



Melanie Gail Hiatt

January 20, 1943 - May 7, 2025

Melanie Gail Conner Hiatt, a cherished wife, mother, “MeeMaw,” and talented musician, passed away on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. She was 82 years old. Born on January 20, 1943, to Norwood and Thelma Conner, Gail grew up in a home filled with Faith, Love, and music. Her passion for music shaped much of her life and legacy. She followed in her mother’s footsteps and taught piano for 43 years, both at home and at Geraldine School.

She Lovingly taught generations of students, instilling not just skill, but also a lifelong appreciation for the beauty and Joy of music. Many would say, though, that those lessons were more than just learning about notes ... they were learning about life. Her piano bench became a haven for heartfelt conversations, gentle guidance, and the comfort of a listening ear.

On March 31, 1962, Gail married the Love of her life and her best friend, James Lamar Hiatt. They shared 63 years of marriage – a lifetime built on Love, Faith, and steadfast commitment. Together, they had five children – Melanie, Christopher, Keith, Franklin, and Sherrie – and created a home filled with Love. Through every season of life, they worked side by side – sacrificing, providing, and pouring themselves into their family and their Faith. Their partnership was a true example of Love in action, rooted in Grace and strengthened by God.

Gail faithfully led music not only within the walls of Geraldine First United Methodist Church, but also on countless Emmaus Walks, where her songs became sacred threads in the Spiritual journeys of so many. Her gift for music

was both a Ministry and a Calling – offering comfort, Joy, and reverence wherever she played. Her signature song, Holy Ground, became a powerful reflection of the space she created through her music – where people felt the presence of God and the Peace of being deeply known.

It was often said, only half-jokingly, that between Gail and her mother – both beloved piano teachers – they played for every wedding and funeral on Sand Mountain. Their music marked the most meaningful moments of life for generations, becoming a lasting part of the community’s collective memory. Gail is preceded in death by her parents, Norwood and Thelma Conner; her brother, Paul Cleburne Conner, her infant son, Christopher, and her daughter, Melanie; and she now joins them in eternal rest. She is survived by her husband, Lamar, her sons, Keith (Debbie) and Franklin, her daughter, Sherrie (Danielle), her grandchildren, Chris (Katy), Nicole, Cody (Savannah), Lindsey, and Will, and her great grandchildren, Conner, Cam, Claire, Lucie, and Lucas, and her sister-in-law, Dixie Conner.

She is also lovingly remembered by her son-in-law, Paul, who remained a devoted part of her life long after the passing of her daughter, Melanie. In recent years, Teresa and her granddaughter, Sofia, became a beautiful extension of that bond.

In many ways, she has been quietly writing her obituary for years – through every life she touched, every student she encouraged, every hymn she played, and every soul she made feel seen, heard, and deeply Loved. Her legacy isn't written in headlines, but in the hearts of those who knew her – where her kindness, wisdom, and unwavering Faith will live on. She leaves behind a world noticeably quieter without her music and hearts that will miss her more than words can express.

She lived every day with Heaven in mind and now – Praise God – her Faith is whole.

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”

She will have a Celebration of Life Service at Liberty Baptist Church at Painter

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 1 p.m. Friends can visit from 10:30 until service time at the church. She will be laid to rest at the Geraldine Cemetery. Bro. Chris Andrews and Dr. Robin Scott will be officiating.

Arrangements are entrusted to Albertville Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Geraldine Cemetery

Hwy 75
Geraldine, AL

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 12. 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Liberty Baptist Church at Painter
Hwy 75 N.
Crossville, AL 35962

Celebration Of Life

MAY 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Liberty Baptist Church at Painter
Hwy 75 N.
Crossville, AL 35962

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Melanie Gail Hiett.*



October 14, 2025 at 04:45 PM



“ *Celestial Love was purchased for the family of Melanie Gail Hiett.*



May 13, 2025 at 08:51 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Melanie Gail Hiett.*

May 13, 2025 at 08:51 AM



“ *Gail, There is no doubt that you are singing, smiling and playing the piano in Heaven right now! We had such wonderful times serving on Emmaus Walks together with you and Lamar. You and I loved hearing all those men sing! Lane and I love you and Lamar. Thank you for loving us and sharing your gifts with so many all these years. Till we get to sing together again... Lee Berry ❤️🎵🙏*

Lee Berry - May 12, 2025 at 03:29 PM

JL

“ Sherrie, your mother was a beautiful example of love and grace. She was kind and welcoming to everyone who was blessed enough to meet her and spend time with her. My prayers are with the whole family, especially your sweet daddy. I love you. ❤️

Judy Letson - May 12, 2025 at 10:25 AM

LS

“ Love, Paul, Teresa and Sofia. purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Melanie Gail Hiett.



Love, Paul, Teresa and Sofia. - May 10, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JP

“ JIM AND SHARON PORTER purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melanie Gail Hiett.



JIM AND SHARON PORTER - May 10, 2025 at 09:58 AM

JP

“ JIM AND SHARON PORTER planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melanie Gail Hiett.

JIM AND SHARON PORTER - May 10, 2025 at 09:58 AM

FC

“ *Family of Paul Conner purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Melanie Gail Hiatt.*



Family of Paul Conner - May 08, 2025 at 04:25 PM