

## **John Curtis Atkins**

Waynesville, NC

John Curtis Atkins, age 70, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. John was born in Bennettsville, SC on March 17, 1953, to the late Lawrence and Betty Atkins. He spent time in his early adult life traveling to multiple locations as a nuclear power plant technician before moving to Waynesville, NC, as his permanent residence. John graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from Clemson University. He was a devoted brother and uncle. John was often found taking his nephews to basketball and football games at Western Carolina University. He particularly loved to watch the Pride of the Mountains Marching Band which reminded him of his years playing baritone in the Clemson University marching band. John enjoyed working in the garden and planting flowers. He enjoyed daily walks around Lake Junaluska where he practiced one of his favorite hobbies, photography. John was devoted to his faith and considered his mission in life was to serve God in the church. John spent the latter part of his life in the ministry of service, whether that be through his devotion to prison ministry or working at the Haywood County Halfway House, which helped reintroduce incarcerated individuals back into society with grace and ease. John always tried to see the best in others and believed that everyone deserved a second chance in life. Finally, his love for God and the Church was realized while he served on the staff of First United Methodist Church of Waynesville, prior to retiring.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by a brother, David Atkins; and sisters Rebecca Hope Atkins Wiley, and Mary Beth Foster. John is survived by his brother-in-law, Gary Wiley and nephews Andrew (Lisa), Timothy, and Grady (Kaylen) Wiley. The family will hold a small celebration of life at a later date. The family would like to offer a word of thanks to all who have supported them through this difficult time.

Crawford/Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service is honored to be caring for the Atkins family.