

A decorative header featuring a variety of delicate flowers and two butterflies. The flowers include white daisies, purple and pink blossoms, and yellow wildflowers. The butterflies are orange and black. The entire illustration is set against a light, textured background.

# ***Celebrating the Life of Your Loved One***

*Planning a Funeral with First United Methodist Church of Austin*

## **FUNERAL SERVICES**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ meets our deepest griefs and anxieties about death with an even deeper hope. The Christian funeral service is the final dedication of a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, and, like the first dedication at Baptism, occurs as an act of worship.

The pastors of First United Methodist Church of Austin (FUMC Austin) and this faith community want to minister to families on the occasion of a loved one's death. When a loved one dies, we hope you will call one of our pastors as soon as their presence would be helpful to you, regardless of the hour.

## **INQUIRY PROCEDURES**

If you wish to notify the church of a death and inquire about funeral services, call the church office during business hours, or leave a message for the on-call pastor at 512-478-5684 (ext. 213) so that the on-call pastor can contact you as soon as possible.

Funeral services require at least 72 hours advance notice, and often more, in order to adequately plan and provide needed staff and volunteers to carry out the service. The death of a member of the church should be reported to the pastor in charge of pastoral care as soon as possible, so that they can be consulted in the arrangements for the funeral.

**Funeral services that are scheduled prior to consultation with the pastors are subject to availability of church facilities and clergy.**

## **NOTIFYING THE CONGREGATION**

If you or your loved one have ties to the faith community at FUMC Austin, church staff will ask you to provide an obituary and picture of your loved one so that we can send a "Celebration of Life" email to notify the congregation of the death and the scheduling of services.

That same picture and story of your loved one's life will also be made available to those who attend the funeral as it will be included with the order of service in the printed bulletin, a guide to the worship service.

## ABOUT THE SERVICE

The Christian funeral is a service of worship in which we thank God for the gifts of life, including those that extend beyond death. We especially give God thanks for this special person who lived among us and who now, even in death, continues in God's love and care, and lives on in our memory.

While recommending the worship service outlined in *The United Methodist Church Book of Worship*, our pastors are happy to work with you to plan a service that meets your particular needs and wishes. The pastor assigned to the service will schedule a meeting with all pertinent family members at least 72 hours in advance in order to plan the service.

To prepare for that meeting, begin thinking about how many people may attend the service, whether you will want a family member or friend to share personal stories about your loved one as a "witness to the life" of your loved one, and any scripture readings and hymns or other music you would like to include in the service. *If you need suggestions for scriptures and hymns, we have included a list of possibilities on pages 5-7.*

You will also want to consider which setting best matches your needs at this time. Services can be held in the FUMC Sanctuary (seating for 750) or in Murchison Chapel (seating for 80), at another chapel, the funeral home, or the graveside.

A reception following the worship service can also be hosted on site at FUMC Austin. *More details about the options available are included in the Receptions section of this guide.*

Additional staff, including the Assistant to the Pastors and Director of Events, will reach out to arrange details for the service and a reception following worship, when that is applicable. We are also accustomed to coordinating with a funeral director, but in case of a memorial service, this may not be necessary.

## FLOWERS

Floral offerings are a wonderful way to pay tribute to a loved one. The beautiful plants and blooms honor God's creation of life.

Florists who are familiar with our facility include:

### **The Enchanted Florist**

512-477-3996 / [www.enchantedaustin.com](http://www.enchantedaustin.com)

### **Freytag's Florist**

512-483-7590 / [www.freytagsflorist.com](http://www.freytagsflorist.com)

When coordinating with your preferred florist and/or the funeral home, please share that the church will be open to receive floral arrangements no earlier than 2 hours before the scheduled worship service. Removal of any floral arrangements is the responsibility of the family or the funeral home. *We suggest assigning a family member or friend to remove arrangements immediately following the service or move them to the reception, where they can be easily distributed.*

## **MEMORABILIA**

Frequently, family members set up a memory table in the entry area of the service, the reception, or both. These personal displays often include photos, albums, awards or certificates of achievement, hobby examples or other personal items relating to your loved one. We provide the table(s) and cloth(s) for these displays. We can also provide a guest book if you do not already have one.

## **LIVESTREAMING OR RECORDING**

If you would like to livestream and/or record the worship service, staff can help you to coordinate the services of an Audio/Visual technician from among our list of approved technicians. If a technician is available, memorial services can be livestreamed and available for viewing on the FUMC YouTube page, at [www.youtube.com/fumcaustin](http://www.youtube.com/fumcaustin). Following the service, the video will be archived as a private video and the family will be provided a link to share as desired. As an alternative, the service can be recorded and provided to the family on a thumb drive at the conclusion of the service.

