

GRACE

BAPTIST CHURCH

HELP FOR PLANNING A FUNERAL

This information has been prepared to be of service to you at a time when you experience the deepest pain we know in this life. Nothing quite tests us as severely as does the loss of a loved one. In this difficult time, your family in the Christian faith desires to be a source of help, comfort, compassion, and strength. This information is designed to help us achieve that goal. You will find here a variety of suggestions, recommendations, and guidelines which will ease the burden of decision-making as you make arrangements.

We pray for God's presence to be with you in your time of need and for God's unconquerable hope to grip your heart and soul. Please remember that the promise of the Scriptures is that while we do experience the shadowed valley of death, by God's power and with God's help, we walk through that valley to the brighter days that are ahead.

This guide will offer suggestions on how to approach this event and plan according to most traditional standards. Important matters for the family to consider are listed here.

GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS OR REGULAR ATTENDERS PLANNING A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GRACE

- 1. Contact the church as soon as possible** so that pastoral care may be provided and planning for the funeral service may begin. The place, day, and time of the funeral service should not be finalized until there has been a conversation with the pastor who will be conducting the service.
- 2. Consult with one of the pastors** prior to visiting a funeral home about the necessary arrangements and decisions. We can help you coordinate this aspect of funeral planning and let you know what to expect.
- 3. Fill out a Funeral Service Planning Sheet** (See page 2)
- 4. For music for the service**, please contact the church office. The church will provide someone to run the sound and audio-visuals and arrange with the Director of Worship for people who can lead in singing and playing instruments. We also have hymnals available for use if desired.

Please Note: Our Pastors are not song leaders, so please know that an individual to lead the congregation in singing will need to be determined if you desire this as a part of the service.

HOW MUCH DOES A FUNERAL COST?

- Funeral homes offer a menu of services; fees and payment plans vary.
- There is no fee for the use of the church. Funerals and memorial services are part of the Deacon ministry of Grace.
- The church will provide coffee and light refreshments in the fellowship hall following the service, if desired. Additional food and beverages may be arranged with a caterer at the family's expense.

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FUNERAL SERVICE PLANNING SHEET

Prelude Music: This can be a selection of favorite songs or piano (Roughly ½ hour before the service begins)

Processional: Family Enters

Welcome: _____

Prayer: _____

Congregational Song (s):

Video Montage: Pictures from family albums portraying the departed's life

Eulogy: We would suggest that someone from the family or real close family do the eulogy. This could be a compilation of all the family's memories read by one person.

Congregational Song or Special Music Video

Message: (The Pastor will preach a message that proclaims the Gospel and offers comfort in Jesus Christ)

Closing Song: This could either be a congregational song or a special music selection

Recessional