

## **Memorial Minute for Claire M. Davis (Broadmead):**

**January 4, 1919 – December 2, 2020**

**“Joyful Life, Joyful Soul”**

Claire was born Helena Claire Monce to Howard J. Monce and Helen Corinne Sparkes Monce in Cincinnati, Ohio. She and her brother grew up there. After high school, Claire attended the University of Cincinnati, where she met her late husband, Joseph Wilkins Davis, Jr., through the Wesley Foundation. She and Joe were married 68 years, until his death in 2009.

The couple lived in Jeffersonville, Indiana, during war time and then moved to Findlay in 1948. Claire worked in libraries and later at Crosley Radio during early WWII, and Joe worked for Cooper Tire and Rubber Company. They enjoyed raising their three children in Findlay: Judi C. Umaki (Gordon), Oregon; the late Robert M. Davis (Donna), California; and Sarah D. Hugus (Scott), Florida. The couple loved traveling to visit their three granddaughters, two great grandchildren, three nieces, and two nephews at their homes as well as one cousin in Washington State.

In 1969, meeting with interested friends in each other's homes to explore where they were being led spiritually, Claire and Joe became convinced Quakers. The gathering became a worship group under the care of North Columbus Friends, worshiping back and forth between Findlay, Bowling Green, and Bluffton. In 1974, the Davises facilitated and became charter members of Broadmead Monthly Meeting, (i.e., “broad meadow,” appropriate for the rich flat countryside of northwest Ohio.) The new MM became part of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. By the late 1970s and early 80s, Bluffton, Toledo, and Defiance had joined Findlay as Broadmead worship groups.

Claire made a practice of immersing herself in helping others, and in Friends she became deeply involved in matters from the monthly meeting level to yearly meeting, to Friends World Committee for Consultation. She and Joe held worship in their Findlay home for several years. She served as Assistant Clerk to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and then as Clerk in 1982–83. Traveling to Kenya for FWCC, she and Joe stayed at the home of the Luvaga family, where they established a close relationship that led to sponsoring Ebbie Luvaga to come to the States for her education. The Davises considered Ebbie their “adopted daughter” from then on.

We in Broadmead and LEYM who were privileged to know Claire have many loving memories of her. She was a wonderfully active participant in life and in her community, looking for where she could be of help, where to put “the stubborn ounces of her weight” to make things better for people. She loved to sing, priding herself on the long list of hymns and camp songs she knew. Physically active, Claire volunteered in Girl Scouting, including a program to teach people with Down syndrome to swim.

A typical example of Claire's faithfulness was her habit of regularly visiting and cheering an elderly Friend who was struggling in her declining years. Claire was particularly known for loving and being loved by children, often seen at Friends' gatherings walking hand in hand with children. Her always-ready smile and welcoming arms made her a wide network of young and old friends alike. The Davises enjoyed supporting Girl Scouts long after their daughters married and left home. Claire's and Joe's passings were sad losses for Friends, but they will both be long loved and remembered as “good and faithful servants.”