

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Will any family members or friends be permitted to speak during the funeral service?**

Public speaking is challenging in any setting and even more so during a funeral when emotions are especially strong. For this reason, we generally discourage eulogies during the funeral service itself.

Instead, we encourage family members and friends to share memories and tributes during the reception, which provides a more appropriate and comfortable setting for personal reflection and storytelling.

As an alternative, family or friends are welcome to participate in the service by reading Scripture, which can be a meaningful and comforting contribution.

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### **Can we include our loved one's favorite songs?**

The purpose of music in the funeral service is to proclaim and remind us of biblical truths. For this reason, songs that do not align with this purpose are not typically included in the service itself.

However, songs that are meaningful to your loved one or family for sentimental reasons are encouraged at the reception or as part of a memorial video shown during the visitation or reception.

If there are hymns or praise songs that were especially meaningful to your loved one or your family, please share those during your meeting with the pastoral staff. They will help guide the selection, placement, and use of music within the service.

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### **What is the difference between a funeral service and a memorial service?**

A **funeral service** includes the presence of the casket and is typically followed by a graveside committal service for burial.

A **memorial service** usually takes place with the urn present. A committal service may also follow if the urn is to be placed in a cemetery.

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## **Can we place a picture of our loved one at the front or near the entrance?**

Yes. Trinity can provide easels for displayed photographs. Please indicate your needs when making service arrangements.

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## **Can we show a memorial video during the funeral or memorial service?**

Memorial videos are very meaningful for families and are encouraged during the visitation. They are not typically shown during the funeral or memorial service itself.

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## **What other things should we plan for or consider?**

### **Memorials**

If you would like guests to give financial gifts to a charity or organization in memory of your loved one, please include that information when completing the online form. This information will be printed in the service bulletin.

### **Flowers**

All flowers delivered to the church will be placed appropriately for the service. If a graveside service follows, the funeral home may assist with transporting flowers. In other cases, families may be asked to transport selected arrangements. Your funeral home can advise you on these details.

### **Guest Book**

Families may purchase a guest book through the funeral home or a local store. The guest book is typically placed near the entrance to the sanctuary or chapel. If signing the book delays the start of the service, funeral directors may close it temporarily to seat guests. The book can then be reopened at the reception or as guests exit the service.

### **Receptions**

Receptions are a valuable part of the funeral or memorial day, offering space for family and friends to gather, share memories, and express support.

Trinity is able to host the reception if desired. Please discuss this option with the pastoral staff and make arrangements in advance, including an estimated guest count, so food can be ordered. We offer a simple meal of Subway sandwiches, salad, chips, dessert, and drinks.

A nominal donation is appreciated to help cover costs. Trinity is grateful for the volunteers who lovingly serve families during this time.

### **Thank You Notes**

All memorial gifts, flowers, and food should be acknowledged with written thank-you notes.

## **Honorariums**

Honorariums are commonly given in appreciation to those serving your family, including pastoral staff (pastors and deaconesses), musicians, technology support, and soloists. In most cases, the funeral home will collect and distribute honorariums on your behalf. Please confirm details with your funeral director.

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## **Contact Information**

For questions or additional information, please contact Pastor Jim Bretthauer:

**281.290.4960** or [bretthauerj@trinityklein.org](mailto:bretthauerj@trinityklein.org).

Please help us with planning by completing the Family Information Form on our website. Go to [trinityklein.org](http://trinityklein.org), click on the Care tab, then select Funerals in the drop-down box.