



## Barbara Jean Davis

January 28, 1942 - June 30, 2021

Barbara Jean Davis, an educator, collaborator, advocate for the needy, and above all a wife, mother, grandmother and friend, died Wednesday, June 30, 2021, at her home surrounded by her loving family. Barbara was born January 28, 1942, in Manistee, MI, the daughter of Hugo and Martha (Kivimaa) Troppi. As a Junior in High School, Barbara asked James Davis to attend a Sadie Hawkins Dance. They would later marry on March 21, 1964. Barbara obtained her Undergraduate and Master's Degree from Michigan State University, followed by a Doctorate Degree from The University of Chicago. In the 1960's Barbara worked as an English Teacher at Charlotte High School. She then accepted a job at the Eaton Intermediate School District working as a Coordinator for Gifted and Talented. Once she retired from the EISD she accepted a position at Olivet College as the Director of Character Education. Throughout her working career Barbara touched and helped shape the lives of countless students.

Barbara was a proud member of Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte, where she sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and bible study. She was active in the Charlotte Women's Club, AAUW, MEA, NEA, and ABWA. When she was not working Barbara enjoyed writing, and successfully published two books. She enjoyed painting, attending concerts and plays, listening to music, working out at ALIVE, traveling, and most importantly spending time with her family.

Barbara is survived by her loving husband, James Davis; children, Katherine (Shane) Gonser, James Davis; grandchildren, Shelby and Kollin Gonser, James and Hudson Davis; sisters, Kay (Norman) Jagger, Virginia (Jay) Matheson. She was predeceased by her parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Barbara's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). A Memorial service will be held on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at the Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte, with Pastor Neil Brady officiating. Visitation will be held just prior to the service from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Barbara's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to CROP Hunger Walk. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 12. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
830 North Cochran Avenue  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Memorial Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
830 North Cochran Avenue  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Barbara Jean Davis*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 12, 2021 at 08:05 AM

LF

*Can't understand anything the speakers are saying. Don't know if it is the church's sound system or what.*

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**Linda Foster** - July 12, 2021 at 11:36 AM

CM

“ *I just learned of Barb's death. I thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated her writing guidance. She was instructive and supportive with good humor that made it easy for us to hear her wisdom. Our writing group, "Undeniable Voices," had a retreat - this was probably 15-20 years ago. I fancied myself a decent enough Scrabble player until we played on that retreat and Barb schooled us all. I'm so sorry to learn of her passing.*

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**Connie Morrison** - January 29, 2022 at 08:19 AM

TF

“ *I always enjoyed the times I was privileged to walk with Barb at Alive. I miss those walks. She was a joy to know. Tom Fullerton*

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**Tom Fullerton** - July 16, 2021 at 12:35 PM

JM

“ Dear Mr. Davis, Kathy, James, and family. I was able to watch the memorial this morning. Barbara will be greatly missed by family, friends, and many others. Although I was not around her much, I was always captivated by her thoughts and words. I am praying and thinking of you. Respectfully, Jim

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**Jim Miller** - July 12, 2021 at 08:50 PM

AR

“TO BARB'S FAMILY.. MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES..

*My relationship with Barb covered every aspect of what a friendship should be .. stimulating, thought provoking, loving, warm, lasting and best of all.. FUN..*

*On the professional side, Barbara and I met in 1983, while attending the yearlong Education Policy and Leadership Program, sponsored by the MI Dept of Education ..*

*We clicked instantly. I was impressed with her zest for knowledge and readiness to exchange ideas.. and we did a lot of ideas exchange during that year ..*

*By the end of the program we were best of friends.*

*We enjoyed each other's company over many years, and I so admired her prolific intellectual endeavors.. I was honored when she asked me to help with the editing of her first book ..*

*Barb was the impetus when we created a business together .. a program of women's empowerment seminars. We called it Personal Development and Leadership.. Like every project Barb was involved in.. It was very successful*

*As to our personal friendship.. Far too many memories to share today..But here are a few..*

*A painting camping trip.. we spent a weekend by a river.. drawing.. talking.. and enjoying each other's company.. at the end of that trip.. we exchanged our creations..*

*... and this priced Barbara Davis' drawing still hangs in my home office to this day..*

*And beyond that .. so many dinners out and talks on the phone.. and visits.. each time providing a plethora of giggles.. dream exchanges.. family stories, and photos sharing.. and most of all of them loving moments, each making it hard to walk away from..*

*Dear friend Barbara.. I am so glad you were part of my life journey.. you have left an indelible imprint on my spirit..*

*Farewell for now Barbara...*

*I love you..*

*Angela"*

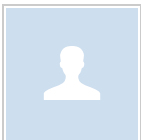
Angela Rojas-Dedenbach - July 12, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.*



