



FUNERAL PLANNING

A GUIDE FOR PLANNING
A MEANINGFUL SERVICE



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCALA, FLORIDA

511 SE 3RD ST
OCALA, FL 34471

(352) 629-7561



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

If you have just lost a loved one, the pastors and staff of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala want to provide consolation and support to you and your family. We can also assist you in making arrangements for a service, reception and committal/burial service as needed.

PLANNING THE SERVICE

When you are ready, we can schedule a time for you to come to the church office for a planning meeting where you and other family members can meet with a pastor to plan the service. It would be helpful if you could read this brochure and fill out the forms provided prior to the planning meeting.

Although planning a service often becomes the priority when we lose someone, we also have to be mindful of the emotional and spiritual journey of grieving. Please see the final section of this brochure for some resources that we hope will be of help to you along the way.

A NOTE ABOUT SERVICES AT FPC

Our primary focus has to be on those who are members or closely related to members, but we will consider all requests and if we are not able to provide for a service here at FPC, we will do our best to refer you elsewhere.

WHAT DO THE WORDS MEAN?

Funeral Service

A funeral is a service where the casket is present.

Memorial Service

A memorial service is a service where there is no casket, but where the remains (ashes) may or may not be present.

Graveside or Interment Service

This is a shorter service at the grave site either before or after a larger service at the church. It is not uncommon for this service to be for a smaller circle of friends and family.

Committal Service

This is a shorter service at a location where the remains (ashes) will be placed or scattered. It is not uncommon for this service to be for a smaller circle of friends and family. We have a "Scatter Garden" here at FPC where remains can be placed/scattered and the loved one's name placed on an engraved placard.

What is a Christian Funeral or Memorial Service?

A funeral or memorial service held at First Presbyterian Church includes a recognition of the loss and sadness felt by family and friends of the deceased and a celebration of the life of the person who has died. But above all, it is a worship service. When we gather, we focus our attention on the hope that all believers share in the salvation and eternal life promised to those who trust in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The meditation (short message) given by the Pastor guarantees that while the reality of death is acknowledged, and the deceased is honored, a note of victory and hope for life beyond the grave by the power of God pervades the service. This in no way precludes the involvement of friends and family members who may share remembrances, read scripture or sing a special song. But, it does provide a central focus when planning - our hope in this life and the next is in Jesus and His promises.

What Type of Music is Appropriate?

Since, as stated above, funerals and memorial services held at First Presbyterian Church are worship services, the music included should be sacred in nature. Music selected for a worship service should seek to focus the congregation's prayers and reflections on the goodness and salvation of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. For a full list of hymns, please see page 6.

Having said that, if there is a secular song or songs that you feel people would associate with the deceased and find meaningful, there are 2 alternatives. First, those songs could be played as part of the “gathering music” before the service begins. Second, the songs could be played during the reception.

What are the Common Elements of a Funeral or Memorial Service?

Although there is no single prescribed service, there are some elements that are common to most funeral and memorial services including:

- Prelude or Gathering Music is music that allows people to gather and pray
- Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer
- Hymns or Praise/Worship Songs
- Bible Readings (usually 2-3 readings)
- Remembrances that allow friends or family to share stories and highlight what they love, respect and remember about the loved one
- A meditation that connects the deceased person’s life and faith to the Bible readings and calls all who are present to remember that our ultimate hope is in God
- A Prayer of Comfort and the Lord’s Prayer (offered by the Pastor)

Other Optional Elements:

- Special music
- An Affirmation of Faith
- Presentation of Military Honors

The ceremonies and rites of fraternal or civic organizations, if any, should occur at some other time and place (for example, at the reception).

Do You Allow for Slide Shows or Memorabilia?

Our sanctuary does not have the projection equipment needed to display a slide show. However, we are able to display slide shows in the Fellowship Hall as part of the reception.

If you have memorabilia that you would like to display, you can do so in the entry way of the sanctuary, in the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall,

For Memorial Services, it is common to display a larger portrait/photograph of the deceased at the front of the sanctuary. We will provide the easel.

SERVICE BULLETIN

We will work with you to design a service bulletin that contains the order of service and other elements that you may find meaningful. The cover of the bulletin can either feature a photograph of the deceased or you can select from a few other images that we have of the church.

Other possible elements for the bulletin may include poems, quotes, a short biography of the deceased or instructions for donations made to organizations on behalf of the deceased.

We encourage you to fill out as much of the SERVICE PLANNING FORM included in this packet before you meet with one of our pastors to plan the service.

RECEPTIONS

It is our privilege to provide a reception in the Fellowship Hall for those who attended the service to greet, comfort and spend time with one another. Our basic reception includes beverages and an assortment of light refreshments. This is our gesture of comfort and is provided at no charge to the family.

However, if you would prefer to cater the reception at your own cost, we can coordinate the room set up and access with your catering team.

Fees and Suggested Donations

For members of FPC, we offer the use of the facility, bulletins, greeters and a reception as a gift of love and comfort to you and your family. However, we are often asked about fees related to the various people who will be assisting during the service.

