

## IN THE EVENT OF A DEATH, WHAT MUST I DO?

Call the pastor or church office - (321-269-7631). You can request help notifying family members, if you need assistance. The pastor can be with you and help you through this very difficult time with comfort and guidance.

Call a funeral home of your choice. Later, they will ask you to come to the funeral home to make arrangements for the service.

Select a resting place, if you have not done so already. Keep in mind the coming generations who will be interested in the life and character of your beloved one.

Put your trust in God. Do not ask, "Why?" - but ask rather - "How can I find comfort and strength from the Lord who gave this person life?"

Ask your pastor, hospital social worker, nursing home social worker, or hospice for information about grief groups designed to help you with your grief.

## WHAT PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE OR HYMNS WILL HELP ME MOST?

The word of God is a source of comfort and strength to you, especially in the Psalms.

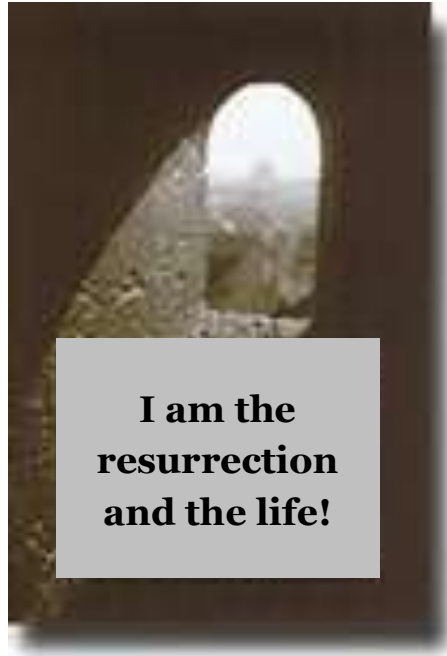
Psalm 1	John 14:1-6
Psalm 23	Romans 8:35-39
Psalm 24	1 Corinthians 15
Psalm 34	1 Peter 1
Psalm 27	Revelation 22
Psalm 90	Psalm 139

Hymns (ones meaningful to you or ones that meant a lot to them)

## First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave.  
Titusville, FL 32796

# Funeral Service Policies



**I am the  
resurrection  
and the life!**

**Tel: 321-269-7631**

**[www.fumctitusville.com](http://www.fumctitusville.com)**

This policy was revised 2/15/2016 by The Board of Trustees of 1st United Methodist Church.

# FUNERAL POLICY

## FUNERALS

The Christian funeral is a service of worship in which God's people:

- celebrate the life of the person who has died,
- witness to their faith in the good news of Jesus' resurrection and offer of eternal life,
- experience the fellowship of believers,
- and recall God's love and salvation offered through Christ to all.

The funeral is an opportunity for the bereaved to experience comfort and closure by giving thanks for their life, bidding farewell, and learning how the deceased affected the lives of others. It is also an opportunity to reflect on what lessons may be learned from the person's life experience.

Children and grandchildren learn things about their dear one that remind them of character qualities they need to cultivate for the days ahead. The funeral gives a sense of closure to a life and brings a certain reality to the passing that may not happen in any other way. Spiritually and psychologically it is used by God to bring us through the process of grieving. It is not something to be gotten over with; rather, we are to enter into it with expectation of God's comfort and the easing of our pain.

Though we remember our loved one and mourn our loss, we gather to worship God and confess our faith in the eternal life God has prepared for us.

## CHURCH FACILITIES AND STAFF

### Arrangements:

1. Contact the pastor (321-304-1898) or church administrative Assistant (321-269-7631 ext. 207) to arrange a date and time. Usually, the funeral director will include this call as part of their planning with you, but it's helpful to already have some idea about the church's or pastor's possibilities. Every effort is made to accommodate this need.
2. A time will need to be set for meeting with the pastor to plan the funeral and any possible reception. This will be a time for the family to share their memories and desires for the service, to plan for any decorations they may want to set up, and to indicate the special equipment and staff needs required to make the service run smoothly (organist, special music, media tech, custodial, etc.).
3. First UMC normally offers a reception for church families and friends in our Fellowship Hall. At times, food is delivered to a home for the family before the funeral and/or for a reception. This will need time to be planned.
4. The pastor will need:
  - A historical summary of the deceased's life, accomplishments, awards, and organizations
  - A list of all the relatives, including names of grandchildren and great-grandchildren
  - Some idea of the deceased's spiritual journey
  - Reflections on how the deceased's faith was lived out and shared with others

- A list of the deceased's favorite scriptures and hymns
- An idea of how many to expect will attend the service and any reception held by the church

### Facility Use:

1. The sanctuary is available for all who desire a funeral or memorial as a Christian worship service. Arrangements will need to be made by staff to assure it is cleaned and miscellaneous items or decorations are removed when possible. At times, it may not be practical to remove seasonal decorations.
2. For large services, it may be necessary to arrange for parking guides.

