



## Jan Austin Covington

April 13, 1956 - January 24, 2026

Jan Austin Covington, age 69 of Newport, passed away Saturday, January 24, 2026.

Jan was a devoted wife, sister, and friend. She was a charter member of New Life Baptist Church. She was a retired school teacher spending her whole career of 32 years with over 960 students at Edgemont Elementary School. Her favorite grade to teach was the 3rd grade.

She loved Bible School and cross stitching. She gave away many quilts, especially to newborn babies. She was a lifelong Cocke County resident. She was preceded in death by her parents Hugh and Marie Austin; brother Charles Austin; and nephew Jonathan Austin.

She is survived by her husband Dee Jackson Covington; brother Jerry Austin; step-sons Bobby (Amy) Covington, Steve (Marsha) Covington, and Chris (Nancy) Covington; step-daughter LeaAnn Covington; special pastors Adam (Peggy) Sanders and Eddie (Gail) Gray; also survived by multiple cousins, nieces, nephews, and many special friends and neighbors.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. with funeral services following at 6 p.m., Friday, January 30, 2026 in the Manes Funeral Home with Rev. Adam Sanders officiating.

Burial will be in the Dunn Cemetery at 1:30 pm Monday , Feb 2, 2026.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Sunset Gap in memory of Jan. Family and friends may sign the guest register online at [www.manesfuneralho](http://www.manesfuneralho)

me.com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Receive Friends

JAN **30**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Manes Funeral Home Chapel  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821

## Funeral service

JAN **30**. 6:00 PM (est)

Manes Funeral Home Inc.  
363 East Main Street  
Newport, TN 37821  
(423) 623-6952  
manesfuneralhome@bellsouth.net  
<https://www.manesfuneralhome.com/index.cfm>

## Burial

FEB **2**. 1:30 PM.

Dunn Cemetery  
Newport, TN

*Burial Delayed due to WEATHER*

# Tribute Wall

TD

“ I am so sorry to hear of Jan's passing. May you find comfort in your memories of this sweet lady. Prayers for your family.

Teresa Denton - January 31 at 10:32 AM

DF

“ I am so sorry about Jan. She was a precious lady. Peace and comfort to all of you.

Debbie Fullington - January 30 at 06:26 PM

MR

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Jan's passing. She was such a sweet person. I was blessed to have her as my 2nd grade teacher at Edgemont. She truly cared about her students not only while they were in her class but years later. She would always catch up anytime I saw her and wanted to know all the good things I did with my life. She was one of the teachers who helped me become the teacher I am today. She's not suffering now and she's got her healing ❤️🙏

Michel Hannon Ray - January 30 at 06:12 PM

TA

“ Jan was so special to she had gave me so many great advice when I come home she's the first person I run to see her Dee I'm so sorry you are in my prayers I'm going to miss her so much Praying for all her family ☐

Tammy - January 30 at 03:45 PM

TE

“ Gonna miss you going down at Eddie's at church...you and David were bingo buddies, that were the good times..may God bless you and your family..R.I.P.



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**Tim Etherton** - January 30 at 03:17 PM

LF

“ Sending love and prayers your way. Love, Buck Gregg and Lori Fleming and family



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**Lori Fleming** - January 30 at 02:38 PM

TL

“ I am so sorry to hear about Jan's sickness and passing. She was one of the sweetest and helpful person I ever meet. I worked with her many years at Edgemont and she would help anyone with anything and loved the kids. She was always trying to figure out a way to help them. She will be greatly missed, but sure she's going around talking to everyone in heaven trying to see how she can help someone. I'm sorry I can't come by tonight but I will never forget her and her mom and dad. Your family are in my prayers. Tammy McCoig Lawson



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**Tammy A Lawson** - January 30 at 02:17 PM

TG

“ We thought the world of Sister Jan .  
She was a special person .we loved her dearly . Prayers for all the  
family 🙏🙏  
Pastor Tim & Teresa Grooms

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**Teresa Grooms** - January 30 at 12:19 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear of Jan’s passing. She was a  
wonderful person. Our thoughts and prayers  
are with you and your family in this difficult  
time.  
Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer



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**Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer** - January 30 at 10:58 AM

MC

“ Prayers for the Austin-Covington Family and friends.....now and in  
the days to come. The Austin and Hartsell families grew up in the  
same neighborhood many years ago! We were more like family,  
(even though Chris and Ronnie were constantly getting into trouble!)

