



Pamela Joy Sorensen

November 21, 1934 - January 17, 2026

Pamela Joy Sorensen passed peacefully into eternity surrounded by loved ones on Saturday, January 17, 2026 in Lake Oswego, OR.

Born in Missoula, MT on November 21, 1934, she was the younger daughter of Elton and Bernice Brechbill. Though she was raised in town, her best friend lived on a ranch and she spent the majority of her childhood on horses. She would often reminisce how they would ride all day and never see a fence. Pam began violin lessons at the age of 5 and loved to perform for all who would listen with her older sister, Beryl, accompanying her on piano. Throughout her life she was known for her delicious pies. The most famous one being a cherry pie that took first place in a 4-H pie baking contest, winning her and a friend a trip to Chicago. Pam graduated with honors from the University of Montana in 1957, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education. After college, she was ready to get out on her own and took a job teaching music in a small school in Helena, MT. On August 16, 1958, she married the love of her life Frank Curtis Sorensen, whom she had dated while at U of M. They loaded up a trailer and spent their honeymoon driving and camping across the country to Gainesville, FL where she would give birth to their first son, Curtis. While Frank pursued his masters degree, Pam enjoyed being a mom and homemaker and playing violin in a string quartet with other professional musicians from the University of Florida. After two years in Florida, the family moved to Corvallis, OR, where Pam and Frank would

spend the next 60 years. They added another son Tom, daughter Keely, and daughter Solveig to their family. As an adult, Pam received Jesus as her Lord and Savior and faithfully walked with Him the rest of her life. Pam and Frank volunteered in many capacities at the churches they attended over the years and became “family” wherever they went. Pam loved living and serving in the Corvallis community as well- teaching violin, playing in the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra and in a string quartet, and was a school music teacher (for a season). She could often be seen riding her bike for errands and enjoyment, walking her miniature schnauzers, or enjoying conversation over a cup of coffee with Frank. The door to their home in downtown Corvallis was always open. Strangers were the only ones who knocked. Pam loved to share her gift of music and spent many years playing for residents at the Corvallis Manor each week. She also loved adventure—camping, cross-country road trips, hiking, and travel, both here and abroad. But her family was her biggest pride and joy.

Pam spent her last 5 years at Mary’s Woods in Lake Oswego, OR where she has been lovingly cared for in every capacity. Though we mourn her loss, we celebrate that she is in the presence of God and reunited with her beloved husband and all the loved ones who have gone before her. Pam was known for her unwavering gratefulness to God for His goodness and provision in her life, her fierce love for her family, making and teaching music, hospitality, correcting your grammar, her beautiful smile and joyful spunk. She lived up to her name and was a joy to all who knew her.

Pam is preceded in death by her beloved husband of almost 64 years, Frank Curtis Sorensen. She is survived by her sons, Curtis (Linda) and Tom (Amy); her daughters, Keely and Solveig (Nate); her grandchildren, David, Melissa, Ryan, Alex, Austin, and Shannon; her sister, Beryl; nieces, Camilla, Antonia, and Marcy; nephew Bruce; and nine great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Pam on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1pm at First Baptist Church- 125 NW 10th St. Corvallis, OR 97330. It would warm her heart for any memorial gifts to be given to Corvallis OSU Symphony Orchestra or Corvallis Youth Symphony Association.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 5. 1:00 PM (PT)

First Baptist Church
125 NW 10th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

RB

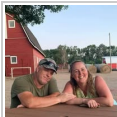
“ I met Pam when my son was in second grade, and Pam was offering a group violin class to the students. We signed up for the class and attended faithfully, but my son was not, shall we say, enthusiastic. So when Pam called me to chat, I was expecting the "perhaps your son should pursue other interests" conversation. But instead, she told me "don't give in. He's got the best ear in the class. He'll play the wrong note, but when I scowl at him, he immediately plays the correct note. Hang in there." We stayed on with private lessons for quite a few years. I was always so grateful that Pam could look beyond the exterior and see the talent inside.

Rose Brown - March 16 at 05:05 PM

VC

“ My very first clear memory of Pam was early 1975 when I was pregnant with my son, Brock. She came breezing into my home sweet and cheery...and assuming I knew who she was! I did finally figure out that our husbands worked together! Then, later, I homeschooled Solveig and my three children in the third story of their wonderful old house. Pam taught my youngsters violin...and even when she wasn't their teacher, organized them into something of a string quartet! Always she was an encouragement to my as a non-string playing parent, and to my kids. I'm glad she breezed in that long-ago day.

Viki (Gnose) Carrick - January 26 at 06:53 PM



I remember being in her kitchen while she made quesadillas during our lunch break for home schooling and listening to Paul Harvey on the radio.

Kimberly Pike - January 26 at 07:41 PM

JK

Pam and I first met in 1959 when our husbands were graduate student of Dr. Bill Ferrell. We discovered our music background and soon arranged to play violin/piano sonatas. Baby Curt spent that first rehearsal at my duplex in a cardboard box. Tom arrived October 1962 as Corvallis was experiencing the Columbus Day Storm. By the time the girls arrived the family was established in that grand house on 7th Street, home of many musical gatherings especially the Christmas sings around the big table. Pam's wonderful baking was eagerly anticipated with my family the lucky recipient of; stollen and the unique grapefruit rinds filled with fruit cake. Frank loyally kept the lawn free of non-ending leaves. Together in work and play----I'm grateful to have known them.

Judy Krueger - February 03 at 01:07 PM



“ So many good memories of Pam and your family. Sending love and hugs. Kim (Gnose) Pike

Kimberly Pike - January 26 at 06:39 PM