



A GUIDE FOR
DEATH & LOSS

Whether death comes as a sudden, unexpected shock, or following an extended illness, we are never completely prepared. You are not alone. God, who loves you more than you can imagine, who knows your grief intimately, who has made himself known to us in Jesus Christ, to share our griefs, our suffering, even our death, so that we might share in His Resurrection and be one with him, is with you – whether or not you feel his presence. This is God's promise to you and your loved ones.

This guide is meant to help families, friends, and others coping with the decisions and demands created by a death. It will not answer every possible question, but it may answer most common questions. If you have a particular question which is not addressed here, please bring it to one of our pastors or other staff members. Above all, we are praying for you, and for the one dear to you who has died.

Does the Bible have any word of consolation for me in this time?

There are many passages in scripture that have been used by Christians for comfort and encouragement in times of grief. Here are some of the most frequently used:

- Isaiah 40: 1-8; Isaiah 40: 28-31; Isaiah 43: 1-7; Isaiah 55: 1-3, 6-13
- The Book of Psalms: 23; 42; 43; 46; 90; 91; 103; 116; 121; 130; 139; 145; 146;
- Matthew 5: 4; Matthew 11: 25-30; Luke 24: 13-35
- John 11: 1-44; John 12: 24-26; John 14: 1-7; John 14: 15-29
- Romans 8: 11-18, 31-39; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20, 35-44, 51-55; 2
- 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:9
- Ephesians 1: 15-23; Ephesians 2: 1-10; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; 1 Peter 5:7;
- Revelation 7: 9-17; Revelation 21: 1-7

What do I say when people call or visit?

Thank them for their kindness. Don't be reluctant to talk with them about the one who has died, and about your memories of that very special life. Try to keep in mind that very often people may not know just what to say, and sometimes they may say exactly the wrong thing – but they are almost always trying to express their care for you. Hopefully, God will be using their words and actions to bring you comfort and strength; listen for His Grace given through them to you.

Whom do I call?

During business hours please call the church office (850) 432-1434 and ask to speak to one of our pastors. After business hours or on weekends please contact one of our clergy at the following numbers:

Ginger Raines, *Senior Pastor's Secretary* - (850) 259-3177

Jennifer Piver, *Congregational Care* - (850) 291-5331

If they are unable to answer, please be sure to leave a message, including a phone number where you can be reached. Your message is very important to us, and we will return it as quickly as possible.

What can I expect from First United Methodist Church?

As soon as a message is received, you can expect a phone call from one of our pastors, offering the services of First United Methodist Church. If you choose to have the funeral at the church, the pastor will guide you through the funeral process. He or she will:

- + offer the consolation of our Christian faith
- + provide the Funeral Planning Booklet

Does the church recommend a specific funeral home?

No, you are free to choose the company that best suits your needs; it is our desire to best serve your family as an extension of God's love during this time of grief. Funeral homes often provide critical support in arranging with a local cemetery or cremation, helping notify family and friends, managing flowers and photos, welcoming guests during the funeral, and much more. Our primary focus is on pastoral care and conducting the funeral service.

Funeral Service Planning

The funeral service will be planned from the Order of Worship found in The United Methodist Hymnal, pages 870-875. We have provided a basic outline in the back of this booklet.

When can a funeral service be held at FUMC Pensacola?

At any time during weekday business hours, or on Sundays after worship services. Please don't assume that the space is available until checking with the Senior Pastor's Secretary. We do not schedule funerals services on Saturdays, High Holy Days, or observed holidays.

What rooms are available for funerals services?

Funeral services can be held in the Main Sanctuary, which seats approximately 500; the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, which seats approximately 60; and Wesley Abbey, which seats approximately 200.

Can I have a visitation at FUMC Pensacola?

We allow visitations in the Main Sanctuary & Wesley Abbey. We recommend the visitation take place 1 Hour and 15 Minutes before the service. 15 minutes prior to the service beginning, the family will be escorted out and the casket will be closed.

Can we have a reception or meal before or after the service?

Yes. The church will provide a cookie and punch reception or a light sandwich lunch for church members at no charge. The Wright Place or the Wesley Abbey Parlor may be used as the facilities schedule allows. If you wish to use your own caterer, you will still need to coordinate all food service through Mici Kuba, *Facilities Director* (MKuba@FUMCPensacola.com).

What are the costs?

There are no fees for the Pastor, Music Director, and use the of the facilities. An honorarium may be given, at your discretion, for the Pastor & Music Director. *In the event that the Music Director is not available, there is a fee for those providing music.*

What music is appropriate for funerals services?

Music appropriate for Christian worship shall be used in the sanctuary, including the family's entrance and exit. Favorite dance tunes, school/university fight songs, etc. are best reserved for the reception. We encourage congregational hymns/worship songs - these may be selected with the pastor or music director during the service planning process. Some beloved hymns include:

- *Amazing Grace - How Great Thou Art - Hymn of Promise - It Is Well With My Soul -*
- *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - Because He Lives - For All the Saints -*
- *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place - He Leadeth Me -*

Will the church provide musicians?

