



Barbara Jean Smith

March 25, 1940 - January 20, 2026

Barbara Jean Smith, known as a very gifted quilter, died Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at the age of 85, Barb was born March 25, 1940 in Rockford, Michigan to Elmer and Blanche (Allen) Jorgenson.

Barb was an amazing seamstress. One of the quilts she created was placed on display at the International Quilt show in Paducah, Kentucky. She loved playing the piano and organ for her church as well as singing in the choir. Family was very important to Barb. She learned a great deal while researching their genealogy. She was extremely proud of her grandchildren, following them to their school and sporting events.

Barb had many passions in life. She enjoyed the monthly luncheons with her quilting friends. She also always looked forward to the annual "Golden R Club" event where graduates of 50 plus years of Rockford High School were honored. Barb was a hard worker and retired after twenty years as a secretary for the Waverly schools.

Barb is survived by her husband of 64 years, Stephen Smith; children, Scott Smith, Shari (Eric) Waltersdorf, and Mark Smith; grandchildren, Adam (Maria) Waltersdorf, Stephen (Ashley) Waltersdorf, Anna Waltersdorf, Alex Wise, Lauren (Carson) Widdoes, Timothy Smith, Abigayle Smith, Noah Smith; great grandchildren, Easton Waltersdorf and Lincoln Waltersdorf; sister-in-law,

Joanne Jorgenson and many extended family members. She is predeceased by her parents; and brothers Charles Jorgenson, and Donald (Lois) Jorgenson.

Friends are encouraged to support Barbara's family by attending services and sharing memories on her Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, Rockford, Michigan. Visitation will be one hour prior, from 12:00pm noon to 1:00 p.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Blythfield Memorial Gardens. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Siren Eaton Shelter, or the Eaton County Courthouse Square Association. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Blythfield Memorial Gardens

6200 Brewer Ave NE,
Belmont, MI 49306

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 20. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Memorial

FEB 21. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Celebration of Life

APR 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Rockford
192 E Bridge St. NE
Rockford, MI 49341

Burial

APR **25**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Blythfield Memorial Gardens
6200 Brewer Ave NE,
Belmont, MI 49306

Tribute Wall



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



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 17 at 04:20 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Jean Smith*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 17 at 04:01 PM



“ *Aunt Barb was such a sweet lady. She made me feel so special every time she brought her famous pineapple upside down cake when I was a kid. She had such a great sense of humor and shared her joy with everybody around her.*

Joshua Vander Lugt - February 21 at 09:25 AM

JN

“ *Barb and I shared our childhood, living just 2 houses apart. I remember our fun playing Monopoly, paper dolls, roller skating, hide and seek. Later we played piano duets and enjoyed our Rockford High School choir and still walked to school together. We have kept in touch over the year, and I always enjoyed her pride in her children and grandchildren. She was a dear friend.*

June Nelson - February 21 at 07:34 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara Jean Smith.*



February 20 at 09:58 PM

JK

“ I first met Barb when I attended the wedding of my cousin, Steve Smith, to Barbara Jorgensen. My dad, Roy, drove our family including my grandmother, Effie Smith, to the wedding in Rockford, Michigan. Over the years Barb and I have shared a mutual interest in family stories, genealogy and quilting. I was a beginning quilter with big dreams. Barb was a master quilter who gave me encouragement and helpful advice. We enjoyed comparing our vastly different quilting journeys. I will always treasure our mutual joy in exchanging new discoveries of family roots, old family photos and visiting quilt shops. I can't forget to mention our dinner ritual at the favorite Eaton Place restaurant, where my sister, Kathy, and I looked forward to a piece of homemade "straight-up" rhubarb pie.

But most of all, I remember Barb's gentle and kind manner, laid back sense of humor and practical optimism. She had the gift of hospitality and always made me feel comfortable and welcome. I will treasure forever the memories of times I was able to spend with Barb. She was an awesome wife, mother and grandmother. I will miss my dear friend. "The quilt of my life is forever changed, less vivid in one spot now, but stronger and deeply marked by the memories she leaves behind.

Judy Smith Kelley

Judith Smith Kelley - February 19 at 07:48 PM

JT

“ June, Terry, Melanie, Joe, Dalton & Tori planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Smith.

June, Terry, Melanie, Joe, Dalton & Tori - February 19 at 03:05 PM

JT

“ June, Terry, Melanie, Joe, Dalton & Tori purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara Jean Smith.



June, Terry, Melanie, Joe, Dalton & Tori - February 19 at 03:05 PM

JA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers to you all. She was an amazing woman and will be missed. I am so thankful I ran into her and Stephen recently and received big hugs!!

Jamie - February 19 at 10:23 AM

CV

“ Christine V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Smith.

Christine V. - February 18 at 07:11 PM

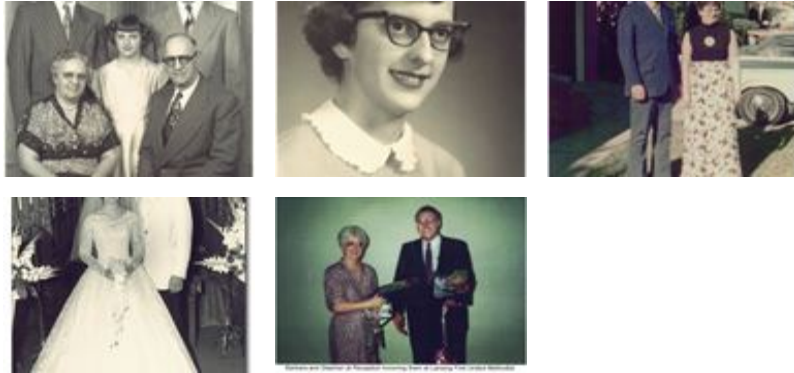
AN

“ As this tree will grow and flourish, so Barbs memory will live on blessing those who knew her. Judy Smith Kelley and Kathy Smith Niekamp planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Jean Smith.

