



## Patricia Benfer Clay

June 8, 1934 - September 22, 2025

Patricia “Pat” Clay, age 91, of Saline, Michigan, died peacefully at her home on Monday, September 22, 2025.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Pat graduated from DeVilbiss High School and the Toledo Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1955. She enjoyed a long career as a registered nurse at Toledo Hospital for 44 years, where she cared for thousands of newborns with skill and compassion.

Pat married James “Duke” Clay in 1955 in Toledo, after his service in the U.S. Coast Guard. Together they raised three children. After Duke’s death, Pat moved to Saline, Michigan, where she made her home for more than twenty years.

Faith was central to Pat’s life. She was an active member of Fairgreen Presbyterian Church in Toledo and, after moving to Michigan, joined First Presbyterian Church of Saline, where she formed many cherished friendships. During winters spent near Dallas, Texas, she also worshiped with the Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church community.

Pat’s greatest joy was her family—beginning with her parents, sister and brothers, and extending to her own children, grandchildren, and great-grandson. She loved to give and receive hugs, and her warm embrace was a gift to everyone who knew her. A prolific knitter, she ensured every child and grandchild had a hand-knit afghan. Despite working full time as a nurse while raising her family, she always found time to bake: homemade treats for every occasion, holiday breads and cookies, and a cookie jar that was never empty.

She was a passionate rose gardener, with a collection of over 75 plants. She is survived by her children Karen (Chris) Folger and Steve (Teresa) Clay; grandchildren Stephen Kroodsma, Michael Folger, Brian Kroodsma, Braxton Clay, Jillian (Wesley) Arrington and Rylee Clay; great-grandson Wesley Folger; sister Judith Price; brothers David (Mary) Benfer and Richard Benfer; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Wilson and Marjorie (Baringer) Benfer; her daughter, Kathleen Clay; and her husband, James "Duke" Clay. Friends may join the family for a time of visitation on Saturday, September 27th at the First Presbyterian Church of Saline from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 10:30 A.M. A luncheon will follow the service and will be held at the Church. Memorial contributions in Pat's name may be made to Saline Area Social Service, the Alzheimer's Association, the American Cancer Society, or the First Presbyterian Church of Saline.

To leave a memory you have of Pat, to sign her online guestbook or for directions please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com) Arrangements entrusted to the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **27**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Saline  
143 E. Michigan Avenue  
Saline, MI 48176  
<http://salinepres.org/>

## Celebration of Life Service

SEP **27**. 10:30 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Saline  
143 E. Michigan Avenue  
Saline, MI 48176  
<http://salinepres.org/>

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ Sharon Szteiter lit a candle in memory of Patricia Benfer Clay



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Sharon Szteiter - October 01, 2025 at 11:57 AM

MB

“ Every Christmas season for over 40 years, we looked forward to the treats Pat baked. There were at least four different kinds of cookies, like sour cream twists and little Mexican wedding balls. Not the normal recipes we would attempt ourselves. And the biggest treat was her loaves of Snitzbrot, a German fruit bread recipe handed down for generations that took forever to make! She kept the tradition alive for all of us.

A most precious memory we have is at the birth of our three children, Pat took care of them in the nursery at Toledo Hospital and lovingly made their infant footprints on the hospital certificate.

When Pat was 12 years old, her youngest brother, David, was born. Just a few weeks ago she introduced him as she always did, “This is my baby brother! I changed his diapers!”

Well, she changed a lot of people with her sincere and loyal friendships, her unwavering support of family and her deep faith, her spirit lives now in all our hearts.

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Mary Benfer - September 27, 2025 at 03:23 PM

DS

“ My memories of Pat go way back to Fairgreen Church when she was deeply involved in the life of the church there. One of the programs was a Wednesday night youth gathering called Logos. I remember so many conversations over the years as we shared common concerns. I’m thankful for her friendship over the years. Dee Smale.



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**deanne Smale** - September 27, 2025 at 09:38 AM

LA

“ We are sending our Prayers, love and hugs, to all the family. We always loved it when Pat came to visit Charlottesville. All the kids were so excited because they knew when Grandma Clay arrived, they would get to help bake and enjoy her goodies.

*We now have all the wonderful memories shared with Grandma Clay. She is with our Heavenly Father, and you will see her again.*

*Greg & Lisa Atkins*

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**Lisa M Atkins** - September 25, 2025 at 07:41 AM

KH

*Dear Karen, Steve & Family,  
My heart is full of wonderful memories that your mom & I were friends here in Toledo; even going way back to your youth group days!  
I wish I could be at her service today, but it is not possible.  
You all have my love & prayers ; I hold you in my heart & memories.  
In deepest Christian Friendship & love,  
Karen Herren*

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**Karen Herren** - September 27, 2025 at 08:25 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Patricia Benfer Clay.*



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September 24, 2025 at 05:17 PM



“ *Mike Coval purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Patricia Benfer Clay.*



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**Mike Coval** - September 24, 2025 at 03:10 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear this and for your loss. Prayers for you all for strength during this sad time. She is with our Heavenly Father and you will see her again.*

❤️ *Joanne and Peter Mackey*

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**Joanne E Mackey** - September 24, 2025 at 12:26 PM



“ *We are sending our Prayers, love and hugs, to all the family. We always loved to see Pat come to visit with Steve and Teresa in Charlottesville. We knew we were going to get some good baked goods. I can see them good cookies now. I loved her smiles, and hugs. Her work on earth was done. We will see Pat again, until then, she will be in our hearts and thoughts. Kelley and Bobbi Mundie.*

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**Barbara M Mundie** - September 24, 2025 at 10:54 AM