

## THE BEST

GOD saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be.  
So HE put his arms around you and whispered,  
"Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you,  
and saw you pass away. Although we loved you  
dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart  
stopped beating. Hard working hands at rest.  
GOD broke our hearts to prove to us  
HE only takes the best.

And, that's what HE did, isn't it!

*Celebrating  
a Life*



## *In Loving Memory* CELEBRATING A LIFE

### Memorial Service

First United Methodist Church  
Little River, Kansas  
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 2:00 PM

### Officiant

Pastor Jeff Goetzinger

### Special Music

*Recording:* "The Holy City"

*Hymn:* "How Great Thou Art" UMH 77

*Hymn:* "I'll Fly Away" TFWS 2282

*Recording:* "Job's God is True"

Shari McCabe, *pianist*

### Memorial Donations

Memorial donations may be given to the McPherson  
County Humane Society in loving memory of  
Barbara.

### Appreciation

The family wishes to express their sincere  
appreciation for all your prayers and kindness,  
evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence  
at this service.

*Hope Strength*

*Stockham Family Funeral Home*



*In Loving Memory*  
**Barbara Jean Jenkins**  
August 20, 1934 - February 14, 2022



*In Loving Memory*  
*Barbara Jean Jenkins*  
*August 20, 1934 ~ February 14, 2022*

Barbara was born on August 20, 1934, in a farmhouse near Galva, KS. Some say it was the hottest day on record during the dust bowl years, and VERY warm indeed inside the home of her parents, Nathan and Matilda Giesel. Barbara was the youngest of three children - the oldest, her brother Chester, and the middle child, her sister Bernice.

Growing up, there were plenty of critters around the farm, including cats and dogs. Barbara always had a soft spot for all these critters, and many of the old family photos show her with her pets.

Barbara graduated from Galva High School in 1952. After graduation, she attended the Halstead Hospital's school of nursing. The school was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and they certainly had a lot of rules for their students to follow! Barbara would tell you that she was a bit of a spoiled child, unruly at times, and had a bit of a rebellious streak. One night, she and a fellow nursing student decided to go to a local club in Hutchinson, and that was the night she met the love of her life, John Jenkins. Very soon, after a whirlwind romance, the two would wed in June of 1955.

Now, this was a problem, as the nursing school did NOT approve of married students, and Barbara was nearly dismissed from nursing school. However, one of the sisters convinced the school administrators to make special exception for Barbara, and she was able to complete Nursing School in the Spring of 1956.

Husband John was in the US Air Force, and soon the young couple found themselves stationed in Tacoma, WA,

where firstborn John Clayton Jenkins Jr. was born; then Altus OK, where middle child Marcé was born; and then a three-year assignment at Misawa Air Force Base, Japan, where youngest child Jeffrey was born. During most of these years, Barbara was a full-time mom and military wife, and was not actively working as a nurse - she was just a very professional "Dr. Mom" to her three kids.

In 1973, John retired from the military, and the family settled down in the McPherson area. It was then that Barbara finally got to put her nursing skills to work, first at Northview Manor, and later at The Cedars and Sandstone Heights. John attended McPherson College on the GI bill. In 1976, they purchased land in the country west of Windom, and built an energy efficient "off grid" home, where they lived together for the remainder of their days together. And by "built", I mean BUILT - John sawed every board by hand, laid every stone, mixed every batch of mortar to hold brick and stone together. It was a dream of his to build a home with his own hands.

Barbara spent countless hours gardening, weeding, mowing, tending flower beds, feeding birds, and spending time with her beloved grandchildren, which began arriving in 1992. These grandkids - Nathan, Stephen, Timothy, and Sarah - loved coming to visit grandparents in Kansas, and spending summers in the country when they were old enough.

During the great COVID pandemic, John began feeling unwell, and the doctors told him he had advanced stage IV lung cancer. John did not wish to be kept in a facility, as he would not be able to see his family, and chose to receive in-home hospice care, and died on August 10th, 2020. Barbara took this very hard but did her best to

*Honor*  
*Loving Memory*

carry on alone in the country. At first, her daughter Marcé (a college professor at North Carolina State University) was able to spend a great deal of time with Barbara but had to return to Raleigh to teach.

Over the Halloween weekend of 2021, Barbara began feeling very dizzy and unwell. She was diagnosed with a heart issue but was told that it was quite possible to live with this condition for a few more years. She purchased a home in McPherson, but her condition got worse. She was found to have a badly damaged heart valve, and the doctors were unable to repair it. They said most likely, her heart would fail catastrophically, and the end would come quickly. Barbara spent her last days in her McPherson home with her cats and her children, and when her Lord called her home, she answered the call with joy. One minute, smiling and watching Judge Judy, and then she was gone in seconds. Her faith was strong to the end, and she had no fears, longing to be reunited with her John and her other friends and family that have gone on before.

Survivors include: three children, John Clayton Jenkins, Jr. of Maize, KS, Marcé Lorenzen of Raleigh, NC; and Jeff Jenkins and wife, Darla, of Las Cruces, NM; a sister, Bernice Lorenzen of McPherson, KS; four grandchildren, Nathan Jenkins, Stephen Jenkins (Madison), Tim Jenkins, and Sarah Jenkins; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and a brother, Chester Giesel.