



Michelle "Shelly" Eileen Flickinger

June 7, 1958 - December 9, 2025

Michelle "Shelly" Eileen (née Barbee) Flickinger, 67, of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

God has welcomed another beautiful voice in His Heavenly choir. Shelly was born to Edward and Connie Barbee on June 7, 1958, and grew up in the Petersburg area. After graduating from PORTA in 1976, she then graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1980, with a degree in education. She later attended the University of Central Florida earning her master's degree. On June 22, 1991, she married Dave Flickinger. Throughout her career as a teacher, she taught at St. Cabrini Elementary School in Springfield, elementary schools in Orange County, Florida, and elementary schools in Springfield District 186.

Shelly had a beautiful voice and she loved to sing and act on stage, sharing her talents at church and in local theater. She was a lifelong member of Petersburg United Methodist Church. Her theatrical roles throughout the years were numerous and she loved her theater family. She taught P.A.V.E., the Springfield Theatre Centre's youth summer camp program for many years and was always excited to see one of "her kids" on Stage in a production. She was on the Board of Theatre in the Park at New Salem, where in the summer of 2024 she directed her first play, Red Velvet Cake Wars.

While Shelly had many roles throughout the years, her most cherished role was being Ember's mom.

Shelly is survived by her husband, Dave; her daughter, Ember Flickinger; her sister, Susan (Rick) Carlson; a nephew, Michael (Amy) Burke and their children, Jack, Allie and Henry. She also shared her love with her furry family, leaving behind kittens Frankie, Oscar, Pretty Girl and Honey Bear. She was preceded in death by her parents.

A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2026, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Petersburg United Methodist Church, 221 W. Jackson St., Petersburg, Illinois 62675. A memorial service will immediately follow with Pastor Rick Pierce officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Ember Flickinger education fund at the Alliance Community Bank, 321 N. 6th St, Petersburg, Illinois 62675, or Petersburg United Methodist Church.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting Shelly's family with funeral arrangements. Please visit Shelly's online obituary at hurleyfh.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Memorial Service

JAN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Tribute Wall

HS

“ There is not a bad word that can be said about Shelly. She was a dear. She was funny. She was caring. She was the kind of person that you wanted in your life. I am very grateful to have called her a friend. I will continue to honor her memory by showing kindness to everyone I meet.

Heather Southwell - January 02 at 03:42 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Michelle "Shelly" Eileen Flickinger.



January 02 at 12:52 PM

SM

“ Will miss your friendly cheerful, presence around the theater. Thoughts and prayers to your family and friends.
Shirley McConnaughay

Shirley McConnaughay - December 31, 2025 at 07:22 AM

KC

“ Kevin Mowery & Judy Mowery Chernoff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Michelle "Shelly" Eileen Flickinger.

Kevin Mowery & Judy Mowery Chernoff - December 29, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Michelle "Shelly" Eileen Flickinger.*



December 29, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ *I enjoyed getting to know Shelly when she was teaching at Sandburg. She was my roommate and we had wonderful conversations and laughs. I am so incredibly sorry to hear of her passing. She was a wonderful lady.*

Cristina Suerdieck - December 23, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ *Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Michelle "Shelly" Flickinger*



Larry and Mary Hundt - December 23, 2025 at 12:15 PM



“ *Shelley lit up every room she entered. Her beautiful smile and loving and positive attitude could pull anyone along with her to a better and happier place. She was up good friend and positive influence on many throughout all of our years of school together in Petersburg. The many good memories and experiences with her will help carry Shelly's family through this very difficult time.*

purd3388@yahoo.com - December 23, 2025 at 07:12 AM

LC

I am just Heart sick about Shelly; she was a friend her and I were going to take her daughter and my granddaughter to the park let them play while we caught up on school things.i worked with Shelly at Springfield Ball Charter,I loved her as a teacher and a great caring person. God Bless her family

Louise M Clark - December 27, 2025 at 12:28 AM

CF

“ *Shelly really knew how to make a person feel like they mattered. She'll be missed by so many. My condolences to her family.*

Carissa Filipiak - December 22, 2025 at 10:28 PM