



Julie Kay Barkela

February 16, 1954 - January 9, 2026

Julie Barkela, 71, celebrated entry into her heavenly home on January 9, 2026, at Bethany Manor in Story City, Iowa.

A celebration of life will be, January 17, 2026, at Faith Baptist Church, Mason City from 11-1pm. A private family interment will take place on another date.

Julie was born to Roger and Arlene Rust. She graduated from Sheffield-Chapin High School and it was there that she met her future husband, Dennis Barkela. Dennis and Julie were united in marriage on April 7, 1973, at the First Baptist Church in Sheffield. Their ceremony ushered in the epic April blizzard of '73 as they drove to Minnesota for their honeymoon.

Julie had a beautiful soul whose life was woven with creativity, kindness, and faith. She was a gifted musician and devoted servant who shared her talents as church pianist/organist for over 30 years. Several of her most treasured memories were producing Christmas cantatas at church. She was also a talented seamstress that found joy in making things that brought warmth and meaning. After she retired, her passion became making personalized baby blankets and selling them on Etsy. Whether stitching fabric, designing handmade treasures, or sharing her many other talents, it will be these quiet acts of love by which Julie will be remembered.

Julie is survived by her one son: Chad (Deborah) Barkela of Sheffield, Iowa and one daughter: Jenny (Trent) Reicks of Ankeny, Iowa; five grandsons: Brady Barkela, Briley Barkela, Blake Barkela, Tyler Reicks, Owen Reicks; sister: Annette (Justin) Lohrbach; brothers: Ron (Diane) Rust, Martin Rust; sisters-in-law: Marilyn (Eldon) Grarup of Indianola, Iowa, and Nancy (Richard) Umsted of Denver, Colorado; Julie was preceded in death by her parents, Roger and Arlene Rust.

Woodley Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Hampton is caring for Julie and her family. The family appreciates your love and support during this time. In lieu of flowers, contributions toward funeral expenses would be deeply appreciated. Contributions may be sent to: Woodley Funeral Home, C/O Julie Barkela, PO Box 403, Hampton, IA 50441

Previous Events

Celebration Of Life

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Faith Baptist Church - Mason City
1807 South Kentucky Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401

Tribute Wall

PM

“ I have so many sweet memories of Julie—from her playing the piano at our wedding to years of flower- and wedding-decorating fun, unforgettable Bible studies, and laughter in the kitchen at potlucks. She was a cherished mentor and friend. While she will be deeply missed here, heaven is surely rejoicing today. Dear family, thank you for sharing her with us. Journeying through life with this precious friend was a true joy.

Penny McCaslin - January 16 at 10:31 AM

NS

Julie was a precious person always a smile to greet you. Worked with her at church and have great memories of her and Dennis.

Norene Schwierjohann - January 17 at 11:16 AM

EC

“ We are so sad for Julie's family, which we have had many connections with through the year. We know we will meet her again in heaven.

Larry and Elaine Crabtree

Elaine Crabtree - January 13 at 01:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Julie Kay Barkela.



January 11 at 07:11 PM

DS

“ Dick C Stoffer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Julie Kay Barkela.

Dick C Stoffer - January 11 at 07:11 PM

RB

“ I am so sad to get news of Julie's passing. She was a talented, sharp-witted, soul who was devoted to her husband, children, and church. I will always remember the image of Julie sitting at First Baptist's Hammond organ console, accompanied by Mrs. Eddie at the piano, knocking out the great hymns of the Church and leading the choir.

"Till we meet again," old friend.

Pastor (1981-84) Jim Blades

Rev. James Blades - January 11 at 05:34 PM