

Memorial Services and Funerals

A PLANNING GUIDE

DEAR RESURRECTION FAMILY...

The Congregational Care Ministry serves our faith community in a number of ways, not the least of which is care before, during, and after the loss of a loved one. We hope this information will provide you with a path to guide you during this significant time.

The inherent belief in the risen Christ is the cornerstone of a United Methodist service (either a funeral or memorial). Christ is our hope for eternal life and we offer this hope to the surviving family and friends that their beloved is now in God's eternal charge.

Planning a service can be a blessing to those in grief. A time to laugh and to cry as the stories are shared and retold. It is our pleasure to help you and your family.

For questions regarding Funeral or Memorial planning please call the Funeral Program Director at 913-232-4142.

Sincerely,

REV. WENDY LYONS CHROSTEK
*Executive Pastor
Congregational Care*

TAMI CASEY
Funeral Program Director

PLANNING THE SERVICE

BEFORE DEATH OCCURS

The Funeral Program Director will be happy to visit with you and provide a planning document. Once completed, a permanent file will be made and your data base record will reflect that you have pre-planned your service.

Families considering inurnment at the church should contact the Coordinating Assistant for Operations at 913-544-0743. There is currently a waiting list for niches in the Memorial Garden.

WHEN DEATH IS IMMINENT OR WHEN DEATH OCCURS

When a death is imminent our pastors are honored to come and pray with you. If there is time, please call the Congregational Care office at 913-544-0238. We will make every effort to have someone come to you.

If this is after-hours, please call the pager: 816-545-4154. The pastor on call will return your page as soon as possible.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SERVICE

If you wish for one of our pastors to conduct the funeral for your loved one, please visit with him or her before you schedule.

To avoid personal and building conflicts the minister will contact the Funeral Program Director to coordinate. Funerals and memorials are often in the Wesley Chapel at the church. If a large number of guests are expected, the Sanctuary can be used. For an intimate service we offer the Firestone, Chapel and as well as the funeral home and cemetery. Whatever the choice, we try hard to accommodate your wishes.

music

Music is an integral part of any worship service here at Church of the Resurrection. So often music can speak volumes when we are unable to speak ourselves. There is great and wonderful church music available in the traditional or contemporary styles. We have musicians and vocalists able to provide either. Your pastor will help you choose appropriate music for the service. Secular music is not encouraged for a service but can be used during the visitation.

Prelude: The organist/pianist will play for 20 minutes prior to the service. This will include requested hymns or a selection of the musician's choice.

Processional: The family will walk into the Chapel with the pastor and be seated.

Solos and congregational hymns: These complement the service and will be interspersed at the discretion of the pastor.

Recessional: The casket (if applicable), pastor and family exit the chapel to this music usually played in an uplifting tempo.

Postlude: the organist/pianist will play until the guests have left the Chapel.

TYPE OF SERVICE

There are several types of services to consider:

1. A traditional funeral (where the casket is present), graveside to follow
2. A memorial service (where there is no casket)
3. A graveside service only
4. A graveside service prior to the memorial service

Additionally, a visitation can be scheduled before the service on the service day or the evening before. Often, the family provides a video tribute. The video must be in DVD format, ready to play. Receptions can be held in one of the hospitality rooms either before or after the service. The family is responsible for refreshments for receptions or luncheons.

MAKING SERVICE PLANS

Following the selection of the date, time, place and type of service the minister will arrange to gather the family and learn the stories. This meeting can either be at the family home or at the church. This will be a time to select favorite scripture and discuss musical choices as well.

The Funeral Program Director works behind the scenes to handle all logistics. She visits with the family and often the funeral home to make sure all details are covered. She contacts the musicians and soloists, as well as the custodial services and sound technician necessary to present a proper and fitting tribute. She will ask about the number of guests you might expect and discuss processional procedure and seating of the family and honored guests.

FEES

There are no fees for funerals or memorials held at The Church of the Resurrection. If outside musicians or vocalists are invited, the family will be responsible for those participants. If asked, the Funeral Program Director will provide a list of suggested honoraria, which is only a guideline.

FLOWERS

Floral offerings are a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one. The beautiful plants and blooms honor God's creation of life.

Removal of the arrangements is the responsibility of the family or the funeral home.

scripture

Scripture is another way to enhance the funeral/memorial experience. We encourage you to make your personal favorites known to your pastor.

Psalm 16: 9, 11

Therefore my heart is glad

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to the Lord

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Do you not know?

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-15

There is a time for everything

Matthew 5: 1-12

The Beatitudes

Matthew 18: 3-4, 10, 14

I tell you the truth

Matthew 19:14

Let the little children come to me

Matthew 25: 42-45

I was hungry, I was thirsty

John 3:16

God so loved the world

John 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life

John 14: 1-4, 18-19, 25-27

Do not let your hearts be troubled

Romans 8: 31b-32, 35-39

If God is for us

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

If I speak in the tongues

1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

Listen, I tell you a mystery

Revelation 21: 1-5

Then I saw a new heaven

The Lord's Prayer

MEMORABILIA

Frequently, family members set up a memory table(s) in the entry area with photos, albums, awards or certificates of achievement, hobby examples or other personal items relating to their loved one. We provide the table(s) and cloth(s) for these displays.

FUNERAL HOME RESPONSIBILITIES

These are a few of the things you should rely on the funeral home to provide or give guidance:

- Casket or urn
- Cemetery choice — plot or niche space
- Flowers
- Processional to cemetery
- Visitation, if held at the funeral home
- Obituary in the local newspaper
- Guest book

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts provide a meaningful way for individuals, families and groups to witness their thanksgiving for the life of a loved one. To give a gift in another's memory is a faithful expression of respect and love that goes beyond death. Your gift to the Resurrection Memorial Fund will enable our church to provide special items or ministries that benefit our church.

The Memorial Committee will maintain a list of needs in the church which are not funded in the church budget and which would be very suitable as a memorial gift. Items for memorial gifts would include — but not be limited to — items of a durable nature which:

- enhance the worship of God
- enhance the spiritual growth for all ages
- enhance the fellowship of the church
- provide facility needs for ministry of our church
- support church and denominational mission projects
- promote the mandates of the great commission and our church vision (Matthew 28:19-20)

The Memorial Committee will provide memorials in consultation with members of the deceased's family. On Memorial Weekend our congregation will receive a report on gifts received the previous year.

order of worship

This is a guide for a typical service at Resurrection.

- Prelude
- Family entrance
- Greeting
- Word of Grace
- Prayer
- Congregational Hymn or other Music
- Scripture
- Special Music
- Homily, offered by the officiating pastor
- Prayer, often with The Lord's Prayer in unison
- Congregational Hymn or other music
- Commendation
- Dismissal and Blessing
- Family Recessional

For more information on memorial gifts please contact Kelly Williams (913-544-0777, kelly.williams@cor.org) or Rev. Dr. Clayton L. Smith (913-544-0242, clayton.smith@cor.org.)

The Funeral Ministry Staff will also assist with gifts offered to organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Boy Scouts, Hospice House or others of your choice.

FUNERAL HOMES, CREMATION FACILITIES AND CEMETERIES

There are many excellent providers in the Kansas City metro area. The church does not endorse specific providers. This is a very personal service and we suggest you interview and consult to make your decision.

AFTER CARE

Your church does not want you to feel you are alone following your loss. We send grief booklets through the first year which offer words of hope and encouragement.

Every Christmas we hold a service of healing specifically designed for those who have suffered loss.

There is also the intentional provision of remembrance through the presence of the candle carts at Easter and Memorial Day weekends.

For information regarding current grief support groups, please contact Congregational Care.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

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