

Beatitudes of the Exceptional Child

Blessed are you who take time to listen to defective speech, for you help us to know that if we persevere, we can be understood.

Blessed are you who walk with us in public places and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your companionship, we find havens of relaxation.

Blessed are you who never bid us to “hurry up” and more blessed are you who do not snatch tasks from our hands to do them for us, for often we need time rather than help.

Blessed are you who stand beside us as we enter new ventures, for our failures will be outweighed by the times we surprise ourselves and you.

Blessed are you who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed.

Blessed are you when by all these things you assure us that the one thing that makes us individuals, is not in our peculiar muscles, nor in our wounded nervous systems, but it is the God-given self that no infirmity can confine.

Blessed are those who realize that I am human and don't expect me to be saintly just because I am disabled.

Blessed are those who pick things up without being asked.

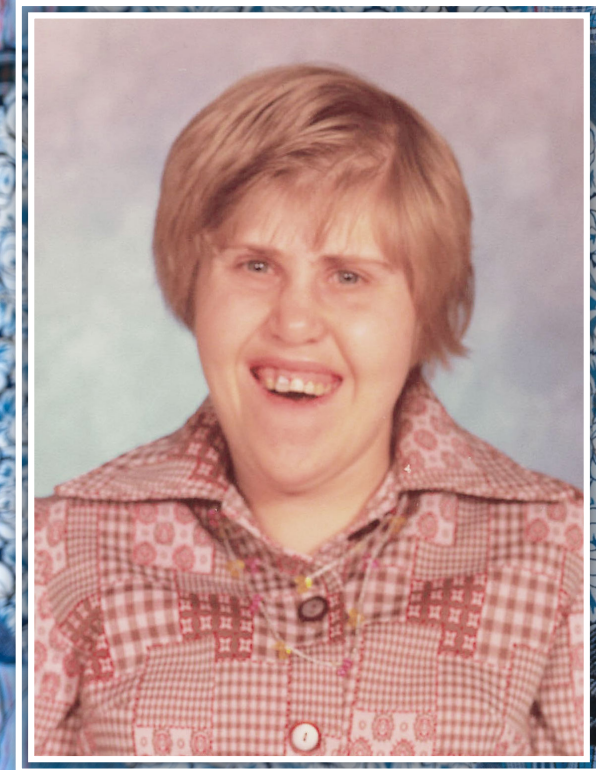
Blessed are those who understand that sometimes I am weak and not just lazy.

Blessed are those who forget my disability of the body and see the shape of my soul.

Blessed are those who see me as a whole person and not as a “half” and one of God's mistakes.

Blessed are those who love me just as I am without wondering what I might have been like.

In Loving Memory of



Janet K. Tjarks

December 11, 1954 - May 30, 2026

Janet K. Tjarks, 71, of Clear Lake, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2026, at her home.

Janet Kay Tjarks was born on December 11, 1954, to Henry and Anna (Ahlfs) Tjarks in Britt. From the time Janet was a little girl, her parents knew she was special. She lived at home until the age of 13, when she moved to Pine Rest Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

When Janet's parents learned of Handicap Village (now One Vision) opening just 20 miles from their home, they immediately knew that God had provided an answer to their prayers. Janet moved onto campus when she was 19, and resided in various cottages until 2020, when she moved into a One Vision Home.

One Vision became Janet's second home, with support staff and roommates becoming her second family.

Though Janet's words were few, she was very good at expressing her likes and dislikes. The more you got to know her, the more you understood her. While on campus, Janet loved to walk the paths and visit the other cottages for a cup of coffee. She went to the Activity Center every day, fulfilling her job shredding paper. She enjoyed going to music class and being in the hot tub. Being warm and cozy in her bed was her favorite.

Janet was always watching what was going on; not much escaped her. She loved visits from family, who took her to McDonalds for ice cream and pop.

Though tiny, Janet was mighty. She had an infectious smile and enjoyed being around those who accepted her.

Janet is survived by her sisters, Judy (Terry) Winters of Dayton, OH, Carol Fennema of Santa Clara, CA, and Deb (Doug) Potter of Joice; brother, Vern (Beth) Tjarks of Forest City; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and brother-in-law, Roger Fennema.

Janet will be missed by her family and her One Vision family of 52 years. The love and care given to her by the staff will never be forgotten.

Memorials may be directed to One Vision.

In Loving Memory of

Janet K. Tjarks

December 11, 1954 - May 30, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

One Vision Kinney Lindstrom Center
Clear Lake, Iowa
1 p.m., Wednesday
June 3, 2026

OFFICIATING

Chaplain Jason Peterson

MUSIC

"I Can Only Imagine"
"Jesus Loves Me"

HONORARY CASKET BEARERS

Janet's Nieces & Nephews

Mark Winters	Sarah Caldwell
Amy Shawley	Dan Winters
Ben Fennema	Brandon Fennema
Katie Lipovsky	Erik Tjarks
Betsy Potter	Lindsey Prescott

BURIAL

Christian Reformed Cemetery
Woden, Iowa

All are invited to a light luncheon following the funeral service. Burial will follow the luncheon.

Cafaldo
FUNERAL HOMES