### Facility and Staff Donations:

1. No donations are required for those members or others regularly involved in the congregation's life for using the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
2. For nonmembers a donation of \$200 is requested for the use of each facility to cover utilities, etc. up to two hours per facility.
3. Pastoral funeral services of a donation of \$150 is customary.
4. Donations for other staff (both members or nonmembers) are as follows:
 

Organist/Pianist(JD Daniel)	\$ 150.00
Soloist (Mario Davis)	\$ 50.00
Media Tech (Steve Rossi)	\$ 75.00
Custodian (Keith Meck) <small>per room</small>	\$75.00

### Logistical matters of policy:

While many would choose the chapel at a funeral home for the memorial service, others would prefer the church building where faith is nourished, marriage vows are made, children are baptized, communion is received, and prayers are offered by the people of God.

Because "viewing the remains" is not a part of the worship service, it is strongly recommended that the casket be closed during the service.

Because fraternal or civil rites are not a part of the worship service, their tribute to the deceased may be at the conclusion of the worship service, at another hour and place, or at the graveside.

Many people choose to have the memorial service before the burial; others have the burial before the service. Either approach is appropriate.

When funerals are conducted at First United Methodist Church, staff ministers shall ordinarily conduct those services in their entirety. First UMC's minister(s) have sole responsibility and discretion in all matters of any funeral held at First UMC.

### IS ANY DAY ALL RIGHT FOR A FUNERAL?

Yes, except that one should give serious consideration to avoiding Sunday in that one causes others to do their daily work on that particular day. Out of consideration for the staff of the funeral home and the cemetery, it would be well to consider another day.

### WHAT DO I SAY WHEN FRIENDS COME TO CALL?

Thank them sincerely for their kindness. Usually they don't know just what to say and often say words intended to comfort but sometimes hurt or deny the reality of your loss. Receive their comfort as from the Lord, and don't be afraid to talk with them about your loved one who has passed away. Put them at ease and they will be able to strengthen you even more.

### HOW IS A MEMORIAL SERVICE DIFFERENT FROM A FUNERAL?

A funeral includes the presence of the deceased's body in a casket or urn. Various traditions leave the casket open for the service, close it prior to the service and leave it closed, or close it for the service and reopen it after the service for one last viewing. The latter is often done when relatives could only arrived just in time for the funeral, thus not having had an opportunity to view the deceased and say goodbye.

Because the worship service is designed to focus on God and the Christian hope, it is highly recommended that the casket be closed for the service. Leaving it open often makes it emotionally difficult for loved ones during the service. Reopening the casket once it has been closed can lead to emotional turmoil and some unnecessary pain for loved ones.

Normally, following the funeral there is a procession to a gravesite where the body is buried. A short service is usually held at the gravesite. The family may remain for the actual burial or leave before that takes place.

A memorial service is a worship service celebrating the life of the deceased without the body being present. This happens because the body was immediately buried, cremated and the ashes scattered, or because the memorial is being held in a different location (other town, state, or country). A memorial service allows for travel arrangements when people are widely scattered and unable to come within a few days of the death or for persons in another location to hold their own service without traveling a long way.

### WHAT IS THE BEST PLACE FOR A FUNERAL?

No one can answer that question for you completely, but some suggestions may be made. In the church, there are valuable memories of sacred events which will serve to comfort the hearts of those who mourn. The church is the place used for all kinds of happy experiences and to gather there to receive God's comfort is most natural and appropriate, especially for those who have worshipped there over the years.

Funeral homes or graveside services are often used for simplicity and convenience, and are sometimes the expressed wish of the deceased. But one needs to take into account the special limitations that graveside services place upon a family. Graveside services are often limited in time by the weather, making it uncomfortable for the living who are already emotionally vulnerable. It may turn out to be less than the ministry of comfort than it could have been had it been held indoors.

### IS A GRAVE SITE IMPORTANT?

Yes. God's people have used burial places from the most ancient times. God buried the body of Moses. The place of burial should eventually be marked by an appropriate character description, so that grand-children and other family members can learn about their spiritual heritage from visiting it. It will be a comfort for you to be there from time to time to pray and remember and gather comfort.

For those whose cremains are scattered, one may experience the loss of a place of connection and that connection has to be sought through the way or place they were scattered (e.g., over the water, a special piece of land such as a property or the beach, or in the air).