

Funeral and Memorial Services
for Ellensburg First UMC



Ellensburg First United Methodist Church
210 N. Ruby Street, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Phone: (509) 962-9257

secretary@ellensburgumc.org

Introduction

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear grief in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

Some items here represent the policy of Ellensburg First United Methodist Church, but others are simply suggestions that, hopefully, will be useful to you and your family as you consider the reality of death. It should be clearly understood that the ministers are ready and willing to assist and serve you in every phase of the planning of a funeral or memorial service. Please keep in mind that contact with the Church should be made as swiftly as possible in order for the ministers to assist you from the beginning with the necessary preparations. The Church is prepared to counsel with you at any time.



Funeral, Memorial, and Graveside Services

When churches and funeral home personnel speak of a funeral versus a memorial service, they are stating that a body is present at a funeral service and that no body, or only the cremated remains are present at a memorial service. Usually the main service is either a funeral or memorial service.

Many families also choose to have a graveside service. A graveside service is a short service in which family and friends meet at the final resting place of the deceased in order to remember their loved one, hear words of comfort and hope and commit him or her into the loving arms of God.

While many families choose to have both a funeral/memorial service and a graveside service, it is also possible to only have a graveside service or only have a funeral/memorial service. For families expecting more than 50 people to attend we recommend that funeral plans include a funeral/memorial service as it is difficult for larger groups to hear and see at a graveside service. It is also common to have a more private graveside with only family (and maybe close friends) and a more public memorial or funeral service.

Grief Support

The pastor is available for grief counseling, and we encourage people to call and arrange a time to discuss the grieving process with him or her. Call the Church office for more information: (509) 962-9257.

When can a Funeral or Memorial Service be scheduled?

Both the pastor and the church secretary need to be consulted before a service is scheduled. Please check with us before announcing the date, time and location to friends, family or in the newspaper. If the service will not be at the church, then the pastor alone can work with you to set the date and time. Services to be held at the church can be scheduled Monday - Saturday as long as there are no conflicts with other scheduled events. Most funerals occur late morning or early afternoon. We realize that funerals seldom happen when planned and that you may need to accommodate the schedules of out of town guests. We will work hard to find a time that works for you and the church. You can contact the church office when you are ready to schedule the services: (509) 962-9257.

Can someone other than the pastor at Ellensburg First UMC officiate or participate?

While this is really up to the discretion of the pastor, generally speaking we allow other ministers to participate though we do ask that our pastor be involved. Please talk to the pastor at Ellensburg First UMC before asking another pastor to participate. Our pastor will work with the pastor you ask to share the responsibilities of the service.

Ways of Remembering Your Loved One

While some people really wish to stand and speak at the funeral of a family member or friend, this can be an extremely difficult thing to do. While it is in no way necessary for someone from the family to speak, it is our suggestion that at most 2-3 people speak to remember the life of your loved one. Our church encourages several alternatives:

The pastor will work with the family to make sure to lift up important events, themes and personality traits of your loved one but hearing the stories and memories in the words of the family makes the memories even more real.

One suggestion is for family and close friends to write statements and/or letters for the pastor(s) to read during the service. Children can even draw pictures that can be displayed at the reception or possible scanned and projected on the wall during the service.

Another suggestion, which we highly encourage, is the inclusion of a remembrance page in the bulletin. This is a page that allows family and friends to write down memories, prayers, and notes to the family. They are collected at the end of the service and given to the family.

Pictures and picture albums are a great way of remembering the life of your loved one. Pictures can be scanned and projected on the wall as a slideshow or can be displayed in frames and albums on a table during the reception.

Does the church provide musicians?

Ellensburg First United Methodist Church may be able to supply an accompanist for the funeral or memorial service. Requests for musical accompaniment must be made as far in advance as possible, and the accompanist is left with the final decision of involvement.

The Service

The pastor will plan the service with you in accord with our church practices, and will strive to include favorite scripture and hymn choices. Please consult with the pastor prior to asking other speakers to participate. Some may wish to share memories at the reception rather than at the services. Photos and videos may be shared during the service and at the reception as well. If the family would like to observe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, arrangements must be made with the pastor.

The memorial service is made up of several basic elements on which you may want to give some input: prayers, scripture, message, remembrances, music and/or poetry or other readings. The pastor will work with the family in order to develop an appropriate order of service. Here is a basic order of worship:

Gathering/Processional

Our pianist/organist will generally prepare music for before and after the service (Gathering/Processional and Postlude/Recessional). The pastor will generally lead the times of prayer unless a member of the family or a friend would like to participate in the service in this way. The church will work to provide a pianist and/or organist unless other arrangements are made.

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Hymn

Hymns sung by the congregation are always appropriate. Normally our church organist will play for all memorial services. Other instrumental music and/or special vocal music may be included. The pastor can work with the family in order to choose appropriate hymns and music.

