

THE SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION
Of
CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

Dear Christ Church Family,

The Congregational Care & Pastoral Ministries serve our faith community in a number of ways and provide Christian care in times of personal loss and death. It is our goal to provide 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 they may know that their beloved is now in God's eternal charge. Planning a service can be a blessing to those in grief. It is a time to laugh and to cry as the stories are shared and retold. It is our pleasure to help you and your family during this time of planning.

For questions regarding funeral or memorial planning, please call your Church Office at 936-273-2030.

FUNERALS, MEMORIALS, & SERVICE OF RESURRECTION

Planning for the Service

Before Death Occurs

- One of our pastors will be happy to visit with you and provide you with spiritual and practical advice in planning for a death.
- The pastor's job is to assist in reflection essential for pre-planned services.
- Families might want to consider inurnment here at the church in our beautiful Garden of Grace Columbarium. To determine availability of niches, please contact the coordinator at 936-273-2030 Ext 7238

When Death Is Imminent or When Death Occurs

- When a death is imminent, our pastors are honored to come and pray with you. Call the church office at 936-273-2030. We will make every effort to have a pastor present with you, any time day or night.
- If you wish for one of our pastors to conduct the service for your loved one, please visit with him or her before you schedule.
- To avoid personal and building conflicts, the minister will lead the planning for all services,
- Funerals and memorials are often held in the Sanctuary or Covenant Chapel.
- We gladly work with funeral homes.
- It is very important to have identified a funeral home upon the death of an individual. All vital documentation for the State of Texas is handled in and through the funeral home.

Type of Service

The service provided for Disciple members of Christ Church United Methodist is known as the Service of Death and Resurrection. This is of utmost importance and central to our Faith and beliefs as a Christian. 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 a memorial service.

Additionally a visitation can be scheduled before the service on the service day or the evening before. Receptions can be held in The Commons either before or after the service. The church provides the refreshments for the reception as a courtesy to the family and our Memorial Hospitality Team assists in organizing and serving the reception.

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.

Fees for Service Provided

There are no fees for funerals or memorials held at Christ Church United Methodist for Disciple members.

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.

Memorabilia

- Frequently, family members set up a memory table(s) in the entry area known as "The Commons" 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 (Unless the Garden of Grace is used for inurnment)
- 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 GIFT

All memorial gifts will be deposited in our Memorial Fund and acknowledged by the Finance and Accounting Department. A Memorial record will be maintained to recognize all designated memorials and honor our loved ones.

The Finance 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).

Funeral Homes, Cremation Facilities and Cemeteries

There are many excellent providers in The Woodlands/Montgomery County/Houston Metro area. The church does not endorse any in particular. 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 walk with you through the first year and offer word and deed to provide hope and encouragement.
- Every Christmas we hold a service of healing specifically designed for those who have suffered loss.
- The Service of Healing is held the first Wednesday of every month, providing an opportunity to remember, grieve, and heal, emotionally and spiritually.