



Marilyn Sue Hensley

October 27, 1939 - January 4, 2026

Marilyn Sue Hensley, daughter of the late Cleve Harrison Kissinger and Mearl (Maynard) Kissinger, was born on October 27, 1939, in St. Louis, Missouri.

At the age of ten, Marilyn professed her faith and was baptized at Jennings Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri. After moving to the Waynesville, Missouri area, she became a dedicated member of Westside Baptist Church, where she faithfully served for many years as a Girls in Action and MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) leader and teacher for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

As a young girl, Marilyn and her family moved to Swedeborg, Missouri where she grew up and graduated from Richland High School. She continued her education at Central Missouri State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Marilyn later pursued and obtained her Master's Degree in Special Education from Lindenwood University.

Marilyn devoted 32 years to her teaching career. She began in the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis, where she taught 5th grade at Twillman Elementary, later continuing in the same grade at Bonfils Elementary and serving as Education Specialist during her final year there. After relocating to the Waynesville R-VI School District, she spent nineteen years teaching special education at East Elementary before retiring alongside her husband,

Dwight, in 1999.

On May 24, 1958, Marilyn married Dwight Vernon Hensley in Waynesville, Missouri. Their union lasted for over 67 years, and together they were blessed with three children: Jill, Becky, and Jason.

Marilyn enjoyed traveling with her family and was proud to have visited all 50 states. Some of her happiest memories were made on the Gasconade River with Dwight and friends during float trips, where the days were filled with easy laughter, shared stories, and the kind of joy that comes from simply being together. Those river moments became treasured family traditions, remembered for their warmth and fun.

She found joy in shopping with her family, tending to her flower gardens, helping Dwight in the yard and decorating her home with care. Her passion for teaching extended far beyond the classroom and church. Marilyn loved guiding her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, often reading to them and playing games that brought everyone together. Above all, she cherished time with her family, especially her grandchildren, who held a very special place in her heart.

Marilyn passed away on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, at the age of 86. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Dwight Hensley of Waynesville, MO; two daughters: Jill Kilburn (James) of Springfield, MO, and Rebecca Hensley-Ward of Overland Park, KS; four grandchildren: Mario Medeiros (Ashley) of Republic, MO, Jacqueline Medeiros of Springfield, MO, Joseph Ward of Overland Park, KS, and Julia Ward of Overland Park, KS; two great-grandchildren: Isaac Medeiros and Isabelle Medeiros; as well as several

nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

In addition to her parents, Marilyn was preceded in death by her son, Jason Hensley and her brother, John Kissinger.

Because of her faith, Marilyn was a very giving and patient person and loved to serve. Along with those attributes, Marilyn's love for her family and her strong faith will continue to inspire and remain in our hearts forever.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 10, 2026, in the Westside Baptist Church of Waynesville, Missouri with Pastor Mark Morrison and Rev. Lindell Shelden officiating. Mike Freeman led the congregation in singing "When We All Get to Heaven" and "How Great Thou Art". Becky Lercher and Mike Freeman sang "Goodness of God" and Becky sang "It Is Well With My Soul". Serving as escorts were Jim Kilburn, Mario Medeiros, Joseph Ward, Isaac Medeiros, Ed Fisher, Dave Ernst, Lyle Cox and Kevin Jeffries. Serving as honorary escorts were a host of local family and friends. Burial followed in the Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery of Waynesville, MO. Services were under the care and direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Marilyn Hensley to the Waynesville R-VI School District Foundation or the Westside Baptist Church of Waynesville and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert or at Westside Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery

Highway 17 South
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

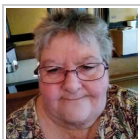
Westside Baptist Church Of Waynesville

Funeral Service

JAN **10**. 10:00 AM.

Westside Baptist Church Of Waynesville

Tribute Wall



“ *Janice Howell lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hensley*



Janice Howell - January 25 at 08:59 PM

RW

“ *Dwight and family, Wyndham and I are so very sorry for the loss of your beloved. You complemented each other like no other couple with such love. May your tender memories bring you comfort during these difficult times ahead. With Deepest Sympathy, Wyndham and Ruth Whynot.*

Ruth Whynot - January 09 at 05:16 PM

CE

“ *Marilyn was such a sweet lady, always had a smile in her face. She will be missed. Prayers go out to Dwight and his family.*

Cindy (Shelden) Emory - January 09 at 03:25 PM

VS

“ *It was a joy spending time with Marilyn at Westside Baptist. We went to church with her and Dwight for 16 years. She was such a sweet lady and will be greatly missed. Dwight we love you and our prayers are with you and the family. Rex and Vickie Seitz*



Vickie Seitz - January 08 at 12:24 PM

LC

“ Linda and Grant Cox lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hensley



Linda and Grant Cox - January 06 at 07:33 PM

LR

“ It has been an honor and privilege to have been able to honor several requests made by Marilyn for several quilts and several Christmas gifts to their friends and family. Such a lovely and refined woman. She will be missed



Linda Renno - January 06 at 06:28 PM

MS

“ Marge Scott sent a virtual gift in memory of Marilyn Hensley



Marge Scott - January 06 at 10:04 AM

EA

“ Earl & Michelle Arnold lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hensley



Earl & Michelle Arnold - January 05 at 10:24 PM

CD

“ *Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hensley*



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - January 05 at 10:12 PM

BH

“ *I am so sorry to hear this, my Prayers are with her husband and her children.*

Barbi Surmiller Hoskins - January 05 at 10:00 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of Marilyn Hensley*



Pamela Cox - January 05 at 07:35 PM

LH

“ *What a wonderful woman our friend Marilyn was! She will be missed. I send my love to Dwight and family.*

Luge Hardman - January 05 at 07:11 PM