Jan was a very special beautiful lady with a BIG heart, always  
thinking of everyone else! She will be dearly missed by all that  
knew her.

May God be with her family during this difficult time.

Mary Ann Hartsell-Chrisman & Jay Harold Chrisman

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**Mary Ann Chrisman** - January 29 at 11:16 PM

IF

“ *In Jesus's Love: The Lewis Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Jan Austin Covington.*



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**In Jesus's Love: The Lewis Family** - January 29 at 05:01 PM

RT

“ *Ms. Austin was my 7th grade teacher during her first year of teaching and she made that year unforgettable. She was my favorite teacher and loved telling everytime I saw her. I loved her as a teacher and a friend! She touched so many lives and will never be forgotten. May God be with her family during this difficult time.*

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**Regina Thornton** - January 29 at 03:18 PM

KP

“ *Jan and I lived across the hall from each other at Carson Newman. We have stayed friends for over 50 years. We would talk on the phone every couple of months even though we lived three hours apart and try to visit whenever possible. I have read all these tributes, and I couldn't agree more with them. Since we were both teachers, we could understand what each other was going through. We also both had older parents that we cared for until their deaths. I will always remember traveling with her and other friends to my parents' home in Florida and going to her mom's and Daddy Walt's for dinner while we were in college. No matter what she was going through, she was always upbeat and kept her sense of humor. I am still in shock that she is gone. She called to tell me her diagnosis the day before she passed away. I hate that due to the weather I won't be able to come to the funeral. I will miss her dearly.  
Karen Phillips, CN class of 78*

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**Karen Phillips** - January 29 at 02:21 PM

TM

“ *Jan's smile and laugh will always be remembered as well as her sweet ways.*

*"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers 6:25-26*

*Love and prayers from Teresa and Mike*

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**Teresa Martin** - January 28 at 02:27 PM

BM

“ *Jan is such a special person. Every where we would see her she had a big smile and shared a hug with us. My husband and Jan grew up together. She taught my daughter during her time at Edgemont School. She later tutored my son when he was in high-school. I will always be grateful for her friendship. Jan has blessed us with her Godly testimony. Jesus will be returning soon and we will see you again in Heaven!*

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**Brenda McClanahan** - January 28 at 11:52 AM

BM

“ *Brenda McClanahan lit a candle in memory of Jan Covington*



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**Brenda McClanahan** - January 28 at 11:41 AM

LB

“ I’m so very sorry to hear about Jan you all are like family to us we all grew up together . I also worked with her at school for many years . Prayers for you all for God’s comfort and peace . Love you all , Linda Blair



**linda blair** - January 28 at 11:01 AM

RG

“ Oh what a precious lady had a lot of memories with her she was a wonderful teacher and friend she will be missed

**Rhonda Greer** - January 28 at 07:59 AM

WS

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Jan was one of the best people I've ever known. She was an amazing teacher, and an amazing friend. Please know that we will be praying for comfort, strength, and peace in the coming days. With love, Wendy Self and son, Nathan Morriss

**Wendy Self** - January 28 at 12:53 AM



“ So sorry for your loss I had her for a teacher in school she was amazing person and she was will sadly be missed she helped me alot she was so easy to talk to

**Pamela Dawn Hicks** - January 27 at 05:47 PM

PP

“ I love Jan she had a heart of gold. Everytime I would see her in town she would give me a big hug. And when my father was still alive she would always ask about him because they were cousins. Her family looked for years to find a picture of my grandfather for my Dad. They finally found one but it was after he had passed away. But they made sure we got one. Rest in Peace Jan we will be forever missed. From the whole Paris family.



