

## Patricia Saxton <sup>6HR</sup> 11-3-2011



Patricia Saxton, 66, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 10, at the United Church of Christ - Congregational in Grinnell with the Rev. Paul Johnson officiating.

Visitation will be held Wednesday at Smith Funeral Home from 1 until 7 p.m., with the family present to greet friends from 4 to 7 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be designated to the Mayflower Community Human Needs Fund or to the Grinnell High School Fine Arts Alliance. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com).

Patricia "Pat" Saxton was born on July 5, 1945, to George and Dorothy Myers Hager in Doylestown, Pa. She grew up in Doylestown and was educated in the Central Bucks County school district. She graduated from high school in 1963 and attended college at Westchester State College, now Westchester University. Pat graduated in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in music education. She worked as an organist and choir director for several churches in Pennsylvania, including St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Doylestown, for 12 years.

Pat married John E. Saxton on June 25, 1982, with the service held in her home congregation Salem UCC, Doylestown. They returned to Primghar, Iowa, where John served as minister of the United Church of Primghar. Pat went back to school in 1991 and earned a bachelor's degree from Buena Vista University in accounting. She continued to be very involved with music in the church and community in northwest Iowa, sharing her musical talents with the couple's two children as well as with the community, church and schools in Gladbrook and Hubbard. She also served as organist and choir director at St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church in Story City from 1999 to 2010.

When they moved to Grinnell in June 2000, she was enthusiastic about additional music opportunities, including the Grinnell Community Chorus (Oratorio Society), and she enjoyed her work with the Grinnell community schools, playing for soloists and small groups, middle and high school music concerts and serving as the rehearsal pianist for five Grinnell high school musicals. She was greatly looking forward to being part of the upcoming production of "How to Succeed in Business (Without Really Trying)."

Pat is survived by her husband John; two children, David and Caroline; two sisters, Darrie Schmidt of Elizabethtown, Pa., and June Martin of Columbus, Ohio; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Clyde Hager.