*For more information about reserving the services of an Audio/Visual technician, please see the Fees section on page 6.*

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Memorial gifts provide a meaningful way for individuals, families and groups to witness their thanksgiving for the life of your loved one. To give a gift in another's memory is a faithful expression of respect and love that goes beyond death, and it enables the church to continue its mission and serve others. Memorial gifts will be discussed in your meeting with the pastor.

## **RECEPTIONS**

Following the service, you may choose to have a reception onsite at FUMC Austin. This is a chance for those who attend to share condolences with you and to express their care for and memories of your loved one. Receptions are held in Wesley Hall (on the ground floor of the Sanctuary Building, accommodates 100) or the Family Life Center Great Hall (accommodates 400). Both venues are shared spaces on a busy campus. While we make every effort to prioritize funerals for facility use, some conflicts cannot be avoided. We appreciate your understanding as we do our best to accommodate your reception preferences.

If you have connection to this faith community, receptions are typically hosted by a Sunday School class or another small group in which the deceased was involved, providing refreshments and volunteers to help prepare and reset the reception venue. Otherwise, church staff will seek volunteers to help with a reception. Families may also choose to provide catering for a reception in consultation with the Director of Events.

## THE DAY OF THE SERVICE

Please arrive at least 1 hour in advance if you wish to set up a memorabilia table or other items for the service. Otherwise, family members should arrive 30 minutes prior to the service and gather in Murchison Chapel or another agreed upon location, away from the service location itself. Ten minutes before the service, the pastor will lead the family in a time of instruction for the service and prayer.

For most services, parking is available in the FUMC lot that can be entered from Colorado Street near 13th Street, as well as the Texas Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA) parking garage located at the Southwest Corner of Lavaca Street and 13th Street. Metered street parking is available around the church as well. *Please notify friends and family members of their options for parking.*

For attendees with additional mobility needs who wish to go directly to the Sanctuary, we recommend parking at the corner of 12th and Lavaca St. to access the handicap entrance to the Sanctuary Building.

Family members requiring additional mobility assistance should park in the church lot, where there are handicap spaces available. They may enter the North entrance, which faces the parking lot, and will find an elevator immediately inside the entrance. To join the family gathering in Murchison Chapel, select the third floor. When it is time to move to the Sanctuary, these family members will be led by an alternate route to the Sanctuary. *Please notify the pastor if this is needed.*

Floral deliveries can be accepted no earlier than 2 hours before the service, though sometimes exceptions can be made when the church is open on the day of the service. *Please confirm known floral deliveries with the Assistant to the Pastors.*

## FEES

Funerals are an essential ministry of the church. For this reason, they are part of the ongoing service to the church that the Clergy, Organist, Assistant to the Pastors, Director of Events, and Custodian are committed to provide. Thus, there is no fee for their services. Honoraria are appreciated and should be given directly to those staff members as you choose.

There is also no facilities usage fee for a funeral, though a donation to the church is always welcome and supports the ongoing mission and ministry of this community of faith. (For reference, a basic funeral service requires about \$750 of the church's resources. A basic reception requires an additional \$250 of the church's resources—not including catering or refreshments.)

Audio/Visual services are available for a fee of \$200, subject to the availability of a technician. Services include setup for guest musicians, video slide shows shown before or after the worship service, livestreaming, and/or recording. *This fee should be paid directly to the A/V technician and will be arranged when meeting with the pastor.*

Vocal and instrumental soloists are also available for a fee of \$200/person. *This fee should be paid directly to the soloist(s) and will be arranged when meeting with the pastor.*

Since the day of the funeral will be a busy one, a family member should be assigned to deliver payment for these services to the officiating pastor prior to the service.

If you are interested in providing catering services to guests or have other special requests for the reception, the Director of Events will work with you and will provide an estimate and invoice for these services. *Payment for catering and other special requests should be made to FUMC Austin and will be arranged with the Director of Events.*

## **HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION - A STARTERS LIST**

Funerals and memorial services are occasions to sing the great hymns of the church that witness to the Lord of life. Congregational singing is encouraged as it involves everyone and gives expression to the faith we hold. Secular music should be played at other settings outside of the worship service. The pastor or organist will help you determine if a song is appropriate for this service of worship; a guiding question to ask is, “Does this music give glory to God and witness to our hope in Christ?” Here are some of the hymns and their corresponding numbers in *The United Methodist Hymnal* that you might consider for use in the service.

