord give you comfort and strength during this time and in the days ahead. We love you and God bless your family. 🙏



Vicky and Joel Segars - September 24, 2025 at 06:30 PM

TM

“ Our sincere condolences to all the family!
Trisha, Deke, Jenkins and Lawton
Montgomery



Trisha and Deke Montgomery - September 24, 2025 at 05:18 PM