

Special Remembrance of Antonina Lutsyk at Presbyterian Church

We had a celebration of the life of Antonina Lutsyk on January 3rd during morning worship. Antonina was the mother of Lyuda Hupalo and the grandmother of Sofiya Hupalo, who was our pianist at First Presbyterian Church in State Center for some time, prior to her leaving Iowa to attend the University of Minnesota. The following is a note from Sofiya telling us about her grandmother. Our expression of love and sympathy goes out to the family from our church family.

The following is a note written by Sofiya, "My grandmother, Antonina Lutsyk, was born in 1931 in the countryside of Eastern Ukraine to a family of farmers. She was the oldest of three siblings; her brother and sister still live in the area where they were born. Because of her upbringing, she loved nature, enjoyed gardening, growing vegetables, and being out of doors. During WWII, when she was 12 years old, East Ukraine was taken over by the Nazis. She was forced to do manual labor for their forces and the Nazi soldiers constantly monitored her family. After graduating from college with a degree in finance and banking, she moved to the western part of Ukraine to work, where

she continued to live for the rest of her life. She married my grandfather at age 24 and had two beautiful children (one being my mother Lyuda), while continuing to work for 30 years until retirement. My grandmother was a great caretaker and especially selfless when it came to family. As children, my sister and I spent each summer with her. She would always keep us entertained in the city by taking us to the lake, parks, and markets and to the country where she had a summerhouse. My greatest memories come from playing in her gardens, picking berries, flowers, and harvesting vegetables. We will always remember her and everything she has done for our family. My mother loves the quote "The beauty of love lives on in memories, in tears, and in our hearts.""

Sofiya and her mother, Lyuda, were regular attendees of our church in State Center for two years. They drove from Ames on Sundays, and made a special trip to attend the Rose Festival, enjoying this community very much. Myron, Lyuda, and their family were with us for worship on Sunday and Sofiya played an offertory piano solo.