

Memorial Services and Funerals

A PLANNING GUIDE

DEAR COMMUNITY UMC 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 church at (772) 461-2499

Sincerely,

REV. Dan Baker
Pastor

PLANNING THE SERVICE

BEFORE DEATH OCCURS

The Pastor or pastoral care laity will be happy to visit and pray with you.

WHEN DEATH IS IMMINENT OR WHEN DEATH OCCURS

When a death is imminent our pastor and pastoral care laity are honored to come and pray with you. If there is time, please call the church office at (772) 461-2499.


DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SERVICE

If you wish for our pastor to conduct the funeral for your loved one, please contact the church office.

If a large number of guests are expected, the Sanctuary can be used. For an intimate service we offer the 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 Community. 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. The family 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 will be a time to select favorite scripture and discuss musical choices as well.

Community UMC contacts the musicians and soloists, as well as the custodial services and sound technician necessary to present a proper and fitting tribute. Pastor 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 building fees for Community UMC Ft. Pierce members funerals or memorials held at the church campus. Honoraria is required for pastor, musicians, vocalist, and custodial. Community UMC will provide a list of suggested honoraria. If outside musicians or vocalists are invited, the family will be responsible for those participants.

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.

Psalms 16: 9, 11

Therefore my heart is glad

Psalms 23

The Lord is my shepherd

Psalms 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) 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 Community UMC Ft. Pierce 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, and promote the mandates of the great commission and our church vision (Matthew 28:19-20)



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

FUNERAL HOMES, CREMATION FACILITIES AND CEMETERIES

There are excellent providers in the Ft. Pierce 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.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FORT PIERCE

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