



Chris Witherspoon

Feb. 15, 1970 - June 22, 2023

Chris Witherspoon, 53, of Morganton, NC passed away surrounded by his family and friends on Thursday, June 22, 2023. He was born on February 15, 1970 in Burke County where he was raised by his loving parents, Odell and Mary Ellen Witherspoon. He was a member of First United Methodist Church all of his life. Chris had a contagious smile and a personality everyone loved. He was a loyal friend to all and never complained throughout his journey of declining health. Chris was named Surveyor of the Year multiple times. He recently was named Distinguished Person of the Year in 2022 by the Morganton Rotary Club. Chris loved his family dearly and was the best son, husband, dad, brother and father figure to many. He was the Director of the FUMC Wood Ministry and a member of the Morganton Men's Club. He was also involved in several other community ministries.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife, of almost 26 years, Tanya Witherspoon; children, Carson Witherspoon and Allie Witherspoon; sisters, Leslie Carpenter (Jeremy) and Jamie Sisk (Clay); nieces and nephews, Tucker and Courtney Sisk, Tanner and Abigail Carpenter, and Gavin Johnson; a bonus daughter, Morgan McGhee; many special friends; and his canine companion, Trooper.

He was preceded in death by his biological father, Johnny Black and three sets of grandparents.

The family will receive friends from 12:30pm – 2:00pm on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church of Morganton. A memorial service will follow at 2:00pm in the church with Rev. Dana McKim officiating. The service will be live-streamed beginning at 2 pm, on the Facebook page of First United Methodist Church Morganton (<https://www.facebook.com/fumcmorganton>) or YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@firstumcmorganton9267/streams>).

Memorial contributions may be made to the FUMC Wood Ministry or Amorem Hospice of Burke County.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

—Tom and Sarah Anne Eller



Sending my prayers and condolences to the Witherspoon family! Prayers for your strength and courage during these trying times. Chris was such a wonderful person and, his spirit will live on in your memories. I am so very sorry.

—Ruth Roseboro

Carson & Allie, I was so sorry to hear about your father's passing. Please know that my heart is breaking for you both and I am sending many prayers your way. I know how troubled you both are feeling right now. I really liked your dad. He was a good man. He loved you both so much. He was good to your grandpa Dwight, and Daddy really enjoyed your dad's visits, his company, watching golf together and best of all the milkshakes your daddy used to bring him. I am positive that Daddy and Martha Nel were there to greet him when he passed over into heaven. I think of you children often and always look for Carson's name when I'm watching golf. How is that going honey? Remember that the Lord is always there and hears your prayers. My husband and I moved to Arizona just last winter. So enjoy being close to my children and grandchildren. Give your mama a hug for me. If you guys ever get to Phoenix, don't hesitate to look me up. You will always be welcomed and have a place to stay. Hope to see you one day. Much love Marissa Brakefield Valles.

—Marissa Brakefield Valles

My deepest and most sincere prayers for the entire Witherspoon family. Spoon was a true friend to me and I sincerely will miss him. Life is way too short and some of our best people we meet are taken away too soon from us. However we all know and have faith that he is in the arms of God and we will see each other

again. I have come to understand that there is only one plan and that is his plan. With deepest regards and prayers. Mike Price

—Mike Price

Chris was a wonderful person and professional. Prayers to the family from the Sandhills Community College Engineering and Construction programs.

—Ed Spitler

Solid as “old Table Rock” ! Chris lived church daily not just on Sunday! We have known Chris since Forest Hill and Morganton Junior High. May God continue to hold family and friends in the “Palm of HIS hand”

—Ed and Flora Mae Hardin

Tanya, Carson, Allia, I'm so sorry for your loss of a great man. I only knew Spoon during our CCCC from 1991 to 1993. He's probably the only reason I was able to graduate and get my PLS license. We had a lot of fun at CCCC. He stayed in rough side of Jacksonville the 1st year but we drank many beers and grilled often. We even played golf together . Those are the days to remimber for me!!! Keep your hearts open and notice every time GOD sends you a sign that he's in a better place with no pain..... Gary

—Gary Futral

I am sorry for your loss. Sending prayers, love, and comfort to the Witherspoon family. May God comfort you all in the days ahead. Love The Aldridge Family Bill, Kelly, Addison and Ava

—Kelly Aldridge

Loved Chris. Deepest feelings to the Witherspoon Family.

—Jim Belote

Just want to express my condolences to the family. I haven't spoken to Chris in years but I certainly remember running down the street to watch aunt Martha Nell feed him KFC mashed potatoes and gravy. Such a fond memory for me. Chris is loved and missed. All I know to say is stay strong. Very sorry.