Optional, but suggested:

Pastor: \$300

Lead Musician: \$150

Required:

Sound Tech: \$100

Live stream or recording of the service: \$300

Soloists or Musicians: \$100 per person

*Checks made payable to "First Presbyterian Church"

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or to set up an appointment to plan a service with one of our pastors call the church office at 352-629-7561 and speak to our Office Manager.

SELECTING BIBLE PASSAGES AND MUSIC?

BIBLE PASSAGES

It is customary to have 2-3 Bible passages read during the service. Below is a list of passages for you to consider:

OLD TESTAMENT

Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 For everything there is a season
Isaiah 25:6-9 God will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 26:1-4, 19 God will keep them in peace
Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31 Comfort my people
Isaiah 40:28-31 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
Isaiah 44:6-8 I am the first and the last
Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11 The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isaiah 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
Lamentations 3:19-26, 31b-32 The Lord's steadfast love
Daniel 12:1-3 Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29 Return to the Lord with all your heart
Psalms 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion

Psalms 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Psalms 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalms 39: 4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
Psalms 42:1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
Psalms 43 Give judgment for me, O God
Psalms 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble
Psalms 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
Psalms 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Psalms 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalms 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord
Psalms 116:1-9, 15 The Lord has heard my voice
Psalms 118 Open the gates of righteousness
Psalms 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalms 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Psalms 139:1-12 Where shall I go from your spirit?
Psalms 145 I will extol you, O God my King
Psalms 146 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 5:1-12a The Beatitudes
Matthew 11:25-30 Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants
Matthew 25:1-13 Wise and foolish bridesmaids
Matthew 25:31-46 The Last Judgment
Luke 7:11-17 Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain
Luke 18:15-17 We enter the kingdom only as children
Luke 23:33, 39-43 Today you will be with me in paradise
John 3:16-21 God so loved the world
John 5:24-29 Whoever hears and believes has eternal life
John 6:37-40 Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away
John 6:47-58 Whoever believes in me has eternal life
John 11:17-27 I am the resurrection and the life
John 11:38-44 Lazarus raised from the dead
John 14:1-6, 25-27 Let not your hearts be troubled
Romans 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint
Romans 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him
Romans 8:14-23, 31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12-20a Christ raised from the dead
1 Corinthians 15:20-24a In Christ shall all be made alive
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-58 Death is swallowed in victory

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 The natural body and the spiritual body
1 Corinthians 15:50-57 We shall all be changed
2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1 Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal
2 Corinthians 5:1-10 From God we have a house not made with hands
Ephesians 1:11-2:1, 4-10 Saved by grace through faith
Philippians. 3:7-11 Knowing him and the power of his resurrection
Philippians. 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven
Colossians 3:1-17 Set your minds on the things that are above
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The comfort of Christ's coming
2 Timothy 2:8-13 If we died with him, we shall also live with him
Hebrews 2:14-18 Christ was tested in every way
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2 Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses
1 Peter 1:3-9 Without seeing Christ, you love him
1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6 Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison
Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17 These are they who have come out of the great tribulation
Revelation 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13 Rest for the saints
Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 A new heaven and a new earth
Revelation 22:1-5 The Lord God will be their light

HYMNS AND SONGS

It is customary to have 2-3 songs or hymns that the congregation can sing together.

Below are some suggestions from The Presbyterian Hymnal, Glory to God.

1 Holy, Holy, Holy
4 Holy God, We Praise Your Name
8 Eternal Father, Strong to Save
39 Great is Thy Faithfulness
216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus
326 For All The Saints
353 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
378 This Is My Father's World
408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in the Air
438 Rock of Ages
450 Be Thou My Vision
465 What A Friend We Have In Jesus
620 Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
625 How Great Thou Art
630 Fairest Lord Jesus
649 Amazing Grace
686 God Of Our Life
687 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
819 Be Still My Soul
829 My Faith Looks Up To Thee
836 Abide With Me
840 It Is Well With My Soul

These hymns are not found in our church hymnal. If selected, the music and lyrics will be provided in the funeral bulletin.

I'll Fly Away (insert)

In the Garden (insert)

Jesus, Stand Among Us (insert)

The Old Rugged Cross (insert)

GRIEF RESOURCES

If you or your family members are in the process of planning a funeral or memorial service for a loved one, then you, or they, are in the process of grieving. Grieving will have many different emotions and intensities in the coming days, weeks, months, and even years. Some days will be surprisingly difficult, while others may not be. Particularly in the first weeks after a death, there are so many decisions to be made and so many people assisting in the process that loved ones may not have the time or energy to feel sad. In fact, they may not feel much of anything at first, or they may feel numb. Grief is a recognition of love and value in a relationship, and the emotions of grief surface at different times and in different ways depending on the personalities and backgrounds of those involved, as well as the amount of physical and emotional energy available. No two people will follow the exact same course of grief. People who are grieving can benefit from grief resources such as support groups and literature.

For some, the intensity of the loss, or the depth of loneliness, anxiety or depression may call for meeting with a counselor or grief support specialist.

For others, a grief support group would provide information, relational support and encouragement on your journey. FPC hosts a Grief Share program twice a year. Grief Share is a national organization with both support groups and events to help those experiencing grief at various levels. To learn more, call the church office at 352-629-7561 and speak to our Office Manager, or scan the QR Code below.

Scan the QR Code to learn
more about GriefShare.

