

Life is not a journey to the grave
with the intention of arriving safely
in a pretty and well-preserved body,
but rather to skid in broadside,
thoroughly used up, totally worn out,
and proclaiming, "Wow, what a ride!!!"



"When I'm old I'm never going to say,
'I didn't do this' or, 'I regret that.'
I'm going to say, 'I don't regret a damn thing.
I came, I went, and I did it all.'"
—Kim Basinger



"I have loved living, and
I am totally spoiled!"
—Sugar-pi Wiedeburg

Thank you for your prayers and presence today.
May God bless you.

The family of Sugar-pi Wiedeburg



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Ella Louisa "Sugar-pi"
Wiedeburg*

BORN APRIL 28
ENTERED INTO REST APRIL 20, 2026

St. Pete First United Methodist Church
June 27, 2026 – 11:00 am
Officiants: Rev. Carey Taylor, Rev. Andy Oliver,
Rev. David Franks





WHAT SHALL WE GIVE THE CHILDREN?

It seems certain that they will travel roads
we never thought of; navigate strange seas, cross
unimagined boundaries, and glimpse horizons beyond our
power to visualize. What can we give them to take
along? For the wild shores of Beyond, no toy or
bauble will do. It must be something more; constructed
of stouter fabric discovered among the
cluttered aisles and tinselled bargain counters of experience,
winnowed from what little we have
learned. It must be devised out of responsibility
and profound caring—a homemade
present of selfless love. Everything changes but the
landscapes of the heart.

What shall we give the children?

Attention, for one day it will be too late.
A sense of value. The inalienable place of the individual
in the scheme of things, with all
that accrues to the individual—self-reliance,
courage, conviction, self-respect, and respect for others.
A sense of humor. Laughter leavens life.
The meaning of discipline. If we falter at discipline,
life will do it for us.
The will to work. Satisfying work is the lasting joy.
The talent for sharing; for it is not so much
what we give as what we share.
The love of justice. Justice is the bulwark against violence
and oppression and the repository
of human dignity.
The passion for truth, founded on precept and example.
Truth is the beginning of every good thing.
The power of faith, engendered in mutual trust. Life without
faith is a dismal dead-end street.
The beacon of hope, which lights all darkness.
The knowledge of being loved beyond demand or
reciprocity, praise or blame; for those so
loved are never lost.

What shall we give the children?

The open sky, the brown earth, the leafy tree, the golden
sand, the blue water, the stars in their courses,
and the awareness of these. Birdsong, butterflies, clouds, and
rainbows. Sunlight, moonlight, firelight.
A large hand reaching down for a small hand; impromptu
praise, an unexpected kiss, a straight answer.
The glisten of enthusiasm and a sense of wonder. Long days
to be merry in and nights without fear.
The memory of a good home.

—Attributed to Margaret Cousins,
from the December 1964 McCall's

JUNE 27, 2026 – 11:00 AM

Ella Louisa "Sugar-pi" Wiedeberg

Prelude —Rick Nay, organ

Entrance of the Family

Song of Gathering

"Ave Maria" —Noelle Williams, Granddaughter, soloist

Gathering of the People

Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come again in glory. As in baptism Sugar-pi put on Christ, so in Christ may she be clothed with glory. Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed; but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Those who have this hope purify themselves, as Christ is pure.

The Word of Grace and Greeting

Rev. Carey Taylor, Pastor of Community Life, St. Pete First UMC

Song of Celebration

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

—Sugar-pi's Great-grandchildren

Prayer — Rev. David Franks, Allendale UMC

God's Word of Hope

Isaiah 40:28-31 NRSV —Dorothea Hecht, Daughter

Psalms 23 NRSV —Zachary Bowers, Grandson

John 14:1-4 NRSV —Gretchen Williams Frieling, Granddaughter

Song of Preparation

"How Great Thou Art" (Hymn # 77)

Words of Remembrance

Sarah Williams, Daughter

Larry Williams, Son-in-law

Words of Celebration and Life

Rev. Andy Oliver, Allendale UMC

Prayer of Commendation —Rev. Carey Taylor

Song of Reflection

"Amazing Grace" (Hymn # 378 verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

"Shall We Gather at the River"

Thank you for joining us today. Please join the family for a reception in the Fellowship Hall following today's service.

Ella Louisa “Sugar-pi” Wiedeburg

Vice President of the United Methodist Women (Tampa District), and served as a Sunday school teacher (First United Methodist Church, St. Petersburg).

Sugar-pi approached life with childlike wonder and pizzazz. Despite her small size, she carried a mighty punch. She stood firmly by the statement that “true ladies from the South never tell their age.” She served as the ultimate Matriarch of her family, always encouraging her daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to “stay true to yourself.” As she exits the stage into the wings of heaven, may we all remember her tenacity, grit, fervor, and the sparkle that was undeniably hers.

Sugar-pi is survived by her loving and devoted daughters, Dorothea Hecht and Sarah Williams; son-in-law, Larry Williams; seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, June 27th, at 11am at First United Methodist Church in St. Petersburg, FL. In lieu of flowers, she would be honored to have donations made to The United Methodist Church’s United Women of Faith (uwfaith.org or 212.682.3633), the SPCA Tampa Bay (spcatampabay.org or 727.586.3591), or the Heifer International (www.heifer.org or 855.948.6437).