Pamela Paris - January 27 at 05:29 PM



“ So sad to hear this. Jan was my neighbor for years and she always made sure my brother and I had the best snacks when we came up to watch movies or play basketball. Sweet, sweet soul! ☐

Angie Tedeschi - January 27 at 03:47 PM



“ Jan was always there for my grandmother and me. I'm gonna miss her so much.

Ashley Keys-Reed - January 27 at 11:39 AM

HM

“ We will miss this very special lady. Prayers for Dee and the family.



Helen and Rachel Messer - January 27 at 05:44 AM

BE

“ I had the privilege of working with Jan when I substituted at Edgemont School. She was always good to me. I will most definitely miss seeing her out and about and talking to her.

*May God bring peace and comfort in your time of need.*

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**Benjamin Evans** - January 26 at 01:33 PM

PG

“ Ms Austin ,MrsColeman ,Mrs Covington always made me smile and talked about Jesus and told the boys I could be a truck driver if I wanted to !thank you for being a great teacher and a wonderful person to me and my children, Paulette,Cheyenne,Cherokee Gibson

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**Paulette Gibson** - January 26 at 12:22 PM

SI

“ Jan was my second grade teacher at Edgemont. She was the kindest, sweetest, most caring teacher I believe I ever had. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. Heaven gained a great one!

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**Samantha (Black) Ivy** - January 26 at 11:27 AM

SI

“ What a legacy Mrs. Covington leaves behind. So many lives touched. As a former third grade student it was always a joy to see her and "catch up". She was a bright light in a dark world. My thoughts are with her family and friends in the coming days, weeks and months ahead. Much love

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**Spencer Ivy** - January 26 at 10:10 AM

DO

“ Loved that sweet Lady...We were classmates all through school....Prayers for the Family..Donna and Ronnie Ottinger❤️

Donna Ottinger - January 26 at 10:09 AM

JJ

“ One of my most special and best friends I will miss her always we had such a friendship Bond rest now my sweet friend for you are in the arms of Jesus now in those beautiful Heavenly rims my prayers go out to all the family may God give you comfort and peace in knowing she is in heaven no more pain no more suffering only happiness



Janice Jenkins - January 26 at 09:15 AM



“ Mrs. Austin was one of my teachers at Edgemont. She left a lasting impression on many of her students. She loved the Lord, her family, her church and her students. She will be dearly missed by all that knew her.



Crystal Rice - January 26 at 09:08 AM

KH

“ I knew her as Ms Austin then Mrs Coleman. She was my 3rd grade teacher and my favorite teacher of all. I ran into her at Walmart last year and it was so nice to catch up with her. My life is better for knowing her. There will never be another person like her. ❤️

Kathy Bowers Hobbs - January 25 at 11:01 PM

IT

“ Dee I am so sorry to hear about Jan my prayers are with you



Imogene Turner - January 25 at 10:50 PM

TL

“ So very sorry to hear about Jan . When we seen each other we would always talk and catch up . Jan was such a kind and caring person . My thoughts are with her family during this difficult time .

Tura wiley Lawson - January 25 at 10:31 PM

RB

“ I remember when Jan started teaching at edgemont. I was in her first class. Loved her dearly. She is a great lady. Prayers to her family.

Ron Ball - January 25 at 07:45 PM

GA

“ So very sorry for your loss...prayers for her family....I've known Jan for many many years and she taught my daughter in school and always spoke well of her....I will miss seeing her and talking with her....fly high my friend



Gail Ailey - January 25 at 05:47 PM

LE

“ Larry and I are deeply sorry to hear of Jan’s passing. She was a blessing to all that knew her. She made you comfortable talking to her. She always said she loved her Kentucky family and we loved her and her family! She lovingly made quilts for both of our grandchildren and for me. I will cherish them. We would ramble able days of teaching which she loved . Our prayers to the family during this time of sorry. May your memories of her bring joy to your heart .

