– Pallbearers –

Deacons, Godsons and Nephews

– Flower Bearers –

Willing Workers, Deaconess and Friends

– Honorary Flower Bearers –

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

– Interment –

Westview Cemetery
700 Westview Drive
Auburn, AL 36832

– Acknowledgment –

The family of the late Mrs. Emma Jean Dodson Foster acknowledges with grateful appreciation all acts of kindness, prayers, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and words of comfort extended to us during her extended illness and our time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

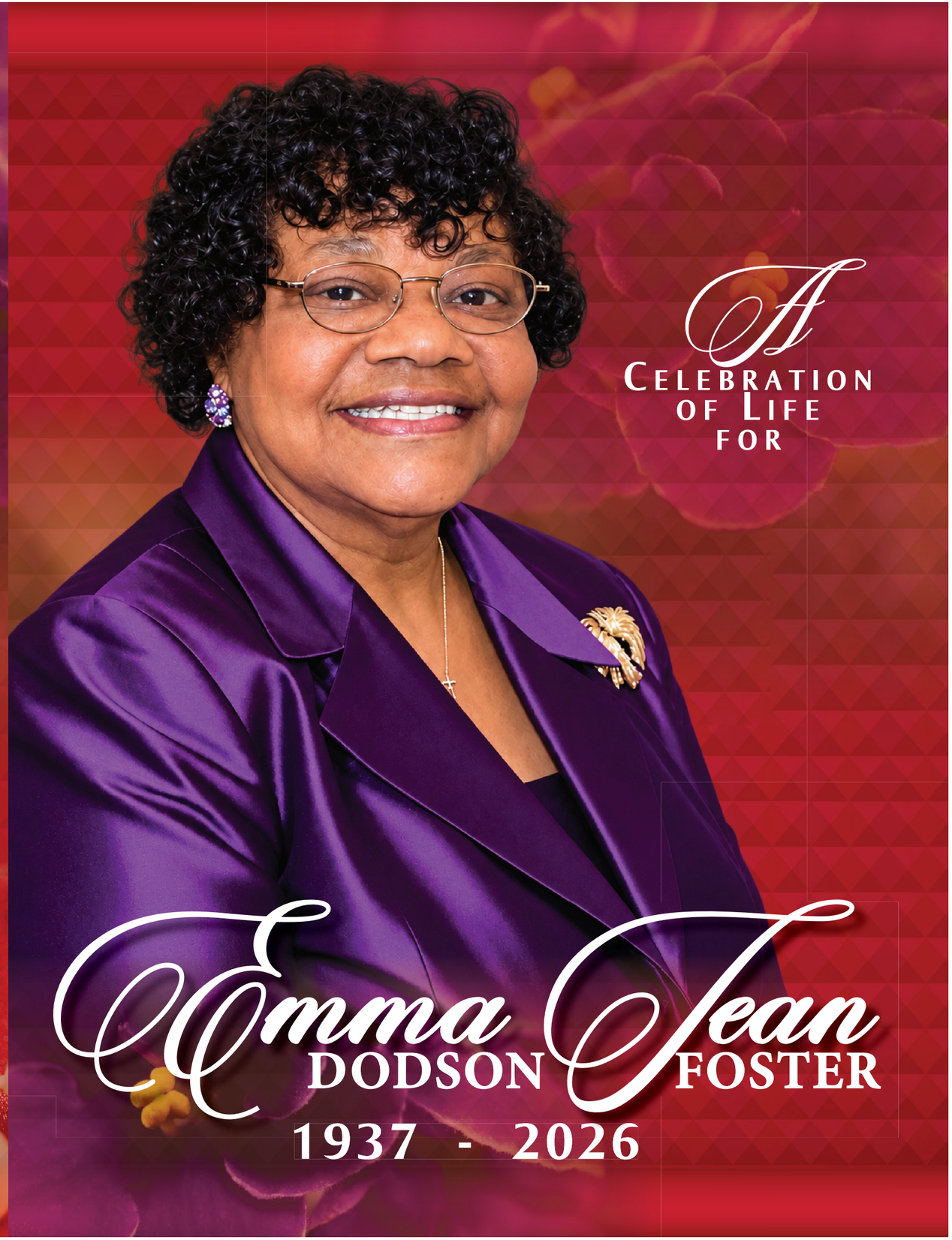
IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.

Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

Harris Funeral Home
Sympathetic, Courteous & Professional Service
515 South Sixth Street
Opelika, Alabama 36801
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

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A Celebration of Life for

Emma Jean Dodson Foster

1937 - 2026

– The Obituary –

Mrs. Emma Jean Dodson Foster, daughter of the late Mr. Grover Phillip and Mrs. Marie Jones Dodson, was born July 25, 1937, in Cartersville, Georgia.

She confessed Christ and united with White Street Missionary Baptist Church in Auburn, Alabama where she served as a Deaconess, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Director, Missionary Society, Willing Workers and loved singing in the choir.

Affectionately known as “Aunt Jean and Emma Jean” by her family and friends, Emma graduated from Summer Hill High School in Cartersville, Georgia. Having a strong desire to pursue a career in nursing, she enrolled in a nursing program at Battey State Hospital, now known as Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital, where she earned her certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Battey held a special place in her heart, as it was there that she met the love of her life, Ralph.

Emma dedicated many years to caring for others as an LPN at John Andrew Hospital, where she also assisted with the delivery of babies throughout Macon, Lee, and surrounding counties. Her commitment to serving others extended beyond nursing, as she later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Troy University.

A devoted advocate for her community, Emma tirelessly worked to make a difference in the lives of others. She generously volunteered at local food banks, enjoyed visiting and spending time with the elderly. Emma was also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, an organization whose commitment to public service reflected her own dedication to helping others.

Within her family, Emma Jean was lovingly regarded as the matriarch, a source of strength, wisdom, and unwavering support. She played an instrumental role in the lives of her nieces and nephews, offering guidance, encouragement, and love throughout the years. An avid reader, Emma valued knowledge and lifelong learning. Through her compassion, service, and devotion to family, she left a lasting impression on all who knew and loved her.

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, she departed this life at her home in Auburn, Alabama. She was preceded in death by: three brothers, Albert Dodson, Freddie Dodson and Harvey Dodson.














































She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband of 66 years, Ralph Foster of Auburn, AL; one daughter, Dr. RaEll Foster of Phenix City, AL; five sisters, Annette Canty of Cartersville, GA, Betty (Charles) Masten of Stafford, VA, Bertha (Steve) Paul of Phenix City, AL, Mae Helen Word Trice of Canton, GA and Gladwyn "Peggy" Dodson Davis of Columbus, GA; one brother, Phillip "Dooley" Dodson, of Cartersville, GA; one aunt, Vivian Dodson of Hamilton, GA; four devoted nieces, Lacey Seabrook of Jonesboro, GA, Paula Canty Cobb of Duluth, GA, Kelli Masten of Stafford, VA and Artrelle "Duchess" Williams of Atlanta, GA; a devoted nephew, Dr. Tharis Word of Cartersville, GA; five special ladies she considered as daughters, Vanessa Echols, Anita Pinnock both of Auburn, AL, Ternesa Campbell Cooper of Locust Grove, GA, Suzette Williams of Opelika, AL and Valerie Smith of Washington, DC; four caring and devoted godsons, Eugene Harris of Tallahassee, FL, Kenneth (Jessica) Samuel of Opelika, AL, Dr. Kent Smith of Omaha, NE and Garnet Paul of Newport News, VA; a goddaughter, Kristian Samuel of Atlanta, GA; a god-granddaughter, Aquarius Shawnta Card of Atlanta, GA; special friends, Mary Echols, Tish Chambliss, Veronica Jackson and Dr. Harriet Billups all of Auburn, AL; devoted caregivers, Gwendolyn Rea and Annie "Lisa Spinks" Dowdell both of Auburn, AL; a dedicated domestic interior and exterior magician, Shirley Rowell of Auburn, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, The Auburn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., White Street Baptist Church family and many friends.

– No Tears Past the Gate –

Someone new has entered
Our eternal home above.
The Heavenly gate has opened wide,
To welcome the one you love.

