

# Planning Ahead – Funeral Guidelines

## A&M United Methodist Church



This booklet is designed to encourage each of our members to participate in personal funeral planning as much as possible. Provisions are made by the pastors to assist in both practical and personal matters.

Not only is the information likely to be of great help to the pastors and to families, but it allows individuals the opportunity of making crucial decisions about funeral plans prior to the crisis of death. Such pre-planning can relieve the burden of family members at the time of death of a loved one. Pre-planning can afford members the option of leaving clear instructions for family members regarding one's own preferences for scriptures, hymns, music, and disposition of the body.

Since it is difficult to plan during times of emotional stress, we encourage you to review this material and discuss your preferences with family or friends. Fill out the information-gathering forms. They will be placed in a confidential file and kept until needed.

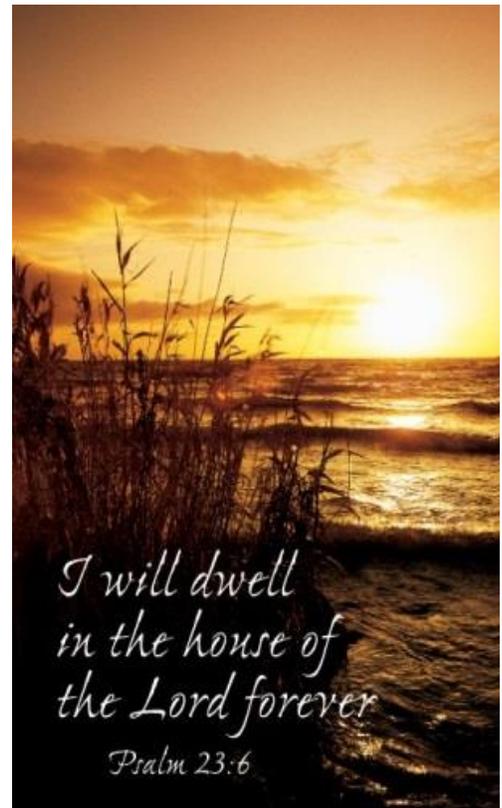


*Christians believe that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives them hope and cause for thanksgiving in the face of death. In this faith, we entrust those who have died to the infinite mercy and love of God.* —The Methodist Worship Book, England

A worship service following the death of a loved one does at least two things: It enables us to face the reality of our mortality, and comforts us in the celebration of another reality – life after death in God. As one of our \*creeds declares, “In life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone. Thanks be to God!”

It is the commitment of the clergy, staff, and music leadership of A&M United Methodist Church to assist in the preparation and implementation of a service dedicated to God’s glory for those who mourn and gather to worship at the time of death. To this end, the following are guidelines and suggestions that we offer to assist those who mourn, and those who look to tomorrow.

Upon reading this information, please make an appointment with an A&M United Methodist Church pastor to discuss your decisions and initiate a special file. Your appointment will be welcomed, and the decisions made will be honored with sincerity, dignity, and confidentiality. The file will contain the written information of your choices so that, at the time of death, plans can be implemented smoothly.



\*A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada

## Suggested Scriptures and Music Selections

Scripture is another way to enhance the funeral/memorial experience. We encourage you to make your personal favorites known to your pastor. The following list is not meant to be exhaustive, but a place to begin if you do not have favorites selected.

- Psalm 16:9,11 – Therefore my heart is glad
- Psalm 23 – The Lord is my shepherd
- Psalm 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
- Matthew 25:31-46
- John 3:16 – God so loved the world
- John 11:25 – I am the resurrection and the life
- 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

The music for a funeral or memorial service shall be sacred and reflect the tradition of music at A&M UMC. Music should be scriptural in nature and primarily focused on God. Taped, prerecorded, or electronically produced music may not be used. Our music department will provide music for the service in consultation with the pastor(s). If requested, The Chancel Choir, professional soloists and instrumentalists may be arranged through the Director of Music. When additional musicians are requested, a gift to the Music Department is expected to cover associated fees. If special music is requested that is approved by the pastor and we do not have that music, it is expected that the family will provide the music for the organist/pianist.

For assistance in choosing hymns, please see the following list. All hymns that are sung must be chosen from the most current United Methodist Hymnal, unless special arrangements have been made with the Music Director. The family may select hymns from the following list or others from the hymnal.

<b>Pg No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
57	O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
64	Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
89	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
378	Amazing Grace
369	Blessed Assurance
707	Hymn of Promise
711	For All the Saints
139	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
110	A Mighty Fortress is Our God
545	The Church's One Foundation
128	He Leadeth Me
577	God of Grace and God of Glory
734	Canticle of Hope
534	Be Still, My Soul

# Sample Bulletin Cover

A CELEBRATION OF THE  
LIFE AND RESURRECTION

Of



**A&M UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**  
College Station, Texas  
Monday, July 6, 2015  
2:00 P.M.

# Sample Bulletin

## **Celebrating the Life and Resurrection** *of*

### ORDER OF SERVICE

\*Congregation standing as able

Prelude

\*Entrance of the Family

Call to Worship & Greeting

\*Opening Hymn

Prayer

Witness to Life

\*Hymn

Scripture Reading

Homily

\*Closing Hymn

\*Benediction

\*Recessional

Leaders in Worship:

Senior Pastor

Organist

Music Director

(The obituary with photo may be inside the bulletin or on the back. A special poem may also be included if so desired.)

# Funeral Home Responsibilities

There are several fine funeral homes in the Bryan-College Station area; as a church we do not recommend or endorse one over another.

These are a few of the things you should rely on the funeral home to provide or give guidance for:

Casket or urn

Cemetery choice – plot or niche space

Flower removal after the service

Processional to cemetery

Visitation, if held at the funeral home

Obituary in the local newspaper

Guest book

# Facilities Map of A&M United Methodist Church