Larry and Shelia Edwards - January 25 at 05:14 PM

DO

“ Wow! This hits home. Jan was the pesky little sister and cousin of my childhood neighbors Jerry Austin and Chris Austin. She was one of the truly good people I have ever known. She loved her family and friends wholeheartedly and without any reservations. I was reminded of this recently when we came home for the dinner honoring her cousins Chris and Alexa. She immediately asked for a copy of my remarks to pass along to family. Her work as a beloved teacher stands as testimony to her community. Rest well, dear friend. Say hello to all our family and friends who have gone before. You were loved.

Duay O’Neil - January 25 at 04:55 PM

JH

“ Ms Austin was my 3rd grade teacher and was such a sweet lady. I have been out school many years now and when I saw her in the store she still recognized me. She will be missed. Prayers for her family. God bless.



Jessica Hall - January 25 at 04:08 PM

CF

“ I am so sorry to read that Jan has passed. She was the flower girl in my wedding. We had not seen or talked in years until recently we started talking. Well we both love to talk and we spent many hours on the phone catching up. I'm going to miss those call. RiP, Jan. Thinking of her family.



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**Carolyn Maloy Fox** - January 25 at 03:16 PM

KE

“ She was my second grade teacher @ Edgemont. She left a lasting impression. Kind, loving & will be missed

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**Kelly Ailey Eslinger** - January 25 at 02:39 PM

SB

“ You will be greatly missed. I love you Jan. You have been beyond good to our family through the years! Love your almost niece (as you called me) Shawna Ball Brown



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**Shawna Brown** - January 25 at 02:34 PM

KT

“ I just saw you at Food City not to long ago. I will miss talking to you. You were my 3rd grade teacher and my friend as adults. I will forever miss you. My prayers for comfort are with the family.  
Kristy (McClanahan) Templin



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**Kristy Templin** - January 25 at 02:30 PM

VE

“ Jan was a precious lady who always uplifted and encouraged everyone around her. I will always remember her kindness to my brother David who has special needs and I am thankful that I was able to let her know before she passed what a blessing she is in the lives of everyone around her. I know she is rejoicing in Heaven with Jesus ! 🙏🙏🙏



Vickie Etherton - January 25 at 01:51 PM

SS

“ I'm sure going to miss you Jan. To seeing you at Edgemont School to always seeing your smiling face in town and hearing your kind words. I know the Lord has gained a beautiful Angel. I've lost a family member but I know I'll see you again.  
Sandra ( Sandy Samples) Steward

Sandra Steward - January 25 at 01:51 PM

EB

“ Jan was such a sweet special person. Prayers and comfort for her family.

Emma Balch - January 25 at 01:11 PM

SO

“ I am so sorry to hear that Jan has passed away. She was one fine lady. Jan never met a stranger and loved everybody. She was a wonderful teacher that truly loved her students and took great pride in seeing them succeed. She loved God and loved sharing her faith with others. Jan will sure be missed. Many prayers for the family and friends she leaves behind. I'm so sorry. Rest in peace my friend. You will not be forgotten. 💔



Susie O'Dell - January 25 at 12:53 PM

Pat  
Evans  
Larry  
Stephenson

“ Jan was a longtime friend, She was a precious soul. We were so Blessed to know and love her. Our love and prayers are with you all. Brenda McMillan and Patty Evans Stephenson.



Pat Evans Larry Stephenson - January 25 at 12:36 PM

DH

“ I'm so sorry for the passing of Jan, I went to High school with her and we became friends. We would occasionally see each other at Food City and catch up. And of course on FB. She was the sweetest lady. Praying for you all in the upcoming days ahead. Love Debbie Ellison ( Class of 1974 )

Debra Hurst - January 25 at 12:30 PM

KC

So sorry for the passing of Jan! She was a precious lady! Prayers for the family.

Kay Cureton - January 25 at 03:27 PM

LR

“ Sorry for your loss. She was a wonderful lady she will never be forgotten.



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**Lisa Reed** - January 25 at 12:05 PM

BH

*What can one say or add to the comments and memories already stated above. Jan was a wonderful person. She and Dee were 'always ready to help in pretty much any situation. She was a pleasure to be around. And besides all that, Her banana pudding was The Best.. Billie Joe and Ruth Ann Holley*

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**Billy J Holley** - January 30 at 12:30 PM