

Dear Mom...

I'm so much better at writing than speaking, Mom, so I thought I'd share my thoughts and feelings this way instead of fumbling with my emotions and my nerves at the same time in front of a crowd.

When I got the call from WakeMed that Saturday, all the worst case scenarios I had ever imagined flashed through my head. They wouldn't tell me anything on the phone, but that was my first clue that you were gone. I hoped against hope all the way to the hospital, but in my heart I already knew. And after spending hours at the hospital with Dad making sure he was going to be okay, I had to drive home, finally alone with my thoughts and the simple agony that life was never going to be the same.

Life generally prepares us for the inevitability of loss, but its so much more difficult when you don't have the chance to say goodbye, and you know the one you've lost had so many more things she wanted to do. I don't have many regrets. I had you in my life, through thick and thin, for almost 61 years. And we had the best time for the last 40 months—gardening together and creating our homestead; scrapbooking and talking about family history; reading great books and sharing them over coffee; and despite the pandemic and a couple of other curve balls life threw at us, we found ways to give to others and find the fun in life together. You found a spiritual and musical home, and your constant singing and humming around the house was just an extension of the music in your soul. I'm so glad you moved in with us three years ago!

But my heart is truly broken that there is so much you aren't going to finish. You won't get to sing the Broadway tunes you were so excited about in Chorus, and you won't start the album of Grampa's trip around the world. You won't get to see the family history on the walls of the dining room, and you won't get to help me plant our "baby trees." We will never get to chat about the last book we read or explore the others on your long list. But most poignantly, and perhaps the most heartbreaking of all, you won't get to watch your great grandchildren grow up. I know you were enjoying that so much. You loved your family fiercely, and we loved you right back, and that is the only thing that has a chance of filling the huge hole in our hearts.

Love you forever,
Lynanne

A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam
And for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world.
But then it flies again...
And though we wish it could have stayed...
We feel lucky to have seen it.

- Author Unknown

Celebration of Life

In loving memory of

BARBARA FRENCH HAMSON

January 26, 1938—January 8, 2022



Order of Service

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 3:00pm
First United Methodist Church of Fuquay-Varina

Welcome	
Words of Grace	Pastor Mark Woods
Greeting	Pastor Mark Woods
“Let it Be”	Clay Whittington
- Paul McCartney & John Lennon (1968)	
Scripture Reading	Pastor Mark Woods
Homily	
“Imagine”	Clay Whittington
- John Lennon (1971)	
Words of Witness	Warren “Chris” Teague Cassandra Long
Commendation	Pastor Mark Woods
“Supermarket Flowers”	Clay Whittington
- Ed Sheeran, John McDaid, & Benjamin Levin (2017)	
Benediction	Pastor Mark Woods
Postlude	

Organists: Clay Whittington & Stephanie Ashworth
Audio and/or video recording is not permitted.

Barbara’s life was endlessly punctuated by her love of music. For that reason, we have included several of her favorite songs in today’s service. She also loved singing the Messiah by Frideric Handel, but because it takes a choir and lots of practice, Clay Whittington has chosen to incorporate it in more subtle ways. Listen for it today and know that she is most definitely humming along right now!

Quotes & Songs

Here are a sampling of “words of wisdom” and lyrics that were important enough for Barbara to write in her journal or share with family/friends.

Always find time to do the things that make you happy to be alive!

- Dr. Adam Zwig

Home is not a place but the people you choose to love.

- Kristin Harmel

If you live to be 100, I hope I live to be 100 minus one day... so I never have to live without you.

- Winnie the Pooh

Sometimes it’s the jagged edges that allow us to fit together. Sometimes it’s the breaks that make us strong.

- Kristin Harmel

“This is my wish for you: Comfort on difficult days, smiles when sadness intrudes, rainbows to follow the clouds, laughter to kiss your lips, sunsets to warm your heart, hugs when spirits sag, beauty for your eyes to see, friendships to brighten your being, faith so that you can believe, confidence for when you doubt, courage to know yourself, patience to accept the truth, LOVE to complete your life.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sung to her grandchildren

♪ The other night, dear
As I lay sleeping
I dreamed I held you in my arms
When I awoke, dear
I was mistaken
So I hung my head and cried.

You are my sunshine
My only sunshine
You make me happy
When skies are gray
You’ll never know, dear
How much I love you
Please don’t take
my sunshine away. ♪

♪ I wish I had met you sooner so I could have loved you longer (for Darryl). ♪

- Adam Doleac

If ever there is a tomorrow when we’re not together, there is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we’re apart... I’ll always be with you.

- Winnie the Pooh