—Ruth Anne Avery Acuff

I send my condolences to the Whitherspoon Family cause I know what it is like to lose a husband and brother cause I lost 2 brothers and a half sister so I know what it is like to lose a sibling

—Amy Parker

Very sorry for the families loss. Chris was a true friend to my Uncle Dwight.

—Tony Brakefield

Words cannot express the sadness so many of us feel with the passing of Chris. He was such a great guy and would do anything for anyone. His loyalty to his family and church were so admirable. He did so much good with the youth at FUMC while my kids were growing up and was always a joy to be around. You will be missed by so many!

—Libby Gibson Dugan



Chris my friend I will miss you greatly. Prayers to your family.

—sammy kayga



First met Chris through the NCSS golf tournament he used to run in Morganton and ran into him at other society events over the years. He was just a great guy, outgoing and always upbeat and fun to be around. Godspeed Chris, were gonna miss you. My condolences to the family.

—Chuck Dunbar



Prayers, comfort, and peace to the family of great person, Chris.

—D. Scott Bostic

I always enjoyed visiting with Chris in his new office. Always a joy to work with. A very special person who will be missed by many. Now he can rest with no pain. Prayers for all the Witherspoon Family.

—Ricky Dean Lingerfelt

I did not know Chris well enough to call him Spoon. I did know him well enough to see a man committed to his profession and from reading these condolences his family and friends. My condolences to his family and friends. I wish I had known him better.

—Carl Parker

To the family of Chris...I am so very sorry for your loss! I was shocked to see this and flooded with memories of Chris as a kid walking down to the FLIP INI know what a devastating loss this is for you! You are in my prayers!!!!

—Annette Honea

—Darla Perry

Odell, Mary Ellen and family I was saddened to learn of Chris' passing. I

remember him as a young man and taught him in a psychology class at WPCC. I know that your hearts are broken and that there are few words that can bring you solace right now. These are the times when all we can do is trust in the Lord to give us strength. Please know that we will continue to lift you all up in prayer. Your friends, Ralph and Yolanda Soney

—Ralph Soney

Chris was the funniest and the nicest guy. Was great to have went thru school and graduate together. Gonna miss you spoon!!!

—Andy Campbell

Chris was a true friend to John. They would get together wherever they could connect. For that I am thankful. For the family I'm sending my prayers. A long battle was fought and Chris is finally at rest.

—Candace Sperati



I am so very sorry for you all. "Spoon" was a great guy and thought so much of. Prayers for comfort and peace your family. Angie Epley Shore

—Angie Epley Shore



I went to HS with Chris and he was a wonderful person and friend. His smile was infectious and was always happy. This totally broke my heart when I learned of his passing. He has now BEAT Cancer and is whole again. Please know I am truly sorry for your loss and will be praying for his

family during this difficult time. Rest easy classmate! Once a Patriot, ALWAYS a Patriot! Class of '88

—Pam Cowan McLellan

We always knew him as "Spoon" – he was always a bright spot in any day, even when things might not be going perfectly. Cheerful and always ready to laugh, he was one of my favorite "fellow professionals" in the North Carolina Society of Surveyors.

—Kristopher Kline

What a great person the world's lost. Chris was truly one of the best, most generous, and most kind-hearted people I have ever known. I had the pleasure of having him as a boss and over the years he also became a friend to me and was like another big brother, providing me with advice and wisdom on so many things. I'll always remember when I wanted to get experience in land surveying I went through the yellow pages alphabetically to ask if any surveyor would hire me and after getting all the way to "w" with no luck, it was Witherspoon Surveying, Chris more specifically, that was thoughtful enough to give me a chance. I could go on with many examples that displayed the great person he was, but I'm sure everyone that knows him has similar stories. That's why he'll be so missed, and to his family just know that you're in my prayers.

—Wes Beam



So sorry for your loss.. Prayers for comfort during this difficult time..

—Dean Jennifer Redwine

So sad to see you gone brother! Glad I got to say good-bye on my way out of Morganton! Love and peace always! Condolences to Tanya and family!

—Scott Carpenter



—Kenneth Hunt

Family and friends my heart goes out to you at this time of grief. Know that our Lord and Savior has conquered all and death loses its sting. Our hope is in our eternal home. It has been a good time of relationship development for Spoon and I when we shared things at the Morganton Men's Club lunches and just seeing each other in the community we both love. Live on the memories of a life well lived. We can say with confidence well done good and faithful steward.

—Wayne Giese



Blessings, prayers and love from our family to yours. Spoon was certainly one of a kind and will be missed by so many. We love you all.

—Tearrea & Jaryd Conley

Our hearts are crushed in seeing that Chris could not win the war against the wicked disease demons, however, he fought every battle with grace and never ending faith . As neighbors , we witnessed a young man totally devoted to his family and additionally an ambassador of goodness, who touched all of our lives in a positive, upbeat manner . Tanya, Carson, Allie , Mary Ellen and Odell , our

arms are wrapped around you in deepest sympathy. God bless dear Chris - .