Remembering the Life

At this time we remember the life of your loved one. This can be done in various ways including having people speak, having the pastor(s) read letters or remembrances written by family and friends, or with the pastor remembering the life of the deceased.

Scripture

The pastor will work with the family to choose appropriate scriptures to be read. The pastor will generally choose one of these texts as the foundation for the message that follows.

Message

The message is a short meditation on scripture intended to comfort friends and family and provide hope in eternal life through reflection on the text as well.

Hymn

Prayer Commendation

With this prayer we "commend" your loved one into the loving arms of God praying that God receive and him or her into peace of everlasting life.

Hymn/Anthem/Solo

Benediction & Dismissal

We ask God's blessing on we who grieve and are given a commission to love and serve God.

Postlude/Recessional

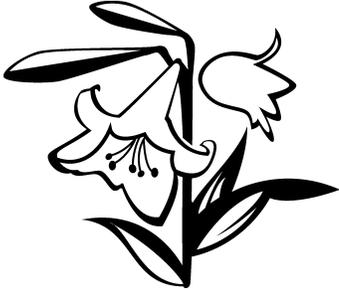
This order can be shortened, lengthened or changed in order to create a service to remember and celebrate the life of your loved one.

The pastor will work with office staff to prepare a bulletin for the service with input from the family which will include the order of service, participants' names, family information, and suggestions for remembrances.

Slide Shows and Videos

If you would like present a video or slide show, please notify the pastor in advance so that he or she can make arrangements. We do not need a technician for normal sound system use.

Flowers and Decorations



The family may wish to provide flowers, photos, or other decorations for the sanctuary and or graveside. Two of the local florists have arrangements with the church and will be able to advise you as well as deliver without the need for you to arrange pick up and/or delivery:

Williams Florist - 600 N Main Street - (509) 925-3176
Ellensburg Floral and Gifts - 120 E 4th Street - (509) 925-4149

Receptions

Many families choose to have a reception following the service. This reception is often held in the church fellowship hall, a restaurant, or a family members home. This is a great opportunity for friends and family to gather, remember and celebrate the life of your loved one. The pastor can work with the family as they plan the reception.

It is also a great time in which to share pictures, stories, or other mementos in a more intimate setting than the service.

Our Church's United Methodist Women organization is available to help plan food and drinks for receptions held in our fellowship hall. There are three main options:

- a simple reception: coffee, tea, punch, and cookies or cake
- a light lunch type of meal: sandwiches, salads, dessert with coffee, tea and punch

The women of the church will prepare, serve the food and clean up afterwards. They request a donation to help with the cost of food, drinks and supplies. This is discussed later in the packet.

Memorials

Many families suggest that people may donate to an organization or charity in remembrance of their loved one. If you have an organization that you would like to direct people to let us know. If this organization or charity is not the church we will need an address. We will print this information in the bulletin.

Many families of church members suggest that people give to the church. Our church has a Memorial Fund Committee that can work with families to direct funds toward ministries and projects that reflect the heart and interests of their loved one.

Scripture Suggestions

Here are a list of common scriptures used at funeral/memorial services. Those marked with asterisks (*) are the most common. The pastor will work with you to choose the scriptures for the service. Here are some that you can look at prior to meeting with the pastor. If you do not have a Bible, www.biblegateway.com is a great free resource with multiple versions of the Bible available for viewing.

Old Testament

* Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
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
Zech. 8:1-8 Children playing in the streets of the city

Psalms

Ps. 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion
* Ps. 23 The Lord is my shepherd
Ps. 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
Ps. 39: 4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
Ps. 42:1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
Ps. 43 Give judgment for me, O God
* Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble
* Ps. 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
Ps. 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
* Ps. 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord
Ps. 116:1-9, 15 The Lord has heard my voice
Ps. 118 Open the gates of righteousness
* Ps. 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
* Ps. 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
* Ps. 139:1-12 Where shall I go from your spirit?
Ps. 145 I will extol you, O God my King
Ps. 146 Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul

Epistles

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, Death is swallowed in victory (also 42-44, 50, 53-58)
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
1 John 3:1-3 We are children of God
Revelations 7:2-3, 9-17 These are they who have come out of the great tribulation
Revelations 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13 Rest for the saints
* Revelations 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 A new heaven and a new earth
Revelations 22:1-5 The Lord God will be their light

