



Donna Pearl Bakker was born on May 3, 1940, in Rock Rapids, Iowa, to Peter “Pete” and Dora (De Zeeuw) Mantel. On October 23, 1959, Donna was united in marriage to Gysbert “Gys” Bakker in Doon, Iowa. They made their home northwest of Hull, Iowa and built a life centered on faith and hard work. Gys passed away June 19, 2013, and Donna later moved into town.

Donna devoted much of her life to raising her family as a homemaker. She also worked outside the home at Hull Christian School, where she took pride in keeping the school clean and welcoming, and later worked for ServiceMaster.

Donna was known for her grit and strength. A tough woman with a tender heart. She loved being outdoors, especially in her garden, and in her younger years she enjoyed sewing, fishing, and canning. Above all, her grandchildren were her greatest joy, and she cherished every moment spent with them. She passed on her love of faith by teaching her children how to pray, instilling in them values that will live on for generations. Donna passed away at her home in Hull on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at the age of 85.

Donna is survived by her 2 daughters, Dorri Jo (Darrell) Bloemendaal of Hull and Gwen (Jamison) Van Voorst of Rock Valley, Iowa; 8 grandchildren, Kristin (James) De Jong, Ben (Rochelle) Bloemendaal, Dan (Shannon) Bloemendaal, Abbie Jansma, Jon (Rachel) Bloemendaal, Tasha Hulstein, Shaylie (Derrick) Jansma, and Jake Van Voorst (fiancée Stacy Wetterich); 19 great-grandchildren; her first great-great-grandchild, a boy, expected in August; 2 sisters-in-law, Goldie Veldman and Gert Busby; 2 brothers-in-law, John (Joyce) Bakker and Albert (Carolyn) Bakker; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Donna in death were her parents, Pete and Dora; husband, Gysbert; son-in-law, Norwyn Bloemendaal; and brother, James Mantel.

In Loving Memory
Donna Pearl Bakker

May 3, 1940 ~ May 27, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:30 AM, Tuesday, June 3, 2025
First Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Matthew Haan

PIANIST

Rochelle Bloemendaal

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me”

Vocalists: 3 of Donna’s great-grandchildren
Alyssa Faber ~ Megan De Jong ~ Mattias De Jong

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

“May the Grace of Christ Our Savior”

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

“How Great Thou Art”

PALLBEARERS

Kristin De Jong ~ Ben Bloemendaal
Dan Bloemendaal ~ Abbie Jansma
Jon Bloemendaal ~ Tasha Hulstein
Shaylie Jansma ~ Jake Van Voorst

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

*Donna’s family invites everyone for a time of food
and fellowship in the church fellowship hall
following the committal service at the cemetery.*

And God will wipe away
every tear from their eyes;
there shall be no more death,
nor sorrow, nor crying.
There shall be no more pain,
for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4 NKJV

And there shall be no more curse, but the
throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it,
and His servants shall serve Him.

They shall see His face, and His name shall
be on their foreheads. There shall be no night
there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun,
for the Lord God gives them light.
And they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:3-5 NKJV



Footprints

One night I had a dream. I was walking along the beach with the Lord, and across the skies flashed scenes from my life. In each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One was mine, and one was the Lord's.

When the last scene of my life appeared before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand, and to my surprise I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. And I noticed that it was at the lowest and saddest times in my life.

I asked the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I notice that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why you left my side when I needed you most."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, where you see only one set of footprints, I was carrying you."