FUMC Pensacola's organist/pianist and sound/video technicians will make every effort to be available for the funeral service. Additional vocal solos, and in some cases, the choir can also be included in funeral services. Musicians and service participants must be engaged through the church office by the family and at the family's expense. Advance payment of musicians and other service participants is the responsibility of the family and is in addition to the funeral home fees.

Can someone other than the clergy of FUMC Pensacola be involved in a funeral service here?

Yes, though one of the pastors of FUMC Pensacola will lead all funeral services held here, except in rare cases of absence or illness. In such exceptional cases, another United Methodist pastor may be asked by our clergy to officiate in his or her place. Other clergy, at the discretion of our pastors, may be invited to take part in the funeral service, including the sermon. Family members and friends may be invited to share memories of the deceased during the service, as long as this is planned in consultation with the pastor. We strongly encourage families to invite no more than three persons, each speaking for a maximum of 5 minutes, so that the service will not be burdensomely long. The family should instruct the speakers to write out their witness and time it beforehand.

Are open caskets allowed?

In accordance with the directions in The United Methodist Hymnal, the casket is to remain closed in the Sanctuary during the service. An open casket is allowed only during the visitation and must be closed 15 minutes prior to the service.

Can Holy Communion be included in the service?

If the family desires to include the sacrament of Holy Communion, please make arrangements for this with the pastor. As United Methodists, we believe that all are welcome at the Lord's Table, therefore everyone present will be offered the opportunity to receive the sacrament. "All are welcome; no one must." The sacrament will ordinarily be served by intinction - receiving the consecrated Body of Christ, then dipping it in the Cup containing the Blood of Christ before consuming it.

Who is responsible for the obituary?

The family of the one who has died is responsible for the obituary. The funeral home will assist in its publication, and we request a copy or link be provided to the Senior Pastor's Secretary.

What flowers and decorations are appropriate?

Appropriate cloths for funeral services will be placed on the communion table and pulpit by FUMC Staff. A pall or a spray of flowers may cover the casket. An easel may be placed on the side for a photo of the deceased.

If two matching altar flower arrangements are being provided by the family, you will need to arrange this with a professional florist. First Church recommends Celebrations the Florist (850.433.2022). Arrangements must be delivered day of service, two hours prior to service. No arrangements will be placed on the altar.

All extra flowers/arrangements will be placed in the parlor in front of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. If a reception is following, flowers will be moved to the reception area. Family will need to take flowers after service unless otherwise noted. First Church has a Flower Ministry. If the family would like to donate flowers to this ministry, the staff of First Church will remove flowers.

Can we play a video or display photos during reception?

Videos or still photo sequences may be shown at the reception; you may bring these on a Flash drive to the church office. Please make sure that any slide show is in PowerPoint format and that all movies are in a .MOV or MP4 format. FUMC Pensacola will require this presentation 48 hours prior to the services so that we can verify there are no problems with the files provided. Please email to Kyle Hall (KHall@FUMCPensacola.com). A video recording of the service will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

The Living Trust

The Living Trust is a special fund set up to receive gifts for memorials that you may wish to give in memory of or in honor of an individual. This is given in lieu of flowers from friends and family. Contact Holly Houghton, Director of Finance, with any questions (HHoughton@FUMCPensacola.com).

Columbarium

A columbarium is a permanent structure with recessed niches to respectfully store cremation urns. The columbarium at FUMC Pensacola is located on the courtyard on the North side of the Main Sanctuary and offers a serene and dignified space for families to visit and remember their loved ones. We offer the niches to purchase for \$1200 each. Contact Denise Van Atta, Church Administrator with any questions (DVanAtta@FUMCPensacola.com).

Financial Planning | Bequests & Beneficiary Designations

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts you can make to support the mission and ministries of FUMC Pensacola. With the help of an adviser, you can include language in your will or trust specifying the gift you would like to make as part of your estate plan. A bequest can be made in several ways including:

- A specific dollar amount or asset
- A percentage of the total estate
- The balance or residue of the estate

If you would like your gift to provide long-term support and sustainability to FUMC Pensacola, you can contribute to an Endowment Fund.

Many assets can be easily transferred directly to FUMC Pensacola upon your death without the use of a will or trust. By utilizing beneficiary designations associated with certain assets to make your legacy gift, you will also avoid probate. The following assets can all be transferred by way of beneficiary designations:

- Life Insurance Policies
- 401k, 403b and other Retirement Plans
- Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)
- Annuities
- Bank Accounts (designate the account as Payable On Death "POD")
- Investment Accounts (designate the account as Transfer On Death "TOD")

For more information please contact your personal financial advisor.

SERVICE OF DEATH & RESURRECTION

for

First and Last Name

Date of Service

PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GRACE AND GREETING

***HYMN**

***OPENING PRAYER**

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of

death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

WITNESS

***GOSPEL LESSON**

John 14:1-7, 15-17, 27

SERMON

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

No. 881

“The Apostles’ Creed”

***GLORIA PATRI**

No. 70

“Glory Be to the Father”

**PRAYERS OF COMMENDATION
AND THANKSGIVING**

No. 874

THE LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN**

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please Stand

You are invited to a reception in The Wright Place following the service.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF PENSACOLA

SEPTEMBER 2024