



*Shirley Lee Smith
Clarke*

Aug. 6, 1935 - Aug. 18, 2026

Shirley Lee Smith Clarke, 91, of Morganton, NC, passed away Tuesday, August 18, 2026.

Born in Burke County, NC on August 6, 1935, she was the daughter of the late Jim Bandy Smith and Floy Otis Shuping Smith.

Shirley had attended Salem United Methodist Church, First Advent Christian Church, and most recently, North Morganton United Methodist Church. She was an excellent baker and cake decorator, and decorated the wedding cake for her late son, Darren. Shirley also had a group of friends with which she played Bingo and did water aerobics.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughters, Dawn Clarke Hutchins and Deanna Clarke Wise; grandchildren, Destiney Tew Benfield (Dustin), Dylan Lee Bollinger, Michael Andrew Wise (Andrea), Dustin Lee Wise, and Sierra Clarke Sprehe (Brett); great-grandchildren, Bella Wise, Noelle Conway, and Colton Benfield; brothers, Ervin Smith and Felix Smith (Debbie); sister, Catherine Smith; and her longtime companion, Harold Whisnant.

In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her son, Darren Andrew Clarke; sister, Davis Smith; and brothers, Robert Smith, Jimmy Ray Smith, and Bill

Clarke; sister, Doris Smith Roper; brothers, Robert Smith, Jimmy Ray Smith, and Bill W. Smith; and son-in-law, John Hutchins.

Services are incomplete and will be announced by Sossoman Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



—Anonymous