We cannot help the tears that fall,
Our hearts need time to grieve.
When earthly life has ended
And a loved one has to leave.
Yet, even in the saddest time,
We know our Savior lives.
And we can trust completely
In the promise that He gives.

Someday, in a glad reunion with the Lord,
Our loved ones wait …
To welcome us with joy
And no more tears beyond the gate!

– A Love That Will Forever Remain –

Some lives are beautiful blessings,
Too precious for words to convey,
They leave a light within our hearts
That time can never take away.
And though we knew this day would come,
Our hearts were not prepared,
To say goodbye to someone
Whose love was always there.

You walked through life with purpose,
With faith to guide your way,
And showed us what it meant to serve
Through kindness every day.
From songs of praise to lessons taught,
Your love for God shone through,
And every life you touched was blessed
By the goodness found in you.

With healing hands and a caring heart,
You answered those in need,
And gave your time so selflessly
Through every thoughtful deed.
In service to your community,
Through sisterhood and care,
You offered hope and lifted hearts
With compassion beyond compare.

You were the heart of our family,
Our wisdom, strength, and guide,
The one who stood beside us
With arms stretched open wide.
To many, you were Aunt Jean,
To others, Emma Jean,
But to each of us who loved you,
You meant more than words could mean.

A devoted wife, a loving mother,
A sister, an aunt, and friend,
You gave a love so genuine,
A love that knew no end.
For sixty-six years, you shared a bond
Built on devotion, faith, and trust,
A beautiful example of lasting love
That will always live in us.

We'll miss your voice, your laughter,
The warmth of your embrace,
The wisdom in your gentle words,
The kindness in your face.
And though the days ahead may change,
One truth will always be,
The memories we made together
Will remain our treasured legacy.

If love alone could keep you here,
You never would have gone,
For the place you hold within our hearts
Will forever carry on.
We cannot understand God's timing,
Or why we had to part,
But we thank Him for the gift of you
And the love you placed in every heart.

So rest in peace, our precious loved one,
Your earthly labor is complete,
You've walked by faith, you've served with love,
Now rest at our Savior's feet.
No more pain and no more sorrow,
No more burdens left to bear,
Just the everlasting promise
Of God's tender, loving care.

Though your earthly journey has ended,
Your love will forever remain,
In every heart you've touched,
In every life you've changed.
And until we meet in Heaven,
Where sorrow is no more,
We'll carry your love within us,
Until we're together once more.

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family

























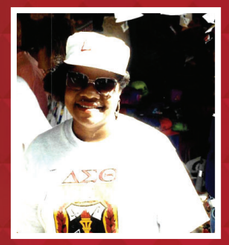




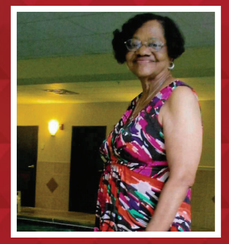
























– The Order of Service –

Thursday, October 15, 2026 | 1:00 p.m.

White Street Missionary Baptist Church
535 Carlisle Drive | Auburn, Alabama 36832

Reverend Jamal Oliver, Officiating

Processional ..... **Clergy and Family**
"Amazing Grace"

Scripture Readings:
Old Testament ..... **Reverend Johnny Green**
New Testament ..... **Reverend Mark X. Lee**

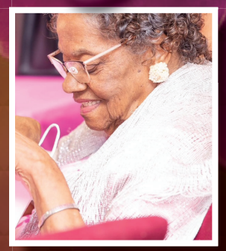
Prayer of Comfort ..... **Reverend Chris Jackson**

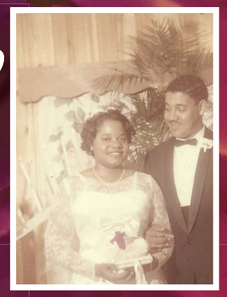
Musical Selection ..... **Earnestine Robinson**
"It Is Well With My Soul"

Eulogy ..... **Reverend Jamal Oliver**

Recessional ..... *"Soon and Very Soon"*

Family
































Memories