

James William Barbee died in his Dyer Indiana home on August 4, 2026.

James was born November 16, 1959, in California, the son of William Hollister and Marjorie Lois (Renn) Barbee. Jim grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, primarily in the King City and Niles area.

Jim was a big man, topping out at 6 foot 9 inches tall! He had a big heart to match. In his lifetime, he wore a variety of “hats” in a variety of occupations. Ranch hand, National Forestry Service officer, bartender, bar bouncer, bar DJ, radio DJ and producer in radio markets of all sizes across the county! During his radio career, he was honored with awards for his radio ad production, including an award from the Indiana Association of Broadcasters. He was known far and wide as “the tallest man in Country Music”. He also went by “Dusty James” in his early years in Broadcasting in the Country genre.

Jim will be missed by a legion of friends, family and loved ones, especially his life partner, Cindy Stath, who survives. He is also survived by his sister, Jane (Rick) Duffey, niece Ashley (Garrett) Smallwood, nephew Keegan (Angie) Duffey, great niece Haven Smallwood, great nephews Jackson Smallwood and Killian and Ralph Duffey.

Jim was known for his incredible memories that he could recall from very early years of his youth, as well as a plethora of trivia information with accurate dates of events that he would share his recollection. He was an amazing storyteller, and we know that he is enjoying continuing this legacy and his heavenly home with all of our loved ones that have gone before us.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family may support one of Jim’s favorite projects, Wreath’s Across America.



To plant a memorial tree in memory. Or to send flowers.



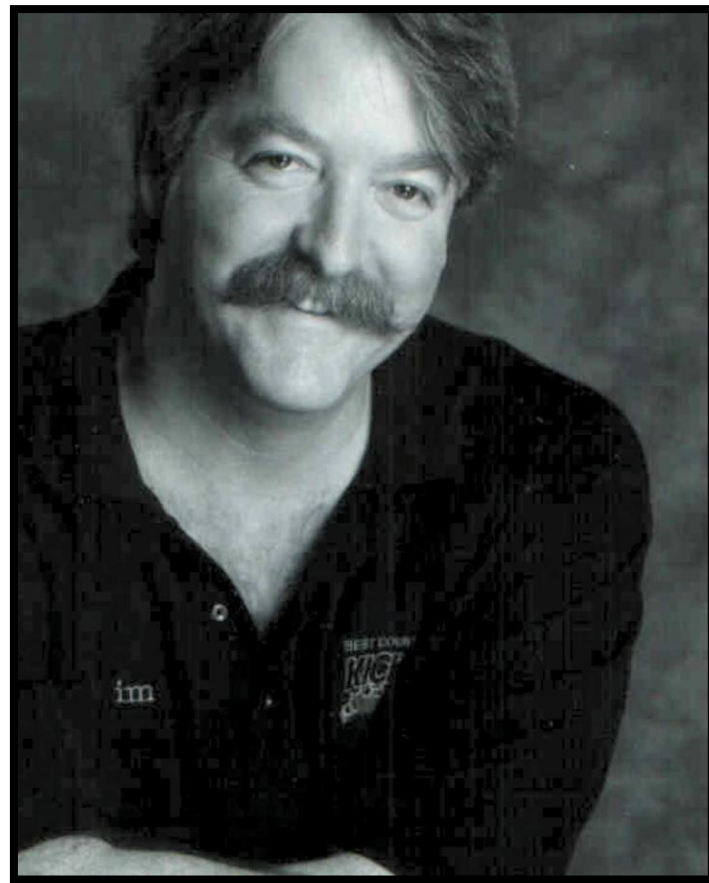
Officiating Clergy

Rev. Denise Robinson



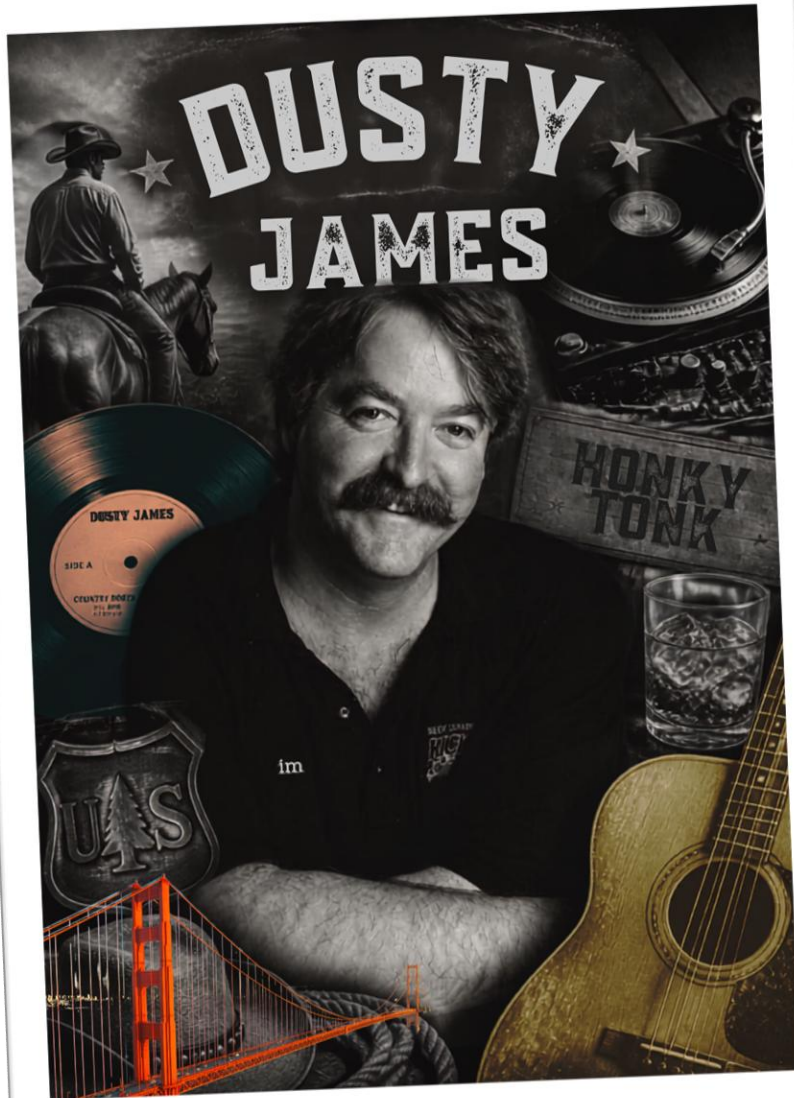
8607 Columbia Avenue
Munster, IN 46321
219-838-4770
www.ridgeumc.org

Celebration of Life



James William Barbee

November 16, 1959 - August 4, 2026



Songs from Jim's Playlist

(as you enter the sanctuary, are you invited to enjoy the music)

Words of Gathering, Welcome, and Prayer Rev. Denise Robinson

Reading of "The Epitaph" Haven Smallwood

A Reading of Ephesians 3:14-21 Ashley Smallwood

A Reading from John's Gospel Rev. Denise Robinson

Memories Jane Duffey
Cindy Stath

A Reading from Revelation 21 Rev. Denise Robinson

Homily Rev. Denise Robinson

Prayer of Commendation; The Lord's Prayer

Formal Words of Committal

One for My Baby (and One More for the Road)

*Dismissal with Blessing

**Stand as you are able.*