

## A WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION: PLANNING FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

### *Planning a Service*

The church is here to assist you.

We believe that the bereaved should be upheld by their faith community. The pastor, staff, deacons and congregation members of First Presbyterian Church are here to extend concern and sympathy and to help you in making



arrangements. The Board of Deacons will provide a reception for the family and friends of a church member, if desired. Receptions are generally held immediately following the worship service.

Please call the pastor

when a loved one is critically ill or has died. Our pastoral staff will want to support you by offering prayer and counsel. The pastor will also help you determine an appropriate time for the funeral or memorial service.

**When?** Funeral services are generally held a few days after death has occurred. Memorial services may be held several days to several months after the death. For both kinds of services, a day and time is selected according to the needs of the family, especially if family members are traveling from out of town, and the availability of the church or funeral home. Services may be held in the morning, afternoon or evening.

**Where?** Most memorial services are held in our sanctuary. Funeral services can be held in the sanctuary or at a funeral home.

### *Visitation and Reception*

Many find a time to gather with friends and family to share your sorrow and greet one another in Christian love helpful and meaningful. This can be “visiting hours” at the funeral

home or a reception here at the church after the service. (The Deacons will assist you in your reception plans.) This is a wonderful opportunity to use photo displays.

**Music:** The singing of hymns of faith is appropriate in this worship service as is special religious music. Let the pastor know if you have any special requests with regard to music. If you don't, appropriate selections will be made for you. Our church organists play for all church services. If a service is held at a funeral home, the funeral director will arrange for an organist.

**Scripture:** Passages that are especially meaningful to your family may be read. When you meet with the pastor, she will ask you for your preferences.

**Burial:** A brief committal service is normally held at the graveside immediately following the service. If ashes are to be scattered, a place of dignity and meaning should be chosen.

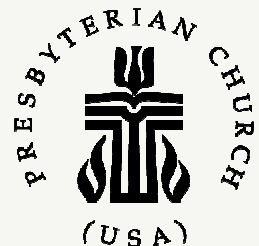
We do advise you to take care not to schedule excessively long hours for you will find this time both physically and emotionally tiring.

### **PSALM 23**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
FARMINGTON**

26165 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills MI 48334

Phone: 248-474-6170  
E-mail: info@farmington-pres.org

## Hope

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

-- Romans 8:38-39

## FEES

WONDERING  
ABOUT FEES AND  
HONORARIUMS?  
CALL THE  
CHURCH OFFICE.  
  
(248)474-6170.



## *What does "Witness to the Resurrection" Mean?*

It means that death is conquered. The central doctrine of the Christian faith is the resur-



rection and we affirm that faith in our attitude toward death. The

reality of death, with all its attendant sorrow and sense of loss, is anticipated by not feared. We need not fear because Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death forever. Because the service is a witness to this belief, it is foremost a worship service. For this reason, if a casket is present, it is closed and draped with a white pall. This white cloth is symbolic of our belief that one

joins in Christ's death and resurrection through their baptism. This allows those attending to focus more fully on God. For the same reason, we display only one portrait of the individual in the sanctuary. For veterans, inside the sanctuary a tri-folded flag can be placed beside the casket.

(When outside of the sanctuary, the casket can be draped with the flag.)

## *Memorials and Tributes:*

The Memorials and Tributes Committee of the church will be pleased to receive monetary gifts in memory of your loved one. These gifts may be designated for a specific purpose (with approval from our Session) or may be unrestricted gifts. The family will receive a list of those who have contributed in memory of their loved one. An acknowledgement of the gift and a message of gratitude are sent by the church to each contributor.

## *A Reading & Prayer for Those Who Grieve*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go and prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

And you will know the way to place where I am going. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but by me.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." *Excerpts John 14*

## *God of Mercy:*

*Look in tender love and compassion on your sorrowing servants. Enable them to find in you their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, and to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge. Grant them faith and hope in Christ who by death has conquered death, and by rising again has opened the gates of everlasting life. This we pray in Jesus' name.*

*Amen*