

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FUNERALS
AND
MEMORIAL SERVICES



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PASTOR: REV. AMY HAINES

“I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, TODAY YOU WILL BE
WITH ME IN PARADISE.
~ LUKE 23:43

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH

The death of a loved one is a difficult time in the life of any family. As the church embraces us in our baptism and throughout our Christian life, it also embraces us in our dying and death. When we gather in memory of someone we have known and loved, we honor and celebrate a life. In addition, we strengthen one another in mourning and grief. First United Methodist seeks to provide comfort by assisting with arrangements, conducting memorial, funeral and graveside services along with offering compassionate follow-up.

This brochure is designed to answer some of your initial questions about arranging a service at FUMC. Feel free to talk with church staff and our minister as you make your plans.

WHEN DEATH OCCURS

If the death of a loved one is imminent and a pastor's presence is desired, please do not hesitate to call the church at 947-748-2612 or Pastor Amy's cell phone 419-806-2550. If Pastor Amy Haines can not be reached, please ask the church secretary for help. When the death of the beloved has occurred, please call the church so we can be in ministry to you during this time.

Funeral services at FUMC are as individual as the cherished one you have lost. Pastor Amy will meet with you and your family to design an appropriate service, including music and Scripture verses.

SERVICE OPTIONS

1. A service held soon after death in the Sanctuary with the casket or urn present, followed by a burial graveside service.
2. A memorial service held after a period of time has passed.
3. A service held in the chapel of a funeral home.

LOCATION OF THE SERVICE

Church members are encouraged to hold the funeral service in the Sanctuary. The church is where the significant events and transitions in life are held. It is where the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion are received. It is where confirmation and marriage are celebrated. There we are surrounded by the symbols of our faith.

The Sanctuary is available to members of FUMC and families of the Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool. Non-members may request use of the Sanctuary for a funeral or memorial service for a nominal fee. The Sanctuary can seat about 175 people.

While funerals have a high priority, other pre-arranged programs in the Sanctuary and church building must be considered. All efforts will be made to provide an appropriate amount of time for your service, but we cannot guarantee the exact time and date you may request due to previously scheduled activities of the church or preschool. Pastor Amy will discuss timing options with you while planning the service. Alternatively, you can contact the church office to discuss availability.

VISITATION

It is part of our ministry to welcome your family and friends for visitation in our church narthex and Sanctuary before and/or after the Service of Death and Resurrection. The visitation may also take place at the funeral home, with arrangements made directly with them.

You may wish to display photographs and other objects of remembrance during visitation. These objects may help your visitors and family members as they reminisce. Our staff will assist you with a table for this purpose if you so desire. Please notify the church office prior to the visitation so a table will be available upon your arrival.

DISPOSITION OF THE BODY

Burial, cremation, and donation of the body to medical science are all appropriate options for Christians.

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The service will be The Christian Service of Death and Resurrection, which is a witness of God's love that sustains us in our sorrow and extends beyond this life. It is a testimony of God's promises in Jesus Christ, who has gone before us through death into new life. His resurrection gives us reason for hope. We are able to be grateful even in the midst of our sense of loss.

Pastor Amy will conduct your service. If you want another minister to participate in the service, please let us know. We welcome the addition of those who have been important to you and your loved one; however, Pastor Amy will co-officiate during the service.

Special ceremonies to honor the national or community contribution of the deceased may be included at the gravesite as an appropriate remembrance. This may be the case for veterans where a color guard or musician from the armed services is requested.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The service is designed by Pastor Amy in consultation with the family of the deceased. The family's input is invited in choosing music and scripture readings. The United Methodist Book of Worship suggests the following elements to be included in the service.

- Prayer—The Lord's Prayer
- Scripture Readings—The family may specify passages that were meaningful to the beloved and are a source of comfort and hope for the family and community of faith. The pastor can give you a list from which you may choose or suggest some appropriate passages if desired.
- Hymns—Again, the family may suggest specific hymns or music in consultation with the pastor.
- Music—Our church organist is available to play for your service. She can play either the organ or piano. If you wish to have a soloist, please arrange this in consultation with the pastor.

