



Emily McLean

February 14, 1996 - October 22, 2022

Emily Katherine (Meinerding) McLean was released from the clutches of illness and into the presence of our loving God on October 22, 2022 after a 10-month battle with glioblastoma. She was 26. Loved by all who knew her, we remember her as pure, radiant light, able to bring undeniable brightness to an aching world.

Emily was the cherished daughter of Mark and Deb Meinerding, making her arrival on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1996. She spent her early years in Cincinnati, followed by five years in Arkansas when the family moved. Other than her four years in college, Emily has since lived in Cincinnati, a city whose beauty she taught everyone to see. Emily graduated in 2018 from Lipscomb University where she studied acting and dance. Also in 2018, on a warm June day, she married her high school sweetheart, Myles McLean, her steadfast advocate and best friend.

Emily is preceded in death by her paternal grandmother, Helen Meinerding, and maternal grandfather, David Emmert. Her loss is grieved by all who love her, particularly her beloved husband Myles, her parents Mark and Deb Meinerding, and her three younger siblings, Eric, Lucas, and Rasika Meinerding, her two older siblings, Brad (Sarah) Meinerding and Katie (Dan) Meinerding Lello and their brother Jacob Collier and their mother Karen (Jamie) Collier, her nephews, Avery and Owen Lello, her grandmother Joyce

(Emmert) Rudnicki, her grandfather Robert Meinerding, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws and dear friends.

Emily was an artist in every sense of the word. A gifted actor, graceful dancer, soulful singer, talented maker, and honest writer, she let her light shine on stage and off. As a homeschool student, she danced ballet and worship dance, competed in NCFCA speech and debate tournaments, played the cello, and acted in community theater productions.

Emily was an extraordinary storyteller. She embodied every role she played from Mr. Tumnus in a children's production of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* to her roles in professional theaters as Abigail Williams in *The Crucible* and Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*. Recently, she served as the Education & Outreach Director for The Story Collective, a performing arts initiative.

A friend to all, everyone who met Emily felt a special connection with her. She had an unfailing sense of humor and an easy laugh. Emily's joy brought people together. She hosted beautiful gatherings. She crafted handmade gifts. She asked people what they needed. She listened. She chose her words carefully, and she spoke with profound wisdom.

Emily had a heart for children, and her gentle, playful spirit guided the next generation. In the past four years, she worked as a virtual English tutor, a dance instructor, and a preschool teacher. Emily especially loved teaching ballet and worship dance to young girls at Christian Dance Alliance, where she was a beloved mentor and choreographer. From her students to her nephews, she made every child she encountered feel seen, special, and loved.

Above all else, Emily was a follower of Jesus Christ, the source of her light.

That light was only magnified in the face of cancer. In February 2022, just a month after her diagnosis, she led a worship night where she proclaimed Christ's victory over illness and death. She lived fully after receiving a short prognosis, traveling with Myles to Hawaii and to England, where they renewed their wedding vows. She generously shared her story on CaringBridge and social media, simultaneously proclaiming God's goodness and writing with searing honesty about the difficulty of her journey. She knew that God can handle our every raw, painful emotion. And she knew that He would ultimately heal her, on this side of heaven or the next.

While the world will forever be dimmer without Emily in it, her light lives on in the countless lives she touched. We take comfort in knowing she is dancing and singing once more in the throne room of the Almighty God.

A natural burial service will be held privately for immediate family at Heritage Acres Memorial Sanctuary on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. On November 19, 2022 a Celebration of Life service will be held for the public at New City Presbyterian Church in Norwood, where she and Myles attended. Service will begin at 3:00 PM with an open house to follow at Redtree Art Gallery and Coffee Shop at 6:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, Emily's family has requested that anyone who wishes to express their condolences would consider making a donation to the studio Emily taught at (and was a student of), Christian Dance Alliance. Gifts may be given electronically (christiandancealliance.com), or checks addressed to Christian Dance Alliance and mailed to 4063 Saint Andrews Court, Mason, OH 45040 (please reference "Scholarship Fund").

And finally, Emily's family encourages you to learn more about her journey via her CaringBridge site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/emilymclean/journal>.

Previous Events

Memorial Service and Celebration of Life

NOV **19**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

New City Presbyterian Church
4400 Floral Ave
Norwood , OH

Tribute Wall

TB

“ Praying for peace and strength during this time. May God hold Myles and her families in His mighty hand.

Tammy Burk - October 30, 2022 at 01:45 PM

RL

“ I had the privilege of appearing in a community theater production with Emily nine years ago. She was one of the sweetest, kindest, most talented, and overall wonderful people I've ever met. The world is a better place for her having been here and far worse for her passing.

Ray Lebowski - October 27, 2022 at 03:11 PM

DL

“ My heart grieves, but my soul rejoices in that Emily is now in the presence of our LORD. May her life continue to impact those of us who are left here. We extend deepest prayers, thoughts and sympathies to Myles and her family.

Don Lusk - October 26, 2022 at 11:38 AM

SS

“ Extending my deepest condolences to Myles, Emily's parents and her family. When angels fly away, they leave us distraught with an inconsolable loss. May the lives Emily touched continue to be impacted by her kindness and warmth.

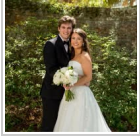


Soma Sengupta - October 26, 2022 at 06:20 AM

SH

Rest In Peace Angel Lady. I did not know you. Yet I felt I I knew you. Your memory is a blessing for all lives you touched.
Stuart Hodesh

Stuart Hodesh - October 26, 2022 at 11:55 AM



“ *I did not know Emily, but I have been so touched reading the testimony of her life. What a testament to her life was and will continue to be to the compassionate God she served. I am praying for her husband and family and that many more would come to know Him through her and her husband's story.*

Chloe Fontana - October 25, 2022 at 06:54 PM

SJ

“ *Steve & Gail J. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Emily McLean.*



Steve & Gail J. - October 25, 2022 at 02:15 PM