



## Jerlene Elechia Williams-James

March 25, 1946 - January 1, 2022

### Jerlene Elechia Williams-James

Jerlene Elechia James, fondly known as Geraldine or Gerry, 75, of New Haven, CT passed away peacefully on January 1, 2022. Jerlene was born in Williamston, South Carolina on March 25, 1946. The sixth daughter of the late Lillie Florene Nash and Gordon Williams. She was predeceased by her older sisters, Dorothy Ann Williams and Lillie Sands-Hay, and her younger brother Gordon Timothy Williams.

Jerlene's family would relocate from Williamston, SC to the Fair Haven section of New Haven, CT. Here she would attend Cheever Elementary, Fair Haven Middle and graduate from Wilbur Cross High School.

In 1961, Jerlene was introduced to Willard "Pie" James Sr. by a mutual childhood friend, Willie Gulley. Their teenage friendship would eventually blossom into love. Jerlene and Willard wed on December 2, 1967. Jerlene became a member of Evers Memorial AME Zion Church, which would later become Shaw-St. Paul AME Zion Church. During her membership, she would actively serve on the church's Missionary Society.

Jerlene's love for God, family and community allowed her to open her heart and home to whomever crossed her path. The James' house became a place of refuge for many of the neighborhood children and adults. She welcomed

every person as part of her family.

In the early eighties, Jerlene decided to leave her job in manufacturing and open a home-based daycare center. Many of the daycare children and their families became an integral part of her life and remains a part of the James family to this day: The White Family, The Moore Family, The Flemings-Jones Family, The Battle-Sumrell Family and The Clayton Family to name just a few. Jerlene's legacy of love transcended a biological connection and allowed her to foster a countless number of children, accepting each as her own.

Jerlene will always be remembered for her soft-spoken nurturing spirit, her undeniable love to shop, her commitment to her husband and children, her willingness to answer your call in the wee hours of the morning, her strength and faith in the Lord, Our Savior Jesus Christ.

On the first night of the New Year, 2022, God saw fit to give Jerlene eternal peace with residency in heaven. To cherish her memory she leaves, her husband Willard, their children Willard Jr., Jacqueline, Latrice, Nicole, Michelle, Cameron, Mikesha, Kenisha, Michael, Tennise, Zoe, Sharric, Jamece, Travis, Justin Luciano and Brandon; daughters in-love: Shawna James and Tanisha Howard; sons in-love: Willie Darden, and Jiquay Madden; grandchildren: Paris, Asia, Willie, Chloe, Jordyn, Leah, Khalil, Maliya, Khalise, Cali-Marie, Greyson, Trent, Dyshant, and Sha'lese. Sisters Marva Bates, Harriett (Franklin) Howard, Gordell (Willie) Gulley, Sheila Cunningham, Delpha (Benjamin) Little, and Linda Williams, as well as a host of other loving family and friends.

May Jerlene's legacy of love always be intertwined with yours by your acts of kindness, patience, humility, and love.

# Cemetery Details

## Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue  
New Haven, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The New Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ  
285 Dixwell Ave  
New Haven, CT

## Funeral Service

JAN 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

The New Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ  
285 Dixwell Ave  
New Haven, CT

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jerlene Elechia Williams-James*

October 09, 2023 at 06:14 AM



“ *I so remember coming to St Paul and meeting Mrs James, her beautiful smile and her welcoming spirit, I remember thinking wow she has a lot of kids lol, she explained and I truly knew then she had a special kind of Love not just for children but everyone. She loved her church and her Pastor Rev Elvin Clayton which to today fills my heart with joy. She was a pillar in her community and she will sorely be missed by all who came to know her. Prayers to Bro James and her family*

**Rev Delories Patterson** - January 11, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



January 11, 2022 at 08:19 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



January 10, 2022 at 03:13 PM

SD

“ *Sonja and Drena purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



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**Sonja and Drena** - January 10, 2022 at 11:39 AM

RS

“ *Nikki, I met your mom years ago at Shaw Memorial. I pray that God will comfort you all during this time & as the years go by. Cling on to the memories, I am sure there are a lot! Prayers & condolences from me & my family.*



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**Renee Smith** - January 09, 2022 at 07:06 PM

BE

“ *To Chloe Evans,*

*May you find joy and peace in the memories of your beloved grandmother!*

*Love,*

*Benjamin Evans and McKoy Family*



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**Ben Evans** - January 09, 2022 at 05:32 PM

DA

“ Sending my prayers, condolences and thoughts to Jackie James, Willard James and the entire James family. May you find peace, comfort and solace as you share memories and celebrate the life of a Phenomenal Woman that has impacted and influenced the lives of so many. Sleep in Peace Ms. Gerry.



Denise Atkins - January 08, 2022 at 04:46 PM

CD

“ The Department of Children and Families Region 2 New Haven and Milford Offices sends our condolences to Willard James, Jacqueline James and the entire James family. We thank Jerlene for all the years she supported our agency by fostering 47 children and adopting 9. Sleep in Peace Gerry.



CT DCF - January 08, 2022 at 04:40 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.



January 08, 2022 at 12:22 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



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January 08, 2022 at 09:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



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January 08, 2022 at 03:33 AM

SD

“ Aunt Gerry, You Did It!

*God has given all of us unique and distinct talents and abilities. It is thus unfair to live life on this earth and not use those abilities to help the community of people who God has assigned to us. Aunt Gerry patiently used the gifts that God gave to her and she helped so many people, especially children. Even though she was a woman of few words, she spoke up for those who didn't have a voice. She advocated for them throughout her lifetime and defended their rights. She opened her arms to the poor and extended her hand to those in need. She was a woman of quietness, strength, and undisturbed composure. Her love for Uncle Pie, her kids, and her extended family was palpable. She was essentially the woman described in Proverbs 31. She was clothed with strength and dignity. She was able to laugh at the days to come. She spoke with wisdom, and faithful instruction was always on her tongue. She carefully watched over the affairs of her household and did not eat the bread of idleness. She got up while it was still dark and provided food for her family. Her arms were strong for every task. Her children arose and called her blessed, and Uncle Pie always praised her. She brought him good – not harm – all the days of her life. She was a composite portrait of a virtuous woman – a person of great character and high moral standards.*

*Aunt Gerry ran her race – she finished her course. God will give her in heaven the reward she has earned on this earth, and her works will continue to give God praise.*

*Love always,*

*Your Niece,  
Sabrina*

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**Sabrina Darden** - January 07, 2022 at 01:48 PM

NJ

“ *Nettie, Ashley and Jacob purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Jerlene Elechia Williams-James.*



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**Nettie, Ashley and Jacob** - January 07, 2022 at 01:10 PM