



## Barbara Faye Dykema

September 6, 1946 - February 22, 2025

Barbara Faye Dykema, cherished wife, mother and grandmother, was called home to her Lord on February 21, 2025, at the age of 78. Barb fought a valiant battle with a variety of health issues and was surrounded by family at Meijer Heart Center when she passed.

Barb was born and raised in Zeeland, and she graduated from Holland Christian High School, where she met her beloved husband, Donald. Their high school romance flourished, and they celebrated 57 years of marriage last fall. Don and Barb raised their family in Holland, where they were active members of Christ Memorial Church. Both before and after retirement, they enjoyed many years of traveling on cruises, exploring the Caribbean, the Panama Canal and Europe.

Barb especially loved children, and they loved her. She worked as a Nursery Coordinator at Christ Memorial Church for more than 30 years, and she also did in-home childcare. She loved watching her childcare "kids" grow up, marry and have children of their own. She also helped coach the Zeeland RoboDux, traveling with the team as their most enthusiastic cheerleader. In addition, she volunteered with Kids Hope and Evergreen Commons.

Barb is survived by her husband, Donald Dykema; her children and grandchildren Lee (Laura) Dykema, Amber, Isaac and Megan; Christy

(James) Allen, Jason and Justin; brother, Robert Arnoldink; sister, Beth DenBleyker; brother-in-law Jerry Dykema; sister-in-law Beverly (David) Snyder; and several nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, Ralph and Florda Arnoldink; sister-in-law, Karen Arnoldink; brother-in-law, Calvin DenBleyker; and sister-in-law, Elsa Dykema.

Funeral services will be at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at The Foundry Church, 425 100th Ave. Zeeland, MI 49464. Visitation will be 5:00 - 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th Street, Holland, MI 49423.

The family would like to thank SKLD Zeeland for their kindness and care for Barb over the past several weeks. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Barb's honor to Kids Hope or ZPS RoboDux.  
[www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com)

# Cemetery Details

## North Holland Cemetery

James Street and Beeline Road  
Holland, MI 49424

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home  
315 East 16th Street  
Holland, MI 49423

## Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

The Foundry Church  
425 100th Street  
Zeeland, MI 49464

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Faye Dykema*



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - February 25, 2025 at 10:39 AM

PV

“ *I'm so very sorry for your loss!  
From the moment I met Barb, it seemed we had know one another  
For years, despite not feeling good, she always had a good sense  
Of humor, and a warm smile. RIP beautiful lady!  
Pattie Vandling*

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**Pattie J Vandling** - March 03, 2025 at 07:09 AM

JF

“ *Jim and Rose Klingenberg and family. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Barbara Faye Dykema.*



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**Jim and Rose Klingenberg and family.** - February 25, 2025 at 09:28 AM

BJ

“ Bal & Jas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara Faye Dykema.

Bal & Jas - February 24, 2025 at 04:16 PM

BJ

“ Bal & Jas purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Barbara Faye Dykema.



Bal & Jas - February 24, 2025 at 04:16 PM

KH

“ Mrs. Barb was a light for my oldest daughter Coco during some difficult years. She was a phenomenal mentor through Kids Hope and not only during elementary years but beyond as well. She cared deeply not only for Coco but myself and family as well. She made sure to wish her a happy birthday and continued to reach out to see how she was doing. Her smile alone could light up the room and make anyone feel welcomed. She will be deeply missed 💕



Katherine Hubbert - February 24, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Barbara Faye Dykema.*



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February 24, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ *Barb was an amazing woman who truly loved all of God’s children, especially the little ones. I will always remember how much she loved my foster kids and how much they loved sitting with her on her scooter. Barb was so excited when she found out I was pregnant and always had an encouraging word and was there to remind me that this baby was as exactly the baby God had planned for me the entire time. I can’t help but smile thinking of Barb watching Charlie from heaven.*

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**Kristin** - February 24, 2025 at 08:27 AM

SH

“ Nearly 40 years ago, as an infant, I was welcomed into Barb’s home and family as one of her childcare kids. Many of my childhood memories were formed during summer breaks from school spent with the other kids at Barb’s. Her summertime lunches around the dining room table were always lively and I learned my way around the kitchen in her home. On rainy summer days, we’d watch *The Price is Right* with Bob Barker and I’m certain that I acquired my couponing and savings habits from Barb’s tutelage in the ways of finding the best sales. On sunny days all of us kids would spend hours building forts, playing in the sandbox (thanks for keeping the sandbox full, Don! 😊), and hide and seek in the back yard. My first car after getting my driver’s license was Barb’s “Old Gray Horse” Chevy Celebrity that we grew up riding in.

*I grew up alongside her children, Lee and Christy, and attended both of their weddings. Barb and Don were there for my graduation and I continued to feel like a part of their extended family well into adulthood. I always enjoyed stopping by their house and catching up with them in their retirement. I recently exchanged video messages with Barb about the new chapter of my life in Washington DC and she was upbeat as always and looked forward to being able to see each other again.*

*Barb Dykema dedicated her life to the service of others, watching over many of us as children so our parents didn’t have to worry about us while they were at work. She lived her life with an open heart and touched countless lives along the way, leaving us all better for knowing her. Thank you to Barb and the Dykema family for making me feel like part of yours. I’ll always cherish the many memories I have of Barb and the years of hugs, kisses, smiles, laughter, and joy that her presence brought to us all.*



**Shaun** - February 23, 2025 at 12:19 PM

KS

“ *A lady with a happy soul of the heart. May you all have peace and a brighter tomorrow. Hugging you all with my heart .*

**Karen Simons** - February 23, 2025 at 08:06 AM



“ *I will always cherish the memory of barb being a loving grandma to all my kids at the campground. I will also cherish when I was in elementary school she helped make Christmas ornaments with friends she was babysitting and always being one amazing person*

February 22, 2025 at 09:40 PM

LW

“ *I was just telling my Bible study ladies this past week about how Barb loved to volunteer in the care center during church, rocking the babies.*

**Linda Woldring** - February 22, 2025 at 09:12 PM

MS

“ *Barb will be dearly missed at bingo. Godspeed Barb. Love, MaryEllen Sheil*

**MaryEllen Sheil** - February 22, 2025 at 09:10 PM

KJ

“ *Barb was not only my friend. She was also my boss when I worked in the nursery at Christ Memorial Church. She had a great passion of working with young children and it was evident. She made me want to be a better nanny and teacher to the little ones I took care of. She always had positive words of encouragement and advice for me.*



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**katlyn Johnson** - February 22, 2025 at 09:01 PM

BR

“ *Marv and I remember Barb and Don as we were neighbors for 18 years. Many memories were made and we enjoyed her positions on many topics! She was so proud of her grandchildren and her involvement with students at the school robotics program. We are sorry for your loss. She is now looking down on all of you with her famous smile! We pray for Don and the family and know you will miss her. Marv and Barb Ritsema*

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**Barbara Ritsema** - February 22, 2025 at 07:49 PM