Sugar-pi Wiedeburg was born in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, to William and Dorothea Wiedeburg, on April 28th. Her birth during the Taurus month, the “Bull of the Zodiac,” set the groundwork for her extraordinary life and character. Originally named Ella Louisa, her sister, Jacquelyn, coined the name “Sugar-pi,” when she was brought home from the hospital, and this became her endearing pen name forevermore.

Growing up on a farm, Sugar-pi had a fervor for the land. Her Mama and Daddy were the pillars of the United Methodist Church and cherished faith, family, and the farm. There was always a setting at their table for someone who was hungry. Her parents were designated as Kentucky Colonels, the highest honor bestowed by the Governor of Kentucky, recognizing their service to the community and to the state. Surrounded by Polled Hereford cattle, fields of corn, and stray cats, childhood on the farm with her sister (Jacquelyn) and brothers (Roger and John) helped shape her into the tenacious young woman she became.

Sugar-pi was an artist in everything she did. Her college journey started at Bethel College where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority and the women’s tennis team. Sugar-pi continued her college education at the University of Louisville. Her academic achievements included induction into Phi Kappa Phi (Honorary National Scholastic Society) and Chi Delta Phi (Honorary National Creative Writing Society). She completed her degree at the University of South Florida where she attained a B.A. in Art Education. It was here that she refined her skills in silkscreen and charcoal. During her time at USF, she served as an elected member of the Advisory Committee to the University President, Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee, and Chairperson of the Equal Opportunity Committee.

Her creativity and design were honored when she received two certificates of recognition by the Governor of Florida for creation of the "Lights Out" Decal (used on all USF light switches) and SUNCOM Decal (used on all USF telephones). She rooted for the USF Bulls and any team from "My Old Kentucky Home" until the day that she died. The word "spirited" doesn't quite do Sugar-pi justice.

In addition to art, teaching was a lifelong passion. After earning a master's degree in education and administration, Sugar-pi worked as a teacher for children with special needs. She served on the Girl Scouts District Board of Directors and as the District Cookie Chairman. As a side project, she started a children's manners class, teaching etiquette to the next generation. Her didactic passions extended beyond the classroom as she spent time teaching English as a second language and tutoring. These sessions often included homemade banana bread and her family recipe of butterfinger cookies. After retiring from the classroom, she served as a law clerk at her daughter, Sarah's, law practice for over three decades.

Her proudest achievement was the birth of her two daughters, Dorothea Boulter and Sarah Elizabeth, who brought so much light to her life. Raising them on her own, she played many roles in their upbringing, but being their Mom was what she cherished the very most. Sugar-pi gained a son through Sarah's marriage to Larry. This relationship was one of the cornerstones of her life until her last minutes. While the phrase, "Let's do whatever you think," was not in Sug's typical vocabulary, this was a regular statement when Larry was around. They cherished time together watching shows (Family Feud, Bull and NCIS), rooting on Kentucky teams, and indulging in Wendy's Frosties. She would be the first to note that she taught Larry everything he knows about "salve" while he was in medical school, and that Larry saved her life a time or two (or one hundred).

Sugar-pi rooted for the underdog through and through. This even bled into her method of choosing her furry companions. She always chose the runt of the litter. Favorite runts who are dancing at heaven's gates welcoming Sugar-pi include Bow-Bow, Ping Chi, Chii Sai, Miss Tweed, and Cinder Ella, among others. Bonnie Bell survived Sugar-pi and was her tried and true Scottie dog until the end.

One of Sugar-pi's greatest passions was dance. She was crowned "Queen of the Tiny Tots" at age 2 in Hopkinsville. She was chosen to open the Walt Disney World Polynesian Resort (dancing the Samoan Sasa) alongside her daughters. She spent every December on the stage playing the Grandmother in The Nutcracker. She tap danced her entire life. She also was a proud snare drummer in the Second Time Arounders Marching Band.

Sugar-pi's love of life emanated in all things big and small—think tea parties, sequined hats, and tap shoes. She loved her home, "Wee House," and commissioned her painter to add glitter to her exterior paint color. She crafted a mailbox where the neighborhood imaginary fairies dropped correspondence for her girls growing up. Her trademark pickup trucks across the years all had names. "The Brat" followed by "The General" were two of her favorites. She loved all types of games. Frequently, she carried an entire croquet set in the back of her truck, just in case the conditions aligned for a game. Her purse was chock full of "tinies" (tiny toys, tiny dolls, and tiny Uno cards) to keep her daughters, and then her grandchildren, and then her great-grandchildren entertained. She was poised to instill her "love of the game" in others. She was endearingly known as "Gram" to her grandchildren and all of their friends.

Her family finds comfort following her passing, reflecting on Sugar-pi's impervious faith. She actively engaged in her church community her entire life. She was elected President of the Wesleyan Service Guild (Brandon, FL),