—Susan and George Andrea

So sorry to hear of you leaving us. You were like a third son. I can still hear you come into my kitchen saying (Hello Mama). You will be missed. Love. Marilyn Alderman

—Marilyn Alderman

Our sincerest sympathy goes to all of the Witherspoon family. We are happy to be a small part of it because we have loved Chris since the time he was born. He turned into a wonderful family man and a successful member of the Morganton community. Our prayers are with you.

—Ron and Mardee Black

Odell, Mary Ellen and family, I am saddened to read that Chris has passed. You are in my prayers. Jackie

—Jacqueline C. Kanipe



Spoon was a great colleague and friend. I met him through our involvement at NC A&T and the NC Society of Surveyors. He will be greatly missed. His family has my sincerest condolences. Rest in peace Chris.

—Jason Hedley



Tanya, Carson and Allie our prayers are with you, and the rest of your family in this time of need. Chris was an amazing man that was always a pleasure to be around. He will truly be missed. The days to come will be long and hard but know that God has his arms around you and Chris will be looking down on you still smiling. Comfort and love.

—Deanna, Danisha, and Chris "Ducky"



Chris was such a wonderful person and he will be missed by many. Our hearts are broken for the loss of such an amazing person. We are praying for comfort for his family and friends during this difficult time.

—Scott and Tara Conrad

My prayers are with the Witherspoon family. God bless.

—Margaret Shoemake



My heart is broken and know that I will always be here for you.

—Joyce

WAS ONE OF MY BEST STUDENTS I HAD IN THE SURVEYING PROGRAM. I ENLISTED HIM IN THE STUDENT HELPER PROGRAM FOR THE TIME HE WAS A STUDENT IN THE SURVEYING PROGRAM. I WILL MISS HIS WARM HARTENESS, I WILL MISS YOU. JOE

—JOSEPH F. DUNNEHOO

Prayers for Chris' family. He was such a kind and considerate man. Always a smile for everyone.

—Laura McCoy



I was very saddened to hear of the loss of Chris, he was a special person who loved his family and community. I wish the Witherspoon family peace and acceptance during this very difficult time.

So sorry for your loss. Please accept my condolences. May God comfort you in the days ahead.

—Bruce Carpenter



May the prayers of many and our Heavenly Father's presence during this difficult time be a source of strength, peace and comfort for all of the Witherspoon family. Indeed, Chris' life has been a true example of the words "Well done good and faithful servant." With heartfelt sympathy.

—Libby Linker

Prayers and love for your family. Chris fought the good fight. He was a good and wonderful man. I'm sorry I can't be there to help celebrate his life. Donna

—Donna Ross



To all of Chris' loving family members, my heartfelt condolences for your great loss. I hadn't seen Chris and his sisters since they were children, but I have loved seeing photos and reading about the wonderful people they have become, thanks to FaceBook. Chris was so clearly a profoundly good person and will be missed by both his family and his community. Please know that you are in my

thoughts and my heart. I am so very sorry

—Christina Young-Bundenthal



My heart breaks for the loss of Chris and the struggles he and family endured. A grateful smile for the many beautiful memories I have of Chris at NCSS over the years. My wishes for peace and quiet joy for Chris and his family and for all of us who knew him and shared his infectious smile and giving energy. May peace be with you all.

—Katy Marchello

Witherspoon family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. The transition to life without your loved one will be difficult but know you have many people who care and love you. God has you his arms around you for comfort until you meet again.

—Shirley Dale

—Phillip Taylor



Our prayers and thoughts are with you through this sad time and the time following. May Gods Love, Grace and Mercy give you Peace. We love you.

—Benny & Barbara Childers

He was a great man. And a great friend to all . Didn't know a stranger . God bless the family and all his friends . My he put his hands around u and show u his love ... Tony Shelton

—Tony shelton



I remember Chris as a teen when Allan and I moved to Morganton...Leslie and Jamie were my girls...I loved all of you...Chris grew up to be a very special man...and loved by many...Rest easy now.....Prayers for Tonya the children Maryellen Odell and my girls...

—Janet Beck

Chris had the most beautiful smile. He was so sweet and kind when picking up his children in after school. He is a great example of a great husband, father and a true man's man. I loved seeing he and Tanya coming to pick Allie and always joking with her. He is a great man.

—Bonnie Pittman no

Chris was one of the best men I have had the privilege of knowing. His love of his God, his family and his city was inspiring. His sense of humor was fantastic. I loved his stories about Bigfoot and the festival in Marion. He never complained about the terrible ordeal he had to suffer. Always upbeat and positive. I am blessed to have known him. He surely is sitting at the right hand of the Almighty.

—Bill Branstetter

I am so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Darlene & Mike Buff

—Darlene Buff