



Hazel M. Leatherman, 95, of Ellington, MO previously of Toronto, KS passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2021. She was born Hazel Marie Thomas to Roy and Irma (Armstrong) Thomas, in Danville, VA on January 19, 1926, the oldest of five children. The family soon moved to Kannapolis, NC.

Following high school graduation, Hazel attended Pilgrim Bible College in Kernersville, NC. She transferred to Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), obtaining a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1954.

She taught first grade for four years, and then sensed a call to Northern Rhodesia, (now Zambia). She served at Chabbaboma and Siachitema Missions with the Wesleyan Church from 1959 to 1964, training local educators how to teach elementary school.

Returning to the States, Hazel worked for the Pilgrim Holiness Church and became the Dean of Women at Bartlesville Bible College. While taking a quartet from the college to a church in Toronto, KS she met the minister, Oliver "Bud" Leatherman. Hazel and Bud were married in Kannapolis on June 9, 1966.

Hazel continued to teach, but was also studying toward ordination. She was ordained as a minister in the Wesleyan Church in June 1968 and served with Bud until their retirement in 1993. Bud passed away on March 17, 2018.

Hazel was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a brother and a sister. She is survived by two stepchildren, two step granddaughters, and many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the North Kannapolis (NC) Wesleyan with burial in the Carolina Memorial Park.