

Funeral Guild Guide for Ministry



*“Come to me, all of you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens, and I
will give you rest.”*

--Matthew 11:28

Belmont United Methodist Church

2007 Acklen Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212

615-383-0832/belmontumc.org

When someone we love dies, though we grieve, we also celebrate the life they lived and seek comfort in the rituals of our faith and the love of our church community.

Contacting the Church

Never hesitate to contact the church during a time of illness, hospitalization or death. During the day, call Anne Hoback at 615-383-0832, ext. 15. She will put you in contact with a minister. If you call the church after business hours, an automated answering machine will tell you how to contact a minister in case of an emergency.

Making Arrangements

The funeral arrangements can include time and place of the visitation, funeral, committal, and the order of worship. These arrangements will be completed as soon as possible with the help of the minister so that accurate information is available for the funeral director and obituary.

Location of Service

We encourage you to hold the service in the sanctuary or chapel. The supporting faith of the Gospel can best be received where the good news of our faith is regularly proclaimed and where the symbols of our faith make it vivid.

A Service of Worship

The Christian service of Death and Resurrection is a witness to God's love that sustains us in our sorrow and extends beyond this life. It is a testimony to God's promises in Jesus Christ, who has gone before us through death into new life. His resurrection gives us reason for hope. We are able to be grateful even in the midst of our sense of loss. The ministers of Belmont UMC will lead the services. If there are other ministers you would like to ask to participate, let Rev. Heather Harriss know.

Visitation

It is part of our ministry to welcome family and friends for visitation in the foyer and in the Iris Room before or after the service at the church. The family may want to display photographs and other objects of remembrance. We can assist you with setup.

Music

Music is a vital part of the service and will be selected with help from the pastor and the Minister of Music.

Flowers

For the funeral or memorial service, two altar arrangements can be used, as we use in worship. Other flowers will be placed in the Iris Room and foyer. The Altar Guild is sometimes available to do the altar arrangements for a fee (most likely between \$80 and \$120); the minister will put you in touch with someone from the Altar Guild if you would like to know more.

The Casket and the Pall

During the service when the casket is present, it is covered with a “pall.” The pall is a large cloth covering that symbolizes our belief that in Christ we are “clothed” with grace. In Christ we surrender the old self under the influence of sin and are made a new creation. The pall also expresses the Christian conviction that every child of God is valued regardless of our worldly status.

If a flower arrangement or flag covers the casket during visitation, it will be removed and the church’s pall will cover the casket during the service. Upon leaving the sanctuary, the flower arrangement or flag will be returned to the casket.

Planning in Advance

Some people find it comforting to make arrangements for their services well in advance, while they are still vital and healthy. A pastor can guide you through the process of choosing your favorite hymns, service music, and/or scripture passages. A copy of the service you plan will be kept by the pastor. This can be a tremendous help to your family.

Order of Worship

The “Order for the Burial of the Dead” from the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church is used to plan the service.

The service may include the following elements:

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings

The family may choose scriptures that were meaningful to their loved one and are a source of comfort and hope for the family and community of faith. The pastor is glad to offer suggestions.

Hymns

Again, the family may choose hymns that are particularly meaningful. The pastor and Minister of Music are glad to offer suggestions.

Music – Vocal and Instrumental

The church organist is available to play sacred music for the service in consultation with the family. If you wish to have a soloist or another instrumentalist, this can often be arranged and would include an honorarium for the musician, a suggested donation is \$50. If the funeral or memorial service is on a Saturday, there is a suggested donation of \$150 for the services of the organist.

Words of Witness

Family and friends are invited to express thanksgiving for the beloved.

Homily

A service of death and resurrection has two purposes:

- 1) To express thanksgiving to God for the life that has loved and been loved, and
- 2) To affirm the faith, hope and love of our Christian faith.

Creeds

One of the Church's traditional creeds that affirm the faith of Christians may be used. These are found in *The United Methodist Hymnal* on pages 880-889. Many people choose to recite the 23rd Psalm.

The following are elements of a typical service order:

Prelude
Words of Grace and Greeting
Hymn
Prayer
Affirmation of Faith (creed or 23rd Psalm)
Scripture Reading
Witness of family and friends (optional)
Musical meditation or hymn
Witness of Faith
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commendation
The Lord's Prayer
Hymn
Dismissal with God's blessing
Postlude

A Selection of Hymns

Abide with Me

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

Be Still, My Soul

Be Thou My Vision

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

For All the Saints

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

God of Grace and God of Glory

He Leadeth Me

Hymn of Promise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Rejoice in God's Saints

Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

For All the Saints

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
It Is Well with My Soul
Amazing Grace
How Great Thou Art
Blessed Assurance
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Fairest Lord Jesus
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
The Church's One Foundation
In the Garden
On Eagle's Wings
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

A Selection of Scriptures

Psalm 23
Isaiah 40:1-8
Isaiah 40:28-31
Isaiah 55:1-13
John 14
Romans 8:31-39
I Corinthians 13
Ephesians 3:14-21
Revelation 21:1-7

Service Planning

The Pastor will schedule a time to meet with as many family members as would like to attend. This will be scheduled as soon as possible.

The Iris Room and foyer may be reserved for receiving and greeting friends before or after the service. If a large number of people are expected, Parker Hall may also be available.

Members of the Funeral Guild will be present to help people who may not be familiar with our building find their way around.

There are no charges for the use of the sanctuary or chapel for funeral or memorial services. There are no fees for the minister. Such service is fulfillment of their vocation in the church.



Contact Heather Harriss to schedule a time to discuss and plan for your own service at:
heather@belmontumc.org
or (615) 383-0832 ext. 27

Planning Guide
Service of Death and Resurrection

1. Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

2. Name(s) of relatives who will plan the service:

a. _____

Phone _____

b. _____

Phone _____

3. Location of Service:

_____ Belmont UMC

_____ Funeral home chapel

_____ Graveside

4. Date & Time of Service: _____

5. Day, Times, Location of Visitation: _____

6. Hymns to be sung: _____

7. Hymns to be played: _____

8. Witnesses (family or friends who will speak):

a. _____

b. _____

9. Pastor(s) to participate: _____

Liturgist(s): _____

To give homily: _____

Others: _____

10. Pallbearers: _____

11. Honorary Pallbearers: _____

12. Other items you want known: _____

Disposition of the Body

Burial, cremation, or donation of the body to medical science are all options for Christians.

“Peace I leave with you;
My peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
And do not let them be afraid.”

—John 14:27