

Dennis William Fenner, a cherished soul of Barnesville, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at Sanford Hospital in Fargo. At just 58, Dennis's life was touched unexpectedly by leukemia, a battle he faced with quiet strength and courage for less than two weeks.

Born on October 31, 1967, in Minneapolis to Dennis E. and Shirley Ann (Milstead) Fenner, Dennis's early years were woven through the vibrant communities of the Twin Cities, Bradford, Princeton, and Braham, before he made Barnesville his home. He graduated from Barnesville High School class of 1987, Dennis embraced both adventure and tradition, briefly exploring life in California before returning to his roots. Here, alongside his father at Southside Auto, and later with Liberty Fence, he crafted a career grounded in his skilled hands and an enduring love for mechanic work.

Dennis's heart belonged unmistakably to his family, the center of his world. He was the proud father of four daughters—Kylanda, Cassie, Tabettha, and Isabelle—and the devoted husband to Nita Jones, whom he met serendipitously one unforgettable night out. Their union on October 1, 1994, blossomed into a joyful and loving home filled with laughter and playful mischief. Known fondly as a prankster, Dennis delighted in gentle teasing, especially Nita, creating moments of warmth and humor that will echo in family stories for years to come.

A lover of the outdoors, Dennis found peace and passion in hunting, ice fishing, camping, and tending the landscape around his home. His hands nurtured both machines and gardens, reflecting his deep connection to the simple joys of life. Beyond his own family, Dennis's generous spirit extended to caring for his parents, siblings, children, and grandchildren, embodying a legacy of devotion and kindness.

A Celebration of Life to honor Dennis's vibrant spirit will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at St. James United Church of Christ in Barnesville, with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM. Duane Morey will preside over this heartfelt gathering as friends and family come together to remember a man whose warmth, humor, and love touched all who knew him.

As we bid farewell to Dennis William Fenner, we hold close the memories of a life richly lived—a testament to love, laughter, and the enduring bonds of family. He is survived by his wife Nita Fenner, four daughters: Kylanda Nelson and her son Gavin, Cassie (Ashton) Norton and their children Sylias, Ryder, Tyson, and Harrison, Tabettha (Zach) Crawford, Isabelle Fenner and baby Millie Jo, father Dennis (Micky Nelson) Fenner; mother Shirley Saumer, siblings: Tammy (Sheldon) Ammerman, John (Debbie) Fenner, Erica (Shaun) Thomssen, mother in law Marlene Jones, and many other relatives and friends.

Dennis was preceded in death by his stepdad Stan Saumer, father-in-law Eugene Jones, and his grandparents.



Celebrating the Life of
Dennis William Fenner
October 31, 1967 ~ March 24, 2026



Dennis I wasn't ready to lose you. Wasn't ready to be strong. Wasn't ready to hear the words, "You're in a better place." I just wanted.... one more day. One more ordinary moment. One more chance to tell you I love you. I miss the little things the way you smiled when no one was looking, the quiet moments we never noticed, the warmth that filled the room. I wish I could hold you one more time. To feel you're warmth, to hear heartbeat, to tell you everything I never got to

say. I wish I could see your smile one last time, to laugh with you, to cry with you, to let you know just how much you meant to me. Even now, your memory fills every corner of my heart. Every little thing reminds me of you....the way you moved, the love you gave. I carry you with me in everything I do. And though I can't hold you anymore, I'll hold onto you forever.....in my heart, in my soul, in every breath I take.. Love you forever Nita

Celebration of Life

Saturday, April 18, 2026 ~ 11:00 am
St, James United Church of Christ
Barnesville, Minnesota

Celebrant

Duane Morey

Special Recorded Music

Five More Minutes by Scotty McCreary
Dancing in the Sky by Dani and Lizzy
Save You A Seat by Alex Warren
I Wish Grandpas Never Died by Riley Green

Family Remarks

Sandra Hathaway

Honorary Uribearers

Gavin Nelson Sylias Harrison Ryder Harrison
Tyson Harrison and new baby Millie Jo Fenner

The family of Dennis Fenner thanks you for your presence here today and for your many acts of kindness. Following the Celebration of Life please join the family for a time of lunch and fellowship.

