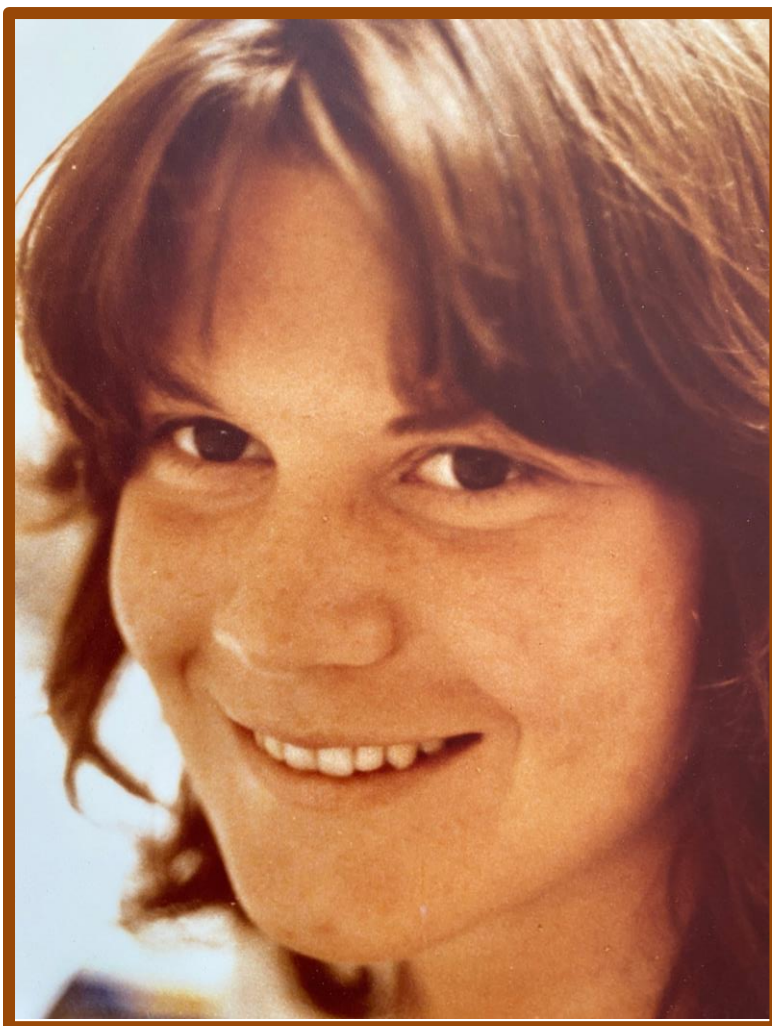


**A Celebration of Life for  
BETSY LOUISE HUDSON**

*October 7, 1959 - February 10, 2023*



**Saturday, May 13, 2023 / 11:00 am**

St. John United Church  
10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044

**Betsy Louise Hudson** was born October 7, 1959, in Akron, Ohio, to Sara Louise (Davis) May and Russell James May. After a childhood spent in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, she and her family moved to Keene, New Hampshire, to which she retained an abiding attachment, for her high school years. She graduated from Keene High School in 1977 as valedictorian of her class and in 1981 graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College with a BA in Comparative Literature. On August 22, 1981, she married Thomas Grenville Hudson II, whom she had met at Dartmouth, and is mother to two daughters, Sally Topping (Hudson) Dill and Anne Woodbridge Hudson.

A highly skilled writer and editor and an astute analyst, she brought her talents to bear across multiple professions during a career that spanned four decades. Upon graduating from Dartmouth, she worked for Yankee Books in Dublin, New Hampshire, as a book editor and a contributor to Yankee Magazine. When she and her husband were both offered jobs with the National Security Agency (NSA), she moved to College Park, Maryland, before settling in Columbia, where she raised her family. During two separate stints with NSA, Betsy served in multiple capacities, focusing her efforts on organizational development, management training, refining writing and briefing skills, and promoting collaborative cross-organizational and cross-agency networks. These initiatives were all intended to enhance mission performance, but more importantly to her, they were devoted to improving the social health of the workplace, reflecting her invariable focus on the well-being of others.

Betsy and her family spent eight years in Germany on two separate professional tours of duty, periods of personal and cultural enrichment that she would later refer to as among the happiest years of her life. Betsy was a tremendously talented linguist. She mastered French and gained facility in Italian through her college studies, and while abroad, achieved a remarkable level of fluency in German with little advance training, reading the German classics in German, navigating all the details of life overseas, and facilitating Sally and Annie's enrollment and participation in the German school system. Most importantly, she forged enduring and deeply meaningful relationships with German friends that persist to the present day. She took great pleasure as well in exploring with her family the sights and the rich historical and cultural heritage of Germany and surrounding European countries. While in Germany she also acquired a Masters in Education from Boston University.

Music was always vitally important to Betsy, having come from a musically talented family. She played piano, oboe and recorder. As an accomplished oboist, she performed in the Dartmouth Symphony and Keene State Symphony Orchestras, and she sang in multiple choruses over the course of her life. She shared her great love of music with her husband, her daughters, and her grandchildren, enriching their lives immeasurably.

Betsy loved cross-country skiing and spent many a happy hour on trails in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps, northern New Hampshire, and the Portland area in Maine. She was also an avid tennis player. She humored her husband in following the New England Patriots and the Boston Red Sox, but she had a real passion for ice hockey, becoming a devoted fan of the Washington Capitals and their prolific goal-scorer Alex Ovechkin.

