

Funerals and Memorial Services

A Planning Guide

Dear Friendswood Methodist 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 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 Service). Christ is our hope for eternal life, and we offer this hope to the surviving family and friends - the hope 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 blessing to help you and your family.

For questions regarding Funeral or Memorial Service planning, please call the church office at 281.482.7535.

Sincerely,

Rev. Rosemary Dubois
Pastor of Congregational Care

Julie Regian
Congregational Care Assistant

PLANNING THE SERVICE

BEFORE DEATH OCCURS

We will be happy to visit with you and provide a planning document. Once completed, a permanent file will be made, and our records will reflect that you have pre-planned your service.

WHEN DEATH IS IMMINENT OR WHEN DEATH OCCURS

When death is imminent or if a death has occurred, our pastors are honored to come and pray with you. Please call the church office at 281.482.7535, day or night, and you will be connected with the pastor on call.

DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF SERVICE

If you wish for one of our pastors to conduct the service for your loved one, please contact the Pastor of Congregational Care before you schedule the date and time.

To avoid conflicts, both personal and building, the pastor will confirm the availability of the church staff and facilities. Funerals and Memorial Services are usually held in the sanctuary. For an intimate Memorial Service we offer Wesley Hall. Services may also be held at a funeral home and cemetery. Whatever the choice, we will try to accommodate your wishes.





ORDER OF WORSHIP

This is the typical order of worship used at Friendswood Methodist for Funerals and Memorial Services:

Prelude

Family Entrance

Military Flag Presentation (if applicable, arrangements made through a funeral home)

Words of Grace and Greeting

Prayer

Congregational Hymn or Solo

Words of Remembrance (selected speakers)

Congregational Hymn or Solo

Scripture

Words of Hope (message offered by the officiating pastor)

Apostle's Creed

The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Hymn or Solo

Dismissal with Blessing

Family Recessional

Going Forth

TYPE OF SERVICE

There are several types of services to consider:

1. A traditional funeral (where the casket is present), graveside to follow
The casket will be closed prior to the beginning of the service and will remain closed.
2. A memorial service (where there is no casket), cremation or burial has already occurred
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 if the service is held at the church. If the service is held at a funeral home or cemetery, arrangements can be made with them to have a visitation the evening before or the day of the service.

A reception can be held following the service in Wesley Hall. The Bereavement Committee will provide the food and the servers.

MAKING SERVICE PLANS

Following the selection of the date, time, place and type of service, the pastor will arrange to meet with the family and plan the service. This will be a time to select favorite scriptures and discuss musical choices as well. If the service is being held at the church, the church will provide the bulletins for the service. It is helpful if you can bring to this meeting a good quality picture of your loved one to be used for the cover of the bulletin.



FEES

Friendswood Methodist offers the use of the facilities and a reception for your guests at no cost for members. Fees for the following service participants and technicians include: organist/pianist \$200; soloist \$100; sound technician \$100; video technician (if showing a slide show before the service or at the reception) \$100. Please make payment to each individual providing a service. The names of these individuals can be obtained from the officiating pastor. Honorariums for others participating or assisting with the service are left to the discretion of the family.



SCRIPTURE

Scripture is another way to enhance the funeral/memorial experience. If there is a particular scripture that you would like to have used in the service, please plan to share this with the pastor during the planning meeting. This could be a scripture that was a favorite of your loved one or a scripture that provides comfort and hope to you during this time. The pastor can select a scripture appropriate for the service if you do not have a particular scripture in mind.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES

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

John 3:16

God so loved the world

John 11:1-4, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44

The raising of Lazarus

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

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. It is common to have a flower arrangement for the casket or the altar.

Immediately following the service and reception, the removal of the arrangements is the responsibility of the family or the funeral home. Typically, the flower arrangements on the altar are placed in an urn belonging to the church. After the service and reception, the arrangement can be lifted out of the urn to take, leaving the urn on the altar.

MEMORABILIA

Frequently, family members set up a memory table in the foyer of the worship center with photos, albums, awards or certificates of achievement, hobby examples, or other personal items relating to their loved one. We provide the table and cloth for these displays. If a reception is being held, simple displays can be transferred to Wesley Hall during the service by a church volunteer.

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. Families requesting memorials be made to Friendswood Methodist can designate a specific ministry area.



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.

There is also a special time of remembrance in all of the services on All Saints' Sunday (the first Sunday in November).

For information regarding additional grief support, please contact the church office at 281.482.7535.

