



Amanda Leigh Baker

November 7, 1998 - December 8, 2023

Amanda Leigh Baker, age 25 passed on December 8, 2023, after a lengthy illness resulting from a sudden rare condition that attacked her nervous system in August 2014. She was born November 7, 1998, to Jeffrey and Karen Baker. Mandy, as she was known by friends and family, had a gift and love of music since her toddler years, often resulting in impromptu living room performances for her beloved “Poppy” and family members. She would pass out various instruments and direct everyone to join along. Her first instrument she performed with was the violin under the direction of Mr. Sedloff at Wendell Watson Elementary; followed by the oboe, flute, and alto saxophone with Mr. McElwain at Lake Gibson Middle where she thrived in the jazz band. While there, she also took guitar lessons with Mr. Postin. Performing in the marching band at Lake Gibson Senior for Mr. Luce was another thrilling experience for her. She and one of her best friends, Kianna, were planning to create a band that they had already named “Flock of Turtles.”

Jeffrey and Karen could not have been more proud of her as she achieved success both academically and artistically. They enjoyed and encouraged her every step of the way. This devotion to Mandy only strengthened after her illness. Their hope and determination for her continued through many hardships. When her dad’s back injury and failed surgery led to the closing of his business, the family relied on their strong Christian faith and later found a silver lining. Those 6 or so months away from work allowed nonstop days and

hours together with Mandy and Elizabeth all summer before her sudden illness. Many cherished memories were gained regardless of the cause for such "free time". As many siblings do, the Baker girls were prone to some "healthy" disagreements, however, they were completely inseparable that Summer. Learning from their mom, she and her sister loved baking and "destroying" the kitchen, both of which occurred with the added time together. They were notorious for some crazy "all-nighters," still up when mom got up for work.

Mandy loved her little sister dearly. Every time she would learn something new at school, she truly enjoyed teaching it to her sister, always keeping Elizabeth a step ahead. (It should be noted that her sister Elizabeth went on to become the valedictorian of her graduating class. Although unable to communicate due to her illness, there is no doubt Mandy was very proud.)

While Mandy's life was cut terribly short, she lived a childhood full of family activities including trips to parks, the mountains of West Virginia, and countless fishing and boating excursions. An avid pet owner, Mandy had many beloved fur babies over the years. Her dog Lilo, and cats: Nikki, Stitch, Ziggy, and Sparta just to name a few. Not just the usual domestic pets, the sisters also welcomed chinchillas, rabbits, chickens, hamsters, tropical fish, and even a hermit crab. She also enjoyed horseback riding at the local horse camp on her favorite horse, "Ra." Their everyday lives were also intertwined with the support of Jeff and Karen's best friends, Danny and Vicki Wilkins' family, and their loving companionship was a large part of Mandy's life. Both families attended Crestview Baptist Church and took much solace in knowing Mandy welcomed Jesus into her life at a young age, being baptized on May 14, 2006.

Mandy was quick to make many friends and was thrilled that her new house had a pool. The Baker household became the neighborhood gathering place

for numerous friends, with sleepovers and fun birthday parties. She had many accolades throughout the years, holding memberships in the Lake Gibson Biotech Academy, HOSA, and the National Honor Society. In her early years, she enjoyed her membership in Girl Scouts, especially outdoor activities. However, she always made time for her video games and artistic drawings. She also developed an appreciation for photography, learning the trade from her dad.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, William “Poppy” Baker Sr.; paternal great-grandmother, Jeanette Tyndall; and maternal great-grandmother, Doris Colson.

Mandy is survived by her devoted parents, Jeffrey and Karen Baker; sister Elizabeth Baker; maternal grandmother, Kathy Davis; and many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **15.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC **16.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Southside Chapel
1727 Bartow Road
Lakeland, FL 33801
(863) 688-7679
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Amanda Leigh Baker



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - December 21, 2023 at 08:30 AM



“ Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Amanda Leigh Baker



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - December 16, 2023 at 09:48 AM



“ Joann O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Amanda Leigh Baker.

Joann O. - June 26, 2024 at 11:29 AM

MA

“Mandy has always held a special place in my heart. We were in band class together in high school and spent many hours at practice. Mandy is a smart, talented, and an enthusiastic artist. Her sister and my sister were the same age and good friends. I always saw so much of myself in Mandy. I give my condolences to Mandy's family and those close with her. I know she must love you all deeply for taking care of her and making her as happy and comfortable as possible. I think of her often and miss her deeply. We will be celebrating her this holiday season ❤️

Madison - December 17, 2023 at 06:42 PM



Thank you so much.

Jeffrey Baker - January 02, 2024 at 10:01 PM



Madison, Mandy loved all of her bandmates so very much.