During Betsy's three decades in Columbia, she was a vital and valued member of the community. She formed many meaningful friendships, was actively involved in her daughters' education, taught English As A Second Language at Howard Community College, and was a dedicated member of St. John United Church, serving on SJU's Church Council, its Communications Team, and the Bryant Woods Elementary School Partnership Team. The state of Maine also held a special place in Betsy's heart as the home of many dear family members, the location of the family cottage in Freeport, and the site of her second home base, her "happy place" in Portland's West End.

Betsy was a woman of strong character and great compassion. She radiated warmth and kindness and benevolence. She was deeply devoted to her family and created a loving and supportive environment for her children and grandchildren. The saying "some people create so much light that

all around them grow" applies in abundance to Betsy. The torrent of tributes streaming in during her illness attest to the difference she made in many, many lives.

Betsy, who passed away on 10 February, will be dearly and desperately missed. She is survived by her husband Tom, her daughters Sally and Annie, her grandchildren Nicholas and Marie, her sons-in-law Joshua Dill and Carl Crafts, her sisters Barbara Lauer and Kitty May, her brother, Mark May, her mother-in-law Elinor Small Hudson, and ten nieces and nephews.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Betsy's name to the Iris Music Project or the Monadnock Conservancy: [irismusicproject.com](http://irismusicproject.com) [laurenirismusic@gmail.com](mailto:laurenirismusic@gmail.com)  
[monadnockconservancy.org](http://monadnockconservancy.org) [lindsay@monadnockconservancy.org](mailto:lindsay@monadnockconservancy.org)

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*Please turn off your cell phone.*

### **WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE		Patricia Hammer Accompanist
A WORD OF WELCOME		Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER		
MUSIC SELECTION	A. Dvorak's Piano Trio No. 4 in E Minor "Dumky", 3 <sup>rd</sup> Movement	Iris Piano Trio
GOSPEL LESSON	John 14	Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
OPENING HYMN	"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"	SJU Chancel Choir and congregation

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty.  
Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more.  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee.  
I will ever give to thee.

MESSAGE

Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan

MUSIC SELECTION	A. Copland's "Appalachian Spring"	Iris Piano Trio
EULOGY		Tom Hudson
MUSIC SELECTION	F. Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 2 in C Minor, 4 <sup>th</sup> Movement	Iris Piano Trio
CLOSING PRAYER		Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
CLOSING HYMN	"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"	SJU Chancel Choir and congregation

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing  
 Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing  
 For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe  
 His craft and power are great  
 And armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal  
  
 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing  
 Were not the right one on our side, the one of God's own choosing  
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he  
 Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same  
 And he must win the battle  
  
 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth  
 The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth  
 Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also  
 The body they may kill  
 God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION		Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan
POSTLUDE		Patricia Hammer Accompanist

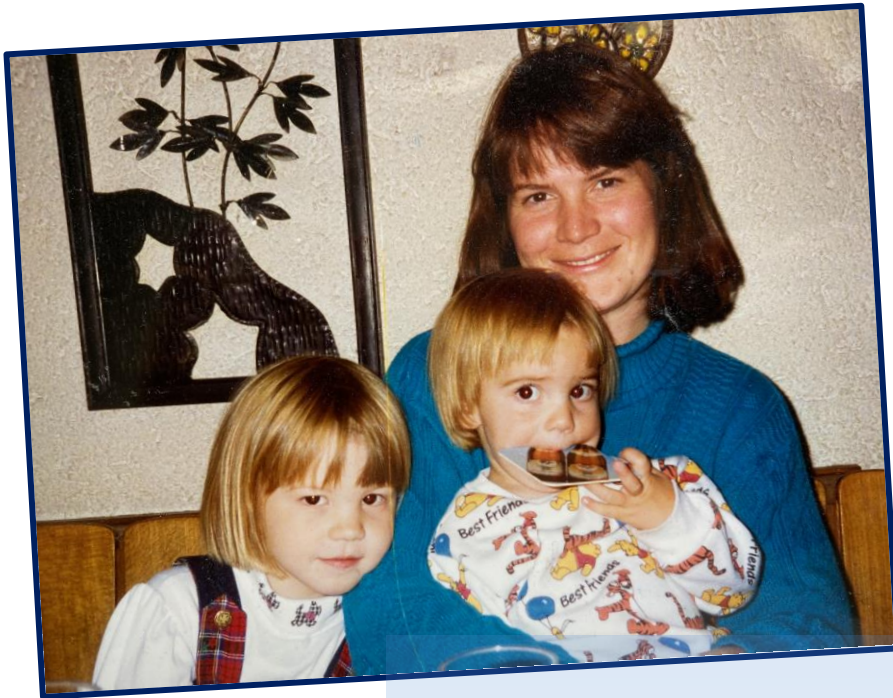
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Members of Iris Piano Trio:  
 Lauren Latessa (cello), Jiyoung Oh (piano), Joanna Owen (violin)  
**The family invites you to join them for refreshments in the lobby  
 immediately following the service.**

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St. John United Church  
 (a UMC/PCUSA community)  
  
 Rev. Mary Ka Kanahan, Pastor  
 Ingrid Sampson, Music Director • Patricia Hammer, Accompanist  
 St. John United Church, 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044  
[SJUColumbia@gmail.com](mailto:SJUColumbia@gmail.com) • [www.sjunited.org](http://www.sjunited.org) • 410-730-9137

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## **A Red, Red Rose**

By Robert Burns

O my Luvie is like a red, red rose  
That's newly sprung in June;  
O my Luvie is like the melody  
That's sweetly played in tune.

So fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luvie am I;  
And I will luvie thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry.

Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
I will love thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luvie!  
And fare thee weel awhile!  
And I will come again, my luvie,  
Though it were ten thousand mile.