### **Hymns**

- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 110
- Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302
- Fairest Lord Jesus 189
- For All the Saints 711
- God of Grace and God of Glory 577
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness 140
- How Firm a Foundation 529
- How Great Thou Art 77
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 89
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 384
- My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 368
- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139
- Abide with Me 700
- Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 378
- Be Still, My Soul 534
- Beneath the Cross of Jesus 297
- Blessed Assurance 369
- Blest Be the Tie That Binds 557
- Children of the Heavenly Father 141
- Hymn of Promise 707
- I Love to Tell the Story 156
- In the Garden 314
- It Is Well with My Soul 377

- Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross 301
- Jesus Loves Me 191
- Be Thou My Vision 451
- My Faith Looks Up to Thee 452
- On Eagles' Wings 143
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand 474
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me 361
- Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 381
- Shall We Gather At the River 723
- Soon and Very Soon 706
- Surely the Presence of the Lord 328
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus 526
- Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127
- Lead On, O King Eternal 580
- Lift High the Cross 159
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past 117
- Thine Be the Glory 308
- Nearer My God to Thee 528
- Sing With All the Saints in Glory 702

## Scriptures

### 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
- Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25 When you pass through the waters
- 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 The spirit of the Lord is upon me
- Isaiah 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
- Lament. 3:19-26, 31b-32 The Lord's steadfast love
- Joel 2 (sel.) Return to the Lord with all your heart

### Psalms (The Psalms may be read by a pastor or as responsive readings with the congregation.)

- Psalm 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion
- Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
- Psalm 39: 4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
- Psalm 42:1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
- Psalm 43 Give judgment for me, O God
- Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble
- Psalm 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
- Psalm 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of
- Psalm 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul
- Psalm 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord



- Psalm 116:1-9, 15 The Lord has heard my voice
- Psalm 118 Open the gates of righteousness
- Psalm 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
- Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
- Psalm 139:12 Where shall I go from your spirit
- Psalm 145 I will extol you, O God my King
- Psalm 146 Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul

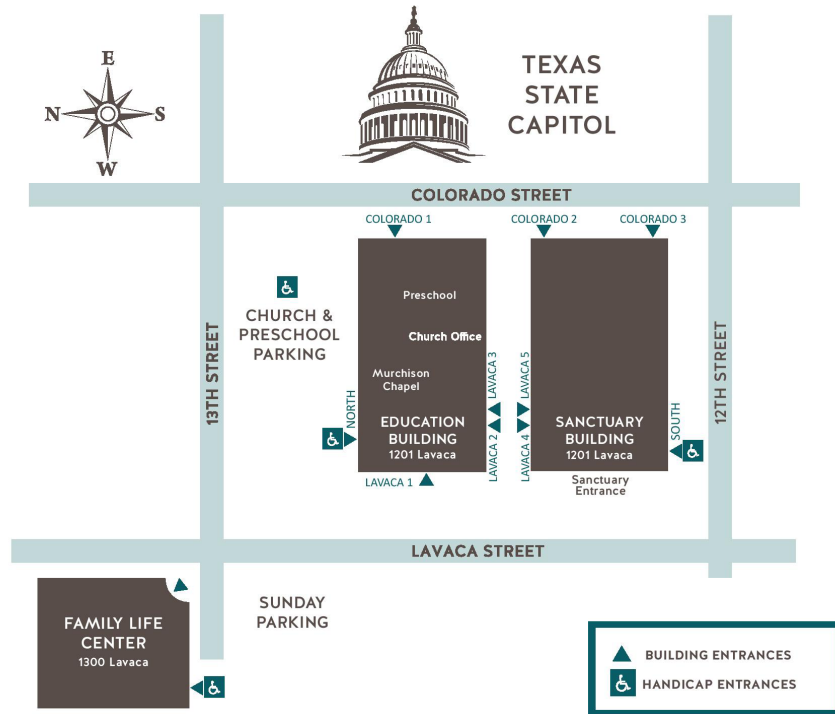
#### New Testament: Gospels

- 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
- 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

#### New Testament: Epistles (Letters)

- Romans 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint
- Romans 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live
- Romans 8:14-23, 31-39 Nothing can separate from the love of God
- Romans 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
- 1 Corinthians 15 (sel.) Christ raised from the dead
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1 Visible things are temporary, invisible things
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 From God we have a house not made with
- 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 11-12 (sel.) 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
- 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

## CAMPUS MAP



## ENTRANCES

Children's Classrooms	LAVACA 2
Church Office	LAVACA 1
Choir Room	COLORADO 3
Church Nursery	LAVACA 2
Library	LAVACA 4
Murchison Chapel	LAVACA 1
Preschool	NORTH
Preschool Infant Nursery	COLORADO 2
Sanctuary	SANCTUARY ENTRANCE
Wesley Hall	LAVACA 4

***First United Methodist Church of Austin***

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