



Jane Ellen "Chris" Edgell

February 27, 1944 - March 11, 2026

Jane Ellen "Chris" Edgell, 82, was born in Battle Creek, MI on February 27, 1944. She lived in Battle Creek and East Leroy while growing up, attending the Battle Creek Bible Church. She graduated from Athens High School.

Jane moved to Chicago soon after graduation and she loved the city. She worked various jobs as a graphic designer, waitress, bartender, home health aide, and even drove a cab for a short time. Jane was artistic and enjoyed oil painting, especially in her retirement years. She was well read, wrote poetry, and enjoyed Scrabble.

Before her mother Betty passed away in 2006, and after years of prayer, Betty had the great joy of seeing Jane give her life to the Lord. Jane loved Jesus and He was her strength. She participated in Living Water Community Church in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago for a season and enjoyed helping with the Sonshine Group at Reba Place Church in Evanston. She delighted in leading songs and helping group members with transportation.

Jane died at home on March 11, 2026 from heart failure. She is survived by sisters Judi Johnson of Kansas City, MO, Betsy Schmidt of Waxahachie, TX and Becky Caneday of Taylors Falls, MN, and brother, John Edgell of Pahrump, NV. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Betty Edgell, and beloved nephew, Matthew Schmidt.

Memorial gifts may be given to Reba Place Church, 620 Madison St.,
Evanston, IL 60202 for the Sunshine Group.

Cemetery Details

Private

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

TG

“ Chris was an amazing individual. I first meet aunt "Chris" when I was 1. She taught me art and simple things, and more art! Her art spoke words! She worked with me doing art for years! Rest in Peace Aunt Chris!

Tasia Gilbert

Tasia Gilbert - April 16 at 11:25 PM

CT

“ Chris was one of my closest friends in the 1980s in the 1990s when I lived in Chicago. She was my dear friend she spoke highly of her family in Michigan and Texas. We met on Clark Street so long ago in 1985 I will cherish all the memories with Chris when she used to come to my house and hang out with me and my children and do artwork she was a joy to have around I will miss her I love you Chris I'm thinking of you in Heaven this this is Talli 😭

Cherie Talli - April 07 at 08:24 PM

SL

“ Chris and I had an uncommon friendship across our ages. We met at Living Water Community Church and would sit out on the benches at Loyola beach every few months to chat about life, politics and Jesus. When the weather was not so nice, she would invite me for tea. I appreciated her very direct way of communicating, never beating around the bush, and her humor. She truly loved Jesus and people from all walks of life. I pray her joy, love of Jesus and directness revealed God's love to those whom lives she touched. You will be remembered, Chris for your joy and love of Jesus. I will have a special cup of tea for you on Loyola beach this summer.

Sarah L - April 05 at 10:15 PM

BS

“ I have been so impressed that Jane was content with what she had even though it wasn't much. She would talk about saving money so she would always have her nest egg!

When Jane moved to Texas she was afraid of Matthew because he had outbursts. She grew to love him and felt so loved because Matt would squeal with delight every time she walked in the door! I picture Matt squealing when she entered heaven!

Our phone conversations were interesting with such random subjects! When she would ask what I thought, my reply was usually “no, I've never in my life even thought about that” and we'd laugh. She had so much time to think and was knowledgeable about many subjects. I'll miss those conversations.

She had been looking forward to heaven, seeing Jesus face to face, being reunited with family and having all her questions answered.

Betsy Schmidt - March 19 at 06:40 PM

AW

“ Aunt Jane always had a sweet smile, witty, gracious word for strangers she met about town. I used to wonder if it was a Chicago type friendliness but after more thought, it was a gift and a skill developed as a waitress. I never saw her working as a waitress, but I imagine she was well liked by the patrons; for her kindness and playful banter.

Jane was an artist and resourceful. She made colorful wooden blocks for my children. She also made doll clothes and a journal for a doll she gifted to my daughter. She gave generously.

It brings me great pleasure to think of Jane in heaven, fully whole, breathing deeply of love and light and life, seeing her Savior face to face and unhindered in the community of saints: imagine her hugging her mom, her dad, grandparents, my brother Matt free from sadness, pain, and heartache. Fully alive!

Amber Waldeier - March 12 at 04:26 PM