

In Loving Memory...

Robert Carlton Smith

November 21, 1930—October 8, 2026

Robert Carlton Smith was born November 21, 1930, in Quincy, Massachusetts the son of Thomas Franklin and Gertrude Elizabeth (Kinsman) Smith. Bob was raised in the Dorchester, Massachusetts area and following high school, he enrolled in Gordon College. Following his graduation from seminary, Bob was united in marriage to Audrey Ann Nead on September 1, 1956, in Norwood, Massachusetts. Bob and Audrey were called to serve churches in Maine, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Grinnell, Iowa, until moving to Knoxville, Iowa in 1986 to serve as the pastor at the First Baptist Church in Knoxville, from which retired in 1992.

He was a man of service, whether it was shepherding his congregations or caring for and helping those in need. After his retirement, "Pastor Bob" as he was known in Knoxville, served as the Chaplin of the Knoxville V.A. Medical Center until the facility's closure. He put down roots and was willing to make an investment into the community. Following the Lord's calling and seeing a need, he was instrumental in starting the Food Pantry out of the church. That ministry expanded to a separate location called Helping Hands. From there, apartments were added to give temporary living spaces for people in need. He truly cared about people and wanted to show love with food and shelter.

In his spare time, Bob was an avid golfer. He rarely sat still and always answered a call for assistance. Bob truly loved the Lord, and helping others was his life passion. He had a smile for everyone and taught us that laughter is a gift. His stories and legacy will live on.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gertrude and Tom; wife, Audrey and his siblings: Helen, Gertrude, Phyllis, Mary, Tom, Hugh, Arthur and George.

Those left to cherish Bob's memory include his children Deborah (Will) Roberts, Paul (Karen) Smith, Cindy (Brad) Wissink and Kathy (John) Neal; 10 grandchildren; 8 great- grandchildren; 2 step-grandchildren; 6 step-great grandchildren and many other family members and friends.

Robert Smith

Funeral Service

First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Iowa
Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
Rev. Rick Smith, Officiating

Music

"Blessed Assurance"
"The Old Rugged Cross"
"How Great Though Art"

Pallbearers

Connor Neal
Tyler Roberts
Aaron Smith
Cameron Neal
Zachary McCoy
Jordan Spar

Interment

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.
Graceland Cemetery
Knoxville, Iowa

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church

A light meal will follow the service at the church.

www.BertrandFuneralHomes.com