

# Minister, mother of quadruplets dies of breast cancer

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**JACKSON TWP.** Cheryl Clifford, a minister who in the 1990s bore the second set of quadruplets in Stark County, died Monday from breast cancer, her husband said.

She was 59.

"I've lost my wife, my best friend and an incredible mother," said Steven Clifford. "Everyone that knows her will miss her dearly."

Cheryl Clifford, whose maiden name was Kuchta, was a native of Connecticut. She became an associate pastor at St. John United Church of Christ in Massillon in 1988, her obituary says. The township resident was also a minister of Christian education at the First Church of the Resurrection for five years. The man she married about 18 years ago, Steven Clifford, was also a minister.

Cheryl Clifford garnered local publicity about 11 years ago, when, at age 48, she gave birth to quadruplets — two

boys and two girls: Paul, Robert, Ruth and Heidi. Steven Clifford said they were the result of in-vitro fertilization treatments. The father said the four are now 11 years old and healthy.

After it had gone into remission, Cheryl Clifford's cancer returned last fall, her husband said. By May, she was in the hospital, before being sent to Manor Care Health Services of Belden Village, where she died.

"When I explained to (the quadruplets) several weeks ago that if the treatments don't work, Mom could only have three to six months to live, we all had a good cry," said Steven Clifford. "They visited mom every day in the nursing home. We held her hand through each stage of the journey."

Calling hours are 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Friday and one hour before the service at 10 a.m. Saturday at First Church of the Resurrection.

Arnold Funeral Home is handling arrangements.