



Christopher "Chris" Gunnels

June 4, 2024

Christopher "Chris" Gunnels, beloved husband, father, and dedicated educator, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on January 25, 1981, Chris leaves behind a legacy of love and commitment.

Chris was a graduate of Athens State University and touched many lives during his 20 years as an educator in Madison County. He retired as the principal of Harvest Elementary, where he found joy in mentoring young minds.

Chris' greatest source of pride and joy was his daughters, who he loved watching play volleyball and softball. He was a devoted friend and a committed member of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church for 15 years, finding strength and community in his faith.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Kendall, and their cherished daughters, Kensley, 15, and Adelynne, 11. Chris' impact and legacy will endure in the hearts of all who knew him.

A celebration of Chris' life will be held at Lindsay Lane Baptist Church in Athens, AL, on June 7, 2024. Visitation will be from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, followed by the funeral service. A graveside ceremony will be at Athens City

Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hospice of Limestone County in Chris' memory. Chris will be dearly missed by all who knew him and remembered for his kindness, dedication, and unwavering love for his family and friends.

Hospice of Limestone County -
<https://hospiceolc.org/donate/>
Post Office Box 626
Athens, AL 35612

Cemetery Details

Athens City Cemetery

598 Washington St E
Athens, AL 35611

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Lindsay Lane Baptist Main Campus
1300 Linsday Lane South
Athens, AL 35611

Service

JUN 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Lindsay Lane Baptist Main Campus
1300 Linsday Lane South
Athens, AL 35611

Tribute Wall

FF

“ From the Portnoy family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



From the Portnoy family - June 07, 2024 at 08:17 PM

FF

“ From the Portnoy family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

From the Portnoy family - June 07, 2024 at 08:17 PM

AW

“ Mr. Gunnels was amazing at Harvest. When my baby girl needed help getting to her pre-k class he did not hesitate to put his hand out and say "Come on Miss Charley let's go" and I doubt he knew how much that simple act of kindness meant to me. He helped soothe this worried Mama's mind and I will always be grateful for how sweet and caring he was with both of my girls. He will be missed! 💙



Ashley Watson - June 07, 2024 at 07:31 PM

SB

“ Will always remember Coach Chris in carline and Legacy. He was my daughter's P.E. teacher. So sad to lose him so young. My prayers go out to all of his family.

Susan Brown - June 07, 2024 at 02:29 PM

NG

“ Nelda G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Nelda G. - June 06, 2024 at 07:41 PM

JM

“ My kids had Mr Gunnels as their principal at Harvest for several years. They loved him. He definitely had a love for all the kids there and it showed.



Jennifer Mitchell - June 06, 2024 at 04:54 PM

MP

“ Mawmaw Gunnels, Aunt Gail, Aunt Pam purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Mawmaw Gunnels, Aunt Gail, Aunt Pam - June 06, 2024 at 11:58 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 06, 2024 at 11:39 AM

KF

“ From: Karlie Lackey and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Karlie Lackey and Family - June 06, 2024 at 11:39 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 06, 2024 at 11:03 AM

MB

“ Mom Dad Brian Kayla Paxton Pyper Baylor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Mom Dad Brian Kayla Paxton Pyper Baylor - June 06, 2024 at 11:03 AM

BW

“ Britt, Katie and Parker White purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Britt, Katie and Parker White - June 06, 2024 at 08:50 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 06, 2024 at 04:22 AM



“ Amy Tucker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Amy Tucker - June 06, 2024 at 04:22 AM



“ Betty/Wally Bryan lit a candle in memory of Christopher Gunnels



Betty/Wally Bryan - June 05, 2024 at 11:31 PM



“ One of the nicest, kindest men you would ever meet. RIP Chris...my friend. #catcher #BHS

Jeremy Nix - June 05, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 05, 2024 at 05:49 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 05, 2024 at 03:38 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 05, 2024 at 03:04 PM



“ Rock City Church of God purchased the Simply E legant Spathiphyllum for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Rock City Church of God - June 05, 2024 at 02:33 PM

TI

“ Tate services inc purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Tate services inc - June 05, 2024 at 02:23 PM

TI

“ Tate services inc planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Tate services inc - June 05, 2024 at 02:23 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 05, 2024 at 02:09 PM

SC

“ SIMS Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

SIMS Crew - June 05, 2024 at 02:09 PM

LP

“ Love, Harvest PTO purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Love, Harvest PTO - June 05, 2024 at 11:11 AM

LP

“ Love, Harvest PTO planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Love, Harvest PTO - June 05, 2024 at 11:11 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



June 05, 2024 at 10:26 AM

JR

“ Johnny and Rhonda Ricketts purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.



Johnny and Rhonda Ricketts - June 05, 2024 at 10:24 AM

JR

“ Johnny and Rhonda Ricketts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Johnny and Rhonda Ricketts - June 05, 2024 at 10:24 AM

AH

“ Chris was stronger than anyone should have to be. During his fight with cancer, i am sure he experienced many emotions, yet he displayed compassion and the love of Christ. I witnessed this firsthand when my wife, Josie, received her own cancer diagnosis. Despite her prognosis being much more favorable than the immense challenge Chris faced, he was determined to support her.

He sent her scripture, shared notes, and prayed for her. He would say things like “whatever you need” and I knew he meant it. Chris showed his compassion by giving us a call and sending us Steak Out at the hospital when Josie's cancer was removed. I will forever be grateful for his support despite his tremendous circumstances. In one of the notes that he wrote and shared with us, he spoke these powerful words: "On the basis of Faith, I will choose not to worry about this. I will trust God is doing something in my life, and whatever it is, it will be good—period."

I know that, whatever I go through for the rest of my life, I will remind myself of what Chris had to endure and how he showed compassion and the love of Christ even amidst the storm. I believe his Faith has been fulfilled in Him and pray that he is able to see the good.

Please pray for his family as they mourn his loss.

Adam Hampton - June 05, 2024 at 10:10 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.*



June 05, 2024 at 08:17 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.*



June 04, 2024 at 09:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.*



June 04, 2024 at 08:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.*



June 04, 2024 at 07:25 PM



“ Love, Lorie & Jeff Jennings planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher "Chris" Gunnels.

Love, Lorie & Jeff Jennings - June 04, 2024 at 07:25 PM