

*Celebrating the Life of  
Fannie Mae Jenkins*



**Sunrise: February 26, 1927**

**Sunset: June 14, 2022**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022 - 12:00 Noon**

**Old First Presbyterian Church**

**820 Broad Street • Newark, New Jersey**

# Obituary

Fannie Mae Jenkins was born to Annie Lee Green (née Watson) and Theodore Green, Sr. on February 26, 1927 in Newark, New Jersey. She was the third born of what would ultimately be 13 children, and she was the eldest surviving daughter, as their first child, Rena Mae, died when she was two years old.

She attended Eighteenth Avenue School through sixth grade, then went on to the Seventh Day Adventist school with her brother Theodore. Her first job was in a toy factory in Newark, which subsequently converted to making war materials as many manufacturers did during World War II. As Fannie told it, “we were making bombs.” Afterwards, she worked pressing clothes at Chink’s dry cleaners. Her siblings raved about what an excellent presser she was, and she would often press clothing for friends and family.

In 1945, when she was living on Fairview Avenue with her parents and siblings, a friend invited Fannie Mae and her sister Lucy (Cuteny) on a group date with a few young gentlemen. One of those gentlemen would become her future husband, Albert William Jenkins. They fell in love and married on June 16, 1947 and honeymooned in Niagara Falls. Their first son, Burrell William was born on June 5, 1948. On July 9, 1952 she gave birth to another son, Dwight.

During her marriage, Fannie Mae loved traveling with Albert, taking road trips to Lynchburg, South Carolina and Georgia to visit relatives. Her sisters, Jeanette and Doretha, who were nearly 20 years younger, remember that Albert and Fannie Mae would generously take them on trips as well. Fannie Mae and Albert were well knew for taking family along on trips also to the Bronx, White Plains, New Rochelle as well as taking her sons to amusement parks such as Coney Island, Palisades Park, and Olympic Park.

Fannie Mae was the ultimate caretaker. As the oldest daughter, she was a mother figure to her younger siblings, and stayed home with her own kids in their earliest years which, according to Dwight, was instrumental to their growth. “She always instilled in us right from wrong and taught us things at an early age – how to clean, wash dishes, iron and sew. She nursed us back to health. No matter what was wrong with us, she had the remedy.” In the final year of her mother’s life, Fannie Mae, along with her sisters, was dedicated to her care. Fannie Mae was also known to take care of her siblings’ kids for stretches of time, including her nephews

Mario, Vance, and Dorian, and the children of her cousin Sheila. She was famous for pressing and curling the hair of her sisters, cousins, nieces, and friends, and giving away jewelry and fine articles of clothing.

Fannie Mae took pride in her cooking, and everyone agreed her food was incredible. In 1965, she started working part-time as a cook in the Newark school system. Shortly after, she was promoted to Head Cook. She retired from the Newark Board of Education in 1990 and she enjoyed her retirement for 33 years.

As like her age, Fannie Mae was truly old school. She would cook and clean the house while listening to gospel music. She enjoyed reading the new papers daily and would read the Daily News, Star Ledger, Amsterdam News “African American newspaper of its time,” and the Newark Evening News at night. She also enjoyed playing cards on the weekend with her siblings.

Fannie Mae attended Central Presbyterian Church in Newark, where she was a Deaconess. For many years, Fannie Mae resided at Hayes Homes until moving to High Park Gardens co-op apartments on Somerset Street in 1966. She lived there for 42 years. In 2008 she moved to the JC White Senior Citizen building at 516-518 Bergen Street where she lived for 12 years. After two years in care facilities, she passed away in hospice on June 14th, 2022 at the age of 95.

Fannie Mae was predeceased by her mother, father, husband, son Burrell, grandchildren Keith Dent and Joy Lavonne Hill, and siblings Rena Mae, Theodore Green, Jr., Leroy Green, Sr., Audrey Jones, Roland Green, Sr., Earl Green, Hilton Green, Sr., Wesley Green, and Dorothy Gray. She is survived by her son Dwight Jenkins of Newark and his life partner Beverly El-Amin; her grandson Corey Chillious of Woodbridge, NJ; her siblings, Lucy Edwards of Philadelphia, Jeanette Oliver and her husband Harvey of Montclair, NJ, Doretha Brownlee of Virginia Beach, VA; her sister-in-law Willa Green of Westfield, NJ; and countless nieces, nephews, and cousins in which her feisty and independent spirit live.

# Order of Service

Scripture Reading  
Old Testament  
New Testament  
Leah Brownlee Taylor

Solo  
Precious Lord  
Patrina Burgess

Prayer of Consolation

Hymn  
Patrina Burgess

Acknowledgements

Obituary  
Doreen Oliver

Remarks  
Denise Holland

Eulogy  
Pastor Betty J. Tom

Benediction  
Pastor Betty J. Tom

Recessional

*Interment*  
Fairmount Cemetery  
Newark, New Jersey







## *I'm Free*

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call

I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it up with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much.

Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don's lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!

## *Acknowledgement*

*We would like to give our sincere thanks to all for  
you prayers, comforting words and  
acknowledgements during this most difficult time.*

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### Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
130 Plain Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE  
1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARER FUNERAL HOME  
37 Clinton Avenue  
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201-433-1000