July 11, 2021 at 03:51 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.*



July 10, 2021 at 10:12 PM



“ *Dear Jim, Kathy, James and family,  
Although the Sympathy Basket will arrive late  
(July 15th, ETA), my heartfelt condolences,  
prayers and hugs to you all are being sent to  
you right now...I hope to see you, in person,  
on Monday, as I just found out today.  
Barb's spirit lives on in you all ... Her positivity, her love, and her  
care.  
I'm so grateful to have known her and I'll miss her smile and her  
gentleness.  
Miss you, Barb.  
I hope you are free and happy in the great beyond. 🕊️  
❤️ to you all.  
💖 Julia*



Julia Szybowicz - July 10, 2021 at 08:23 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Complete was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.*



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July 10, 2021 at 08:09 PM



“ *Dear James and Family,*

*Barbara and I became friends beginning with an art class. We shared fun and creative thoughts; then we started a Scrabble group (just 4 of us). Such wonderful times, often with lunch before our games. Discussions about most anything and laughter were included. How Barbara will be missed! I loved her caring ways and her interest in people and learning new ideas. I've read both of her books and have a drawing she made of me and my husband Lou framed and hanging on our wall. (She saw a snapshot of us from our daughter's wedding and immediately said, "I want to draw that!")*

*Her positive attitude throughout her difficult times will continue as a testament to her strength and God's helping hand. She cared so deeply about others and she was loved by so many.*

*With our love and prayers, Lou & Dianne Klinger*

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**Dianne Klinger** - July 09, 2021 at 03:50 PM

LK

“ The loss of a wonderful woman will be deeply felt by so many . Her gentle and caring smile, laugh and touch will always be with me. Barbara always had a deep quest for knowledge. I remember when she first came to an Ohio State vs. M S U football game we had to show her the library before the stadium.  
With sincere condolences, Linda K.

Linda Klingensmith - July 08, 2021 at 10:45 AM

BP

Likewise Barbara.went to library at MSU early on as we went to games together. However over the years she attended games and became an avid fan and we spent many hours in our homes watching the games together after it became too uncomfortable for us in the stadium as we grew older. We had even talked about doing it again this fall but alas she finally lost her battle for survival. I do and will miss her.

Bobby Peterman - July 09, 2021 at 03:46 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.



July 07, 2021 at 12:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.



July 06, 2021 at 11:02 AM

JF

“ Dear Barbara,  
All though I have only known you for a short period of time, thank you for all of the beautiful talks and memories. Attached is the picture of the bear you gave me I named him warrior after you. I regret that this is the first letter I have sent you since our last visit. But I am greatfull to you and your family for everything. You are a beautiful, intelligent, wonderful lady and have made a great impact on me. I know you will be missed greatly, but know you are now at peace. I know you will be the guiding light and gardian angel for us all.  
Love,  
Jennie Findlay



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Jennie Findlay - July 05, 2021 at 09:48 PM

WB

“ I am saddened to learn of Barbara’s passing. My condolences to James and the family.

*Barbara as a teacher and mentor embodied standards of excellence and rigor that I fear have become very rare today.*

*Barb also had a silliness to her as well that kind of meshed with me. Only with Barb could I debate something like the object of a preposition for 20 minutes.*

*This holiday weekend I am spending with my children. We make dinner a family project. Last evening we grilled a wonderful pork tenderloin. I was telling the children about Barb and recalling a few meals together. “ What should I make? “ and Barb responding, “anything as long as it’s pork”*

*RIP My Friend*

*Walter M.(Monty) Byington*

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**Walt Byington** - July 04, 2021 at 08:06 AM

KR

“ Jim and family, I'm so sorry about Barbara's passing. I don't think I ever saw her without a smile and always had a good conversation. Take care. 🙏

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**Kathy Rann** - July 03, 2021 at 03:04 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.*



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July 03, 2021 at 08:34 AM



“ *We have lost a beautiful women. She left a legacy of faith, compassion and intelligence, and touched the hearts of many. My prayers for Jim and family.*

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**Denise Hummel** - July 03, 2021 at 08:17 AM



*Sorry for the typo Barb!*

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**Denise Hummel** - July 03, 2021 at 08:20 AM



*Olivet College was greatly impacted by Barbara Davis' work and care there. So were Art and I. Barb introduced me to the CROP Walk, and for that, I will be forever grateful.  
Peace, Barb, and sympathies to the family.  
Art and Joanne Williams*

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**Joanne Williams** - July 05, 2021 at 06:03 PM



“ *Best professor at Olivet in the Teaching/Education Department. She was brilliant, funny, passionate and helped shaped my life as an instructor. Dr. Davis was poised, professional and a beautiful woman with a heart of gold. I will miss her spirit. Prayers to the family.*

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**Monique Colizzi** - July 02, 2021 at 10:56 PM

JS

“ *Barb hiked the Porkies with a group of friends and me. We enjoyed her humor and insights in our book study and on the trail. I loved being in her company and was happy she was my friend.* ”

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**Julie Swartz** - July 02, 2021 at 09:28 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Davis.* ”



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July 02, 2021 at 09:24 PM