ORDER OF WORSHIP (CONTINUED)

- Witnesses—Friends and family may be invited to express thanksgiving for the beloved. The family should talk with the minister about who should speak and to discuss guidelines for their participation. If you wish to have people share in the service, we suggest that a maximum of two people speak.
- Reflection—The Service of Death and Resurrection has two purposes. First, to express thanksgiving to God for the life that has loved and been loved. And secondly, to affirm the faith, hope and love of our Christian faith.
- Creeds—It is appropriate to use one of the Church's traditional creeds that affirm the faith of Christians.
- Holy Communion (optional) - The Christian community gathers around the table of Christ to feed on that life which is abundant and eternal.

MEMORIALS

If the family desires, donations may be made to First United Methodist Church in memory of the loved ones. These may either be given to our general fund to be used as needed by the church or may be designated to specific areas of our church, including:

- Music Program
- Christian Education
- Missions
- Church Facility Upkeep
- Youth Program

If you do decide to designate a memorial for your love one, please let our church secretary know of your desired designation. All donations will be acknowledged by a letter from the church. In addition, we will provide the family with a list of donators on a regular basis.

FUNERAL MEALS

Following the funeral service, FUMC is happy to host a funeral meal for the family and friends attending the service. There are four meal options available:

- Coffee, Tea, Breakfast Breads
- Dessert Buffet
- Cold Buffet (Sandwiches, Salads, Desserts)
- Hot Buffet (Casseroles or Other Hot Dishes, Sandwiches, Salads, Desserts)

Which option is selected is entirely at the family's discretion. We ask the family pay for the meats associated with the meal (\$1.50/person for cold cuts and \$2.00/person for hot dishes, checks made out to Women in Faith). All other food and beverage will be provided by our Women in Faith group. Please call the church office while planning the funeral service to let us know if you would like a meal, which one and how many people you expect to attend. We will handle all the arrangements.

HELP WITH THE GRIEVING PROCESS

First United Methodist is blessed with an active Stephen Ministers support group. This group of caring individuals has gone through 50 hours of training on Christian care giving and is available to help you through a difficult time in life. Please contact the church office to be put in touch with them if you would like their support.

In addition, our church hosts meetings of the Oak Tree Corner grief organization. Oak Tree Corner provides a safe and caring community where children and teens can learn to deal with the grief from the death of someone important. If you have a child or teen in your family that can benefit from Oak Tree Corner's services, they can be reached at 937-285-0199.

If after the funeral, you would like to have meals provided to you, our Loaves and Fishes ministry will be happy to help. Please contact Tina Yeamans at 937-550-9568 or the church office to make arrangements.

Finally, Pastor Amy can share with you poems and books that she has found comforting to family members in the grieving process.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

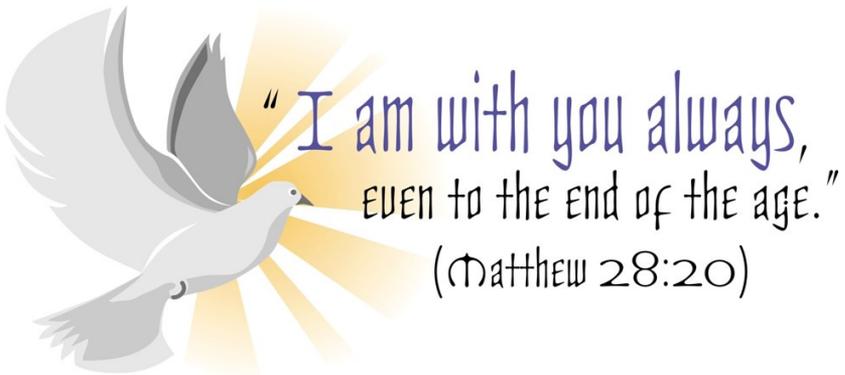
Parking—There should be parking sufficient in the lot directly across from the church entrance. There is an overflow lot available to the east of church if necessary.

Flowers—Delivery should occur approximately one hour prior to the service when a staff person will be on hand to receive them. Otherwise, please ask the florist to make arrangements with the church office to be sure someone will be there.

Payment—There is no charge for church members or families of Bright Beginnings Christian Preschool to use the Sanctuary, Narthex or Fellowship Hall. A typical honorarium for Pastor Amy's time for planning and leading memorial and funeral services would be \$100. It may be made either through the funeral home or directly to Pastor Amy or the church office. Payment for the organist/pianist may also be made through the funeral home or directly to them. The musician's fee for a funeral is \$75. Additional soloist and instrumentalist payments should be made directly to the musician.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions or to make plans for a service, contact the church secretary at 937-748-2612 or rebeccafumc@gmail.com.





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