



Barbara J. Hess

February 28, 1938 - January 14, 2026

Barbara J. Hess was born in Fairview Township, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania on February 28, 1938. She was the daughter of Howard B. Steele and Curlie Ellen (Wagner) Steele. She graduated from Lewistown High School in 1956 and received a bachelor's degree at Messiah College in 1960. After working as the Girl's program director at the Lewistown YMCA, she began her teaching career in the Redland School District in January of 1961. On June 10, 1961, she married the love of her life, Glenn I. Hess, in the Messiah College Chapel in Grantham, PA. Barbara was a school teacher her entire life. After teaching in the Redland School District, the Mechanicsburg School District and the Chambersburg School District, Barbara moved to the Lebanon School District. Barbara taught at the Lebanon School District from 1968 until her retirement in 2000. Even after retiring, Barbara continued as a substitute teacher for an additional four years. Teaching children was an important part of her life.

She is survived by her sister, Gloria Daubert, son Edward H. Hess and daughter-in-law Donna Innocent, son Jonathan C. Hess and daughter-in-law Melissa Hess, and four grandchildren Olivia and Cameron (Ed) and Jacob and Julia (Jon) and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Glenn I. Hess, brother, James E. Steele Sr., sister, Marjorie Steele Siwec, sister, Virginia Steele Stannert and brother, Terry S. Steele. Barbara served her church through the years as Sunday school superintendent, Sunday school teacher, Bible School teacher/director, music

director, church board member and board for congregational life member, both in the local congregation and for the Mid-Atlantic Conference of the Brethren in Christ Church. She was happiest when spending time with her family. She was an avid reader (especially her Bible), loved to do Sudoku and loved observing God's handiwork in nature whether it was in the mountains of Pennsylvania or visiting National Parks. She spent her entire life serving the God she loved-Jesus Christ.

A public viewing will be held from 9:00AM-11:00AM on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at Fairland Brethren In Christ Church, 529 W. Penn Avenue Cleona, PA 17042. Funeral Services will begin at 11:00AM on Wednesday at the Church. Inurnment will be held at the convenience of the family in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Greencastle, PA.

In lieu of flowers, family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association or the ALS Association.

Cemetery Details

Cedar Hill Cemetery

Greencastle, PA

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 21. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Fairland Brethren in Christ Church
529 W. Penn Avenue
Cleona, PA 17042

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Fairland Brethren in Christ Church
529 W. Penn Avenue
Cleona, PA 17042

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Rest in peace, Barbara. It was a pleasure teaching at Southeast School when you were there.

Deborah Granger - February 05 at 10:37 PM

LO

“ LCBD/DA's Office planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara J. Hess.

LCBD/DA's Office - January 20 at 12:38 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Hess.



January 20 at 12:38 PM

JF

“ Jennifer Feinstein purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Barbara J. Hess.



Jennifer Feinstein - January 18 at 05:36 PM

TF

“ The Stannert Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara J. Hess.

The Stannert Families - January 18 at 05:31 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Hess.*



January 18 at 05:31 PM



“ *The Fancy Walking Ladies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Barbara J. Hess.*

The Fancy Walking Ladies - January 17 at 07:03 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Barbara J. Hess.*



January 17 at 07:03 AM



“ *My 5th Grade teacher. Mother of one of my first friends and one of my best friends to this day. Rest in peace Mrs. Hess. Our deepest condolences to Ed, Jon and the entire family.*

Brian Donley - January 16 at 07:01 PM



Thank you!!! Brother!

Edward Hess - January 19 at 09:07 AM