As this tree will grow and flourish, so Barbs memory will live on blessing those who knew her. Judy Smith Kelley and Kathy Smith Niekamp - February 18 at 01:15 PM



“ 33 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - February 17 at 03:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Barbara Jean Smith*.

February 13 at 08:11 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of *Barbara Jean Smith*.



February 13 at 08:11 PM

MB

“ I have lots of memories of Barb growing up in Rockford. She was 2 grades ahead of me but we both sang in the high school choir and attended the same church. Her brother (Chuck) married my cousin (Joanne). She was very talented - especially playing the piano. I would love to attend the memorial in Rockford and will watch for the details. Mary Anne (Whittall) Burns

Mary Anne Burns - January 31 at 08:13 AM

BG

“ Bonnie Goldberg lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Smith



Bonnie Goldberg - January 23 at 09:57 PM

BG

Shari - I'm so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. May her memory forever be a blessing.

Bonnie Goldberg - January 23 at 10:03 PM

RW

Shari, Eric, and All-Thinking of you and sending love. Rish

Richelle White - January 24 at 03:09 AM

DH

“ Diana Jorgensen Hoffman lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Smith



Diana jorgensen hoffman - January 23 at 03:31 PM

DH

Rest in peace aunt barb

Diana jorgensen hoffman - January 23 at 03:32 PM

KB

“ *My heart is broken. I loved Barb and all of her family. She and I sang Alto together in the First United Methodist Church choir and had so much fun, probably driving our director crazy. She and Steve were very helpful when my life changed at age 40 and I remarried. I was sad when they moved away but all came full circle when Barb started getting her hair cut by my granddaughter, becoming one of her first customers. Emily kept me in touch with Barb by sharing stories of their time together. My big regret is not having to spend time with her myself. She was and will always remain one of my very favorite friends. Hugs to the family.*

Kathy Bush

Kathy Bush - January 23 at 01:29 PM

PO

“ *Thinking of Barbara brings fond memories to my mind. I first came to know her when I was a teacher at Windermere View Elementary School. She was the secretary and the first person to greet me every morning. Throughout the years she worked for Waverly we became friends. Barbara's life will be treasured by many in beautiful ways.*

Pamela Ogle - January 22 at 06:28 PM

GC

“ Steve and Family, We have many fond memories of Barb and family, for Steve and I starting on May 31st 1964, at recruit school then later working at the Battle Creek Post, with Barb and Steve living just a couple of houses down the street, Our kids playing together, neighborhood activities and more. Ruth went to the hospital twice to have babies while we were at BC, Barb the neighbor and good friend was there to to get Carole off to school, then when the next baby came along, Barb came to the house as the baby sitter. One I always remember we were all going to the beach to swim and Picnic at the lake on Fort Custer, Scott was missing his two front teeth. (more to that story) Then Steve and I in later years were both at Lansing and living here in Charlotte. Barb and Steve were good customers at the Eaton Place, Barb quilting and genealogy research, we remember all those good thoughts of Barb. It was very said news to learn Barb had passed away.. We know in our hearts that Barb's faith and commitment has helped her through these difficult times. We are sad and sorry.



Gene and Ruth Conley - January 22 at 06:05 PM

JP

“ Shari, I was so sorry to hear that your Mom had passed. I had a fondness for your Mom who was always upbeat & happy with a beautiful personality! I always looked forward to see her on her appointments & hearing all about the family & sharing our love of the grandkids... I guess I've know Barb since I first started doing her hair about 40 / 45 years ago, & when I retired I missed seeing her, but kept in touch somewhat on Facebook! Thoughts & prayers are with you, your Dad & all the family! RIP Barb 🙏❤️

Jan Payne - January 22 at 05:49 PM

SH

“ I first met Barbara through our mutual love of genealogy. Over the years she became a wonderful friend and she will be greatly missed. My condolences for Steve and their family.

Shirley Hodges - January 22 at 04:20 PM



“ Mitchell Price lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Smith



Mitchell Price - January 22 at 04:16 PM

CD

“ I loved Barb so much. She was a kind and gentle lady to those of us working through our quilting journey. I just hope they have sewing machines in heaven so she can continue her passion.

Colette DeGroot - January 22 at 03:22 PM

SE

“ I have enjoyed my friendship with Barb over the year as a a neighbor and working with her at Waverly Schools. I have especially enjoyed our breakfast get togethers with other Waverly retirees. Rest in peace Barb.

Shirley Evans - January 22 at 12:59 PM

LB

“ *Barb was such a great lady
I loved talking to her at the quilt meetings and get together
I really loved quilting her wonderful quilt creations
Barb I will miss you
Linda Bockheim, Bee Quilted*

Linda Bockheim - January 22 at 12:03 PM

LJ

“ *Steve and family. Thinking of you at this time of grief. Prayers to you
all for peace and may God Bless Barb. Have not seen you guys in
many years but fond thoughts of days in Battle Creek*

Cadet Larry Julian. Circa 1968

Larry Julian - January 22 at 11:26 AM