



Louis Keith Harper

May 14, 1957 - April 23, 2025

Dr. Louis Keith Harper, 67, passed away April 23, 2025.

A native of Jeffersonville, Indiana, son of the late Vic and Nell Brown Harper, he was a retired seminary professor and Baptist minister, and a member of Greer First Baptist.

Surviving are his wife, Johnnie Hisel Harper of the home; a son, David A. Harper (Alexa) of Greer; a sister, Betty Harper of New Albany, Indiana; and a nephew, Troy Paris (Karla) of Sellersburg, Indiana.

Funeral services will be held 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at Greer First Baptist conducted by Dr. Doug Mize.

Burial will be held 11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 3, 2025, in Blue Grass Memorial Gardens, Nicholasville, Kentucky.

Visitation will be held 1:30-2:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2025, will be at the church Welcome Center.

Pallbearers will be Tom Brill, Brad Vollnogle, Justin Wright, Billy Atkins, Corey Pullen, Richard Ward and Frederick Hawes.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **29**. 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

Greer First Baptist Church
201 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650

Service

APR **29**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Greer First Baptist Church
201 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Keith and I shared office space as doctoral students at the University of Kentucky. We shared our personal and family roots in many conversations and grew to be the best of friends. We maintained that friendship through all the passing years even though we lived on different coasts. Through it all Keith accepted people regardless of their failings. He was giving, caring, supportive to all and forever stretched out his hand to everyone who needed it. The world has lost a fine man who lived his life as his faith directed. I will miss him.

Dan Lykins

daniel lykins - May 09, 2025 at 12:57 PM



“ Keith and I went back pretty far; our mothers had known each other, and so we first met outside of school, but then later, in school. For a time, we were pretty close friends. But as often happens, our lives took different trajectories. For those he leaves behind, may your memories of good times with him help you through this difficult transition.

Daiyu Hurst - May 04, 2025 at 12:13 PM

DW

“ Keith and I co-edited the book, *Why Study Baptists* with Mercer University Press. I believe it was the last book he did (his book on Kentucky perhaps coming out before then). The chapter he contributed, *A Reckoning on Ninth Avenue: Southern Baptists, Race and the "Becoming Episode,"* is superb, and one I've given to one of my phd students this year to use in his work. Keith loved talking Baptist history and I'd get emails out of the blue asking about this or that. The email exchanges were rich. Friends at Baylor are deeply saddened at Keith's passing. Prayers. Doug Weaver

Doug Weaver - April 29, 2025 at 10:58 AM

VL

“ I am saddened to hear of Keith's passing. Our families were intertwined for decades; I have many childhood memories of Keith from elementary school through high school. Our mother's started a bunco group when he and I started first grade at Rosehill Elementary School. We played at the fossil beds long before they became a state park, we rode our bikes up to the Five and Dime stores on Saturday mornings-just so many precious childhood memories to recall. We shared a lot of life experiences through the years, some were good, and some were challenging, and we endured them all. I will remember his gentle nature, his quiet demeanor, and his loyal friendship forever. He left a mark on my heart that will never fade.
Lifting his family up in prayers as they grieve the loss of such a wonderfully compassionate human being. Forever grateful for you, Keith, may you rest comfortably in the arms of the Lord.

Venetia Lacy - April 29, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.*



April 28, 2025 at 12:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Louis Keith Harper.

April 28, 2025 at 12:15 PM



“ *Many friends come into our lives, but few like Keith leave footprints on our hearts. He baptized Janie and married us. We will always remember our dear friend, mentor, and Brother in Christ, Keith Harper. Please know we are praying for Johnnie, David and family. Love You! Johnny and Janie Watkins*

Johnny and Janie Watkins - April 28, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.*



April 28, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Louis Keith Harper.

April 28, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



April 28, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Louis Keith Harper.

April 28, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



April 28, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



April 28, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Louis Keith Harper.

April 28, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ From Jacob Hicks, SEBTS Alum, 2011 purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



From Jacob Hicks, SEBTS Alum, 2011 - April 26, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ Mary Lou Stephens lit a candle in memory of Louis Harper



Mary Lou Stephens - April 26, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ rest of the family. Rich Holl purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



rest of the family. Rich Holl - April 26, 2025 at 11:04 AM

RH

“ Keith and I first met nearly forty years ago as history graduate students at the University of Kentucky. We became fast friends and he later served as best man at my wedding. I will always remember him for his integrity and empathy.

One day, maybe it was 1987, the UK history faculty and the graduate students played our annual softball game. These were rather spirited contests. Keith was playing first base and I was shortstop. A faculty member, who just happened to be my dissertation director, looped a ball over Keith's head into short right field. Keith raced back to the ball, scooped it up, and fired a bullet to second base. I caught the ball on the short hop and tagged out my director. He protested that he was safe but everybody knew we nailed him good. How sweet it was!

Rich Holl - April 26, 2025 at 10:49 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Louis Keith Harper.



April 26, 2025 at 09:00 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Louis Keith Harper.

April 26, 2025 at 09:00 AM

CM

“*Dr. Harper loved the Lord and loved his neighbor. He challenged me to always thoughtfully consider how belief and behavior work together in the Christian life with his characteristic wit and kindness interwoven into each conversation. I fondly remember long conversations after the Sunday evening services at Christ Baptist and the encourager he was to me. I am a better man and follower of Jesus because of the ministry of Dr. Harper.*

Colton Mathews - April 25, 2025 at 04:52 PM