



## Susan Safford

February 12, 1943 - April 1, 2026

Susan Safford, 83, passed away on April 1, 2026, in Tallahassee, Florida where she has lived for nearly 40 years. She was born February 12, 1943, in Plymouth, Massachusetts to Carl and Ethel Groetzinger. Susan graduated from Plymouth High School where she enjoyed being active in her church, Chiltonville Congregational Church. She later graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts as Magna Cum Laude and a proud member of Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society. Susan furthered her education once again with a Master's degree from Boston College School for Social Work in 1966. After working in Maine for two years as a psychiatric social worker, she spent four years as an adjudicator and supervisor for Social Security. On August 2, 1969, she married the love of her life: Robert "Mickey" Safford.

After the birth of their first daughter, Katherine, Susan became involved with the La Leche League where she served as a leader. She also served Brockton Christ Congregational Church as a Sunday School Teacher and Board Member. In 1988, Susan received a second Master's degree in Education from Bridgewater College. That same year, Mickey retired and moved the family to Florida before finally settling in Tallahassee in 1990. Susan retired from the Office of Disability in 2000. In Tallahassee, Susan was a devoted member of First Presbyterian Church where she served as an ordained Elder and choir member. Her passion for service was handed down from generations of family members. She fought ardently for what she

believed in, as a longstanding union member. She belonged to Bread of the World, lobbying for hunger issues. Justice was of the utmost importance to her. Her faith sustained her throughout her life. She loved her family.

Susan is now reunited in Heaven with her parents and her beloved husband, Robert "Mickey" Safford whom preceded her in passing. Survivors include her children Katherine "Kay" Ignacio (Elmer), Christiana Rose Messer (Bobby); grandchildren Kaitlin Meyer, Lawson Meyer, Tyson Meyer, Aidan Hardcastle, and George Messer as well as a host of extended family and friends whom she loved dearly.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 10, 2026 at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either Big Bend Hospice or 211 Big Bend.

Breanna Green of Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193 or [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **10**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
110 North Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ Sue was a member of our online small group through St. John's. I was touched by her insights and contribution to the group's discussions, especially during our session in March. I was praying she would be able to see her great grandchild in October. She will be missed.

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**Shannon Hartsfield** - April 13 at 06:08 AM

WW

“ Our family spent several summers (1960 and 1961) in Maine while my father studied at Colby College for his Master's Degree in Science. On our way from Pennsylvania to Maine we would stop and visit Susan's family in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This photo is us leaving with Susan standing in the doorway.



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**William Wilson** - April 08 at 08:30 PM

WW

“ I think I was closer to Susan than to any other cousin of mine. Susan was the one I turned to when I needed help. She was my therapist when I was dealing with my sexuality. I trusted her because she knew all the family dynamics with out me having to explain. The advice she gave me was valuable Not to say that I always agreed with her but even when i didn't I knew where she stood. I will miss her.



William F. Wilson - April 06 at 12:47 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Susan Safford.



April 06 at 12:01 PM

LP

“ I am so very grateful for the opportunity these past few years to get to know Sue and to participate in a weekly contemplative gathering and monthly book study with her. Her presence in my life has been a blessing as will the memory of her. Peace be with all who knew and loved her, Lisa Powell, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Lisa Powell - April 05 at 02:25 PM

SU

“ I met Sue in a Saturday Contemplative prayer group. I learned so much from her and her faithfulness to pray for others. She was wise and witty. I will never forget her, she will be missed.

Susan Oatess

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**susan** - April 05 at 01:52 PM

DB

“ Every Thursday evening for a couple of years, Sue joined our group to discuss the Gospel of Thomas via ZOOM. All of us in the group loved her insightful, wise, and often humorous and zesty comments. I particularly looked forward to seeing her as she rested her head on her pillow and shared her thoughts. I did not know much about what she was going through physically; she rarely made mention of that. I will never forget her, and I am sure I speak for everyone in the group. She was an outstanding person, caring for others, devoted, and influential in her community outreach. I thank God for giving her to us, for the precious time she gave to us.

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**Deborah Bliss Bujnocki** - April 04 at 07:25 AM