Gospels

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

Hymn Suggestions

Abide with Me	UMH 700	Saranam, Saranam	UMH 523
Ask Ye What Great Things I Know	UMH 163	Shalom to You	UMH 666
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	UMH 557	Sing with All the Saints in Glory	UMH 702
Canticle of Remembrance	UMH 652	Soon and Very Soon	UMH 706
Children of the Heavenly Father	UMH 141	Stand by Me	UMH 512
Christ is Alive	UMH 318	Steal Away to Jesus	UMH 704
Christ the Victorious	UMH 653	Sweet Hour of Prayer	UMH 496
Close to Thee	UMH 407	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	UMH 703
Come, Let us Join our Friends Above	UMH 709	Take Time to Be Holy	UMH 395
Come, Ye Disconsolate	UMH 510	The Church's One Foundation	UMH 545/546
Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain	UMH 315	The Day of Resurrection	UMH 303
Faith of our Fathers	UMH 710	The God of Abraham Praise	UMH 116
Give to the Winds Thy Fears	UMH 129	The Old Rugged Cross	UMH 504
How Blest are They Who Trust in Christ	UMH 654	Thine Be the Glory	UMH 308
How Great Thou Art	UMH 77	This is a Day of New Beginnings	UMH 383
Hymn of Promise	UMH 707	Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose	UMH 153
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	UMH 103	Up from the Grave He Arose	UMH 322
In the Garden	UMH 314	What a Friend We Have in Jesus	UMH 526
Jesus Remember Me	UMH 488	When We All Get to Heaven	UMH 701
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms	UMH 133		
Mil Voces Para Celebrar	UMH 59		
Nobody Knows the Trouble I See	UMH 520		
O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing	UMH 57		
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go	UMH 480		
O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright	UMH 247		
O Thou, in Whose Presence	UMH 518		
Of the Father's Love Begotten	UMH 184		
On Eagle's Wings	UMH 143		
Marching to Zion	UMH 733		
My Hope is Built	UMH 368		
Pues Si Vivimos	UMH 356		
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	UMH 66		
Remember Me	UMH 491		

If you are looking for more hymns appropriate for memorial and funeral services you can look in the index of the United Methodist Hymnal under "Eternal Life" and "Funerals and Memorial Services" on pgs. 940-942. The Pastor can provide this if needed.

Some great free resources are available on the web: www.cyberhymnal.org and www.hymnsite.com. Both of these resources allow you to read the words and listen to a MIDI audio recording of most of the hymns listed here.

The pastor will work with you to choose appropriate hymns for the service.

The congregation may also be able to sing more contemporary songs if this is desired and musicians are available to support the congregational singing.

Suggested Donations & Honorariums

While the church considers memorial services, funerals, and receptions a part of our ministry to the community, many people ask us what they should give for the use of the facilities and for personnel (such as the organist and/or pastor). So, here are a few guidelines:

Facilities:

For other activities and events at the church we ask for \$100 for the use of the sanctuary, but we would gladly let you use the sanctuary without any obligation to donate anything.

We ask other groups for \$150 for the use of the fellowship hall, but you may donate or not as you wish. This is a service to our community.

Honoraria:

Our request is for you to make separate checks out to everyone for whom you would like to provide an honorarium.

For musicians such as the organist or pianist we suggest a honorarium of \$75. A honorarium of \$75 is also suggested for any vocal or instrumental soloists. If you ask the church choir to sing we suggest a donation of around \$200 to support the growth and continuation of music ministries in our church. If an audio/visual technician is requested an honorarium of \$50 is suggested.

While pastoral services including the memorial service are offered free of charge to members of the church and to the community, many people still ask what a recommended honorarium would be. We recommend an honorarium of \$150 for the pastor.

Reception Hosting :

The United Methodist Women is often able to provide a reception for the family and those attending the funeral, if requested. Family and friends of the bereaved are encouraged to bring food items, and the UMW will help arrange and prepare the items. They will also work with the family so appropriate beverages and food can be ordered/prepared. While not necessary, the UMW would appreciate a donation towards the work that they do.

We know that you cannot predict how many people will come to any funeral. We would, however, appreciate your best guess as to the number of people who will attend. Here are some rough suggested donations :

For a simple reception: coffee, tea, punch, and cookies or cake—\$1 per person

For a light lunch type of meal: sandwiches, salads, dessert with coffee, tea and punch—\$1.50 per person



Ellensburg First United Methodist Church Memorial or Funeral Service Planning Sheet

Service is for: _____
Please use full legal name or what you would like printed in the bulletin.

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Type of Service: Memorial Service Funeral Service Graveside Service

Date of Service: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Officiating: _____ Participating _____

Local Funeral Home: _____ Phone: _____

Family Contact: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Relationship: _____ Address: _____

of Guests anticipated: _____ Reception: Yes No Location: _____

UMW to host: Yes No Instructions: _____

Name of Florist Providing Flowers _____ Phone: _____

Scripture: _____

Music/Hymns (*Please include hymnal numbers for hymns*):

Other Speakers: _____

Do you wish to have memorial contributions in your loved one's name go to an organization or charity?
If so, and it is one other than the church please give the name and address of the charity or group:

If you would like memorial contributions to go to the church, do you have a specific area of ministry that you would like any memorial contributions to benefit?

Will you display photos albums, keepsakes, or other meaningful items on a memorial table: Yes No

Ellensburg 1st UMC Staff Needed (for office use only)

Pastor: _____ UMW: _____ Organist/Pianist _____

Audio/Visual: _____ Other musicians: _____

Bulletin Picture: _____

Family Members: please list names and relationship

Other notes/comments:



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