Jeffrey Baker - January 02, 2024 at 10:11 PM

TG

“Karen, Jeff and Elizabeth, Mandy was such a sweet, kind and funny girl. She will be missed dearly. Thank you all for sharing her with us! We are all blessed to have known her.

Tess Greer - December 16, 2023 at 12:05 PM

SR

“Stephen R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Amanda Leigh Baker.

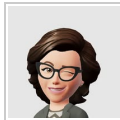
Stephen R. - December 16, 2023 at 09:01 AM



“ *Family and friends on special days*



Cheryl Lusk - December 15, 2023 at 02:12 PM



Special days with Family and Friends

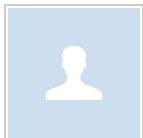
Cheryl Lusk - December 15, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.*



December 15, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.*



December 15, 2023 at 12:47 AM

AN

“ Mandy was such a kind person to be around. I enjoyed my time in band with her and loved her love for music. She will be dearly missed. Once a Brave always a Brave ❤️💛

Anonymous - December 14, 2023 at 09:54 PM



Jeffrey Baker - December 14, 2023 at 11:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 09:15 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 07:25 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 07:04 PM

OL

“ Olivia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Amanda Leigh Baker.

Olivia - December 14, 2023 at 07:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 06:42 PM

NP

“ Neil Pelton lit a candle in memory of Amanda Leigh Baker



neil pelton - December 14, 2023 at 06:23 PM

NP

so sad to hear of mandy's death...so young,beautiful,talented...my sincere condolences to her famly.

neil pelton - December 14, 2023 at 06:26 PM

SF

“ Sending love and prayers to all of the family.
No parent should ever have to go through
what you two went through. My heart breaks
for you both.



Shannon Fowler - December 14, 2023 at 04:21 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 03:50 PM

JB

“ My dearest Mandy, I am so grateful for the time we had together,
and I will hold those memories in my heart forever. I love you, dear
angel.
Until we meet again...Aunt Janet Baker



Janet Baker - December 14, 2023 at 03:33 PM

AN

“ I had the pleasure of going to school with Amanda for many years, we weren't exactly friends more so acquaintances. I remember one day, she came to school and her hair was dyed multiple colors, I thought it was the coolest hair I'd ever seen cause my parents would've never let me do that, I complimented her and from that day on, we would talk in passing and stayed in touch through social media. I was always interested to see what new makeup look she had for the day, the girl could do some eyeliner! She was a professional, everyone wanted to know her tricks. I wish I had more memories to share, she was a special person and through out all these years I have kept her in my memories and prayers and I will continue to do so. I pray she is at peace now and I pray for strength over her family and friends during this time.



anonymous - December 14, 2023 at 03:13 PM



Thank you so much for sharing your memories of Mandy. There are so many times where I'm sure she touched other peoples lives and it is a blessing to get to hear of these.

Jeffrey Baker - December 15, 2023 at 12:28 AM

PA

“ Pamela lit a candle in memory of Amanda Leigh Baker



Pamela - December 14, 2023 at 01:18 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 12:18 PM



“ This is daryl Karen's brother and Jeff's brother in law I remember going to there house and we all played American idol and I remember the fishing trips Amanda surly loved life and the adventures it gave. She had a big heart for animals and a way of brightening up every one's day when you were around her.my niece will surly be missed but never forgotten.im so sorry for your lose. Love daryl,brenda,chandler .we all love yall.

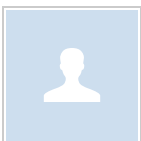
Daryl - December 14, 2023 at 11:52 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 08:12 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Amanda Leigh Baker.



December 14, 2023 at 08:02 AM



“ My "Baker Girls" will always be together, beating as One beautiful heart.



Jeffrey Baker - December 14, 2023 at 01:20 AM

SF



Shannon Fowler - December 14, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ I just can't believe you are actually gone. Daddy loves and misses you sweetheart. We WILL meet again.



Jeffrey Baker - December 14, 2023 at 01:09 AM

SF



Shannon Fowler - December 14, 2023 at 04:59 PM

CB

“ We were very fortunate to have you in our lives, even if it was cut much too short ... Please give my Dad a great big hug and hold a spot for us to meet back up with you in heaven. You were a blessing and a gift.

Much love Princess,
Uncle Curt



Curt Baker - December 12, 2023 at 02:49 PM

NF

“ You've touched more lives than you'll ever know, sweet Mandy. Your passing is leaving a huge hole in so many hearts. I will miss your wit, heart, talent, and so much more.

Until we meet again, much love,
Aunt Nancy



Nancy Foster - December 12, 2023 at 06:42 AM

LC

“ May God keep Mandy flying high and playing her music in Heaven. Love and prayers from family in Virginia.

Lisa Coffey - December 11, 2023 at 08:45 PM