

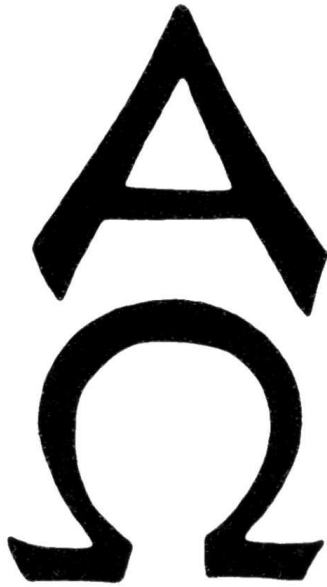
Funeral Guild Guide for Ministry



2007 Acklen Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212

615-383-0832/belmontumc.org

Revised 10/27/25
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***“Come to me, all of you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”***

Matthew 11:28

***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.***

***A Celebration of Life or Funeral should do three things – Remember the person's life,
mark their death as a loss and bear witness of our Christian Faith.***

Contacting the Church

Never hesitate to contact the church during a time of illness, hospitalization or death. During business hours, please call Anne Hoback at 615-383-0832, ext. 215, anne@belmontumc.org, who will put you in contact with a pastor. You may also reach one of the pastors by email at the following:

Rev. Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor, paul@belmontumc.org

Dr. Matt Webb, Director of Music Ministries, matt@belmontumc.org

Making Funeral Arrangements

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

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 even in the midst of our sense of loss. The pastors of Belmont UMC will lead the services. If there are other pastors you would like to ask to assist with the service, please speak to Rev. Paul Purdue

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 and Hymns

Music is a vital part of the service. We invite you to begin to think about beloved hymns of comfort. Please see the list of suggested selections included in this document. The Director of Music Ministries and our pastors will assist you with making selections.

Flowers

For the funeral or memorial service, two altar arrangements such as those we use in worship can be used during the service. Other flowers delivered to the church will be displayed in the Iris Room and foyer.

Memorial Portrait

If desired, Belmont UMC can provide a 20" × 30" mounted poster portrait of your loved one for display in the sanctuary during the funeral service.

To ensure the best print quality, the photo must be high resolution and submitted at least five business days prior to the service. Low-resolution images may not produce an acceptable enlarged print.

For more information or to submit a photo, please contact Angie Slade (aslade@belmontumc.org).

The Casket and the Pall

During the service when the casket is present, it is covered with a “pall.” The pall is a large tapestry covering that symbolizes our belief that in Christ we are “clothed” with God’s grace and love. The pall expresses the Christian conviction that every child of God is valued regardless of our worldly status.

Order of Worship

The “Order for the Burial of the Dead” from the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church guides the order of the service.

A typical order of service includes:

- 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 or Pastor’s Homily
- Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commendation
- The Lord’s Prayer
- Hymn
- Dismissal with God’s blessing
- Postlude

Scripture Readings

The family may choose beloved scriptures that were meaningful to their loved one and are a source of comfort and hope for the family and community of faith. Please see the list of suggested scriptures included in this document. The pastor is glad to assist with scripture selections.

Music – Vocal and Instrumental

The Director of Music is available assist you in scheduling the church organist or accompanist to play sacred music for the service. If you wish to have a soloist or another instrumentalist, this can usually be arranged.

Words of Witness

Family and friends are invited to express thanksgiving for the beloved. The question “What would you want people to know about your loved one’s life ” is a good guide to these expressions of thanksgiving.

Witness of Faith or Pastor’s Homily

A service of death and resurrection has three purposes:

- 1) To express thanksgiving to God for the life that has loved and been loved,
- 2) Mark our loss in order that we may moving through our grief, and
- 3) 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 Twenty Third Psalm and/or the Apostles’ Creed or Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada as part of the service.

Service Planning

The pastor will schedule a time to meet with family members to plan the service. This time of sharing stories and memories will be scheduled as soon as possible. These discussions are best done in person, but a Zoom meeting may save time or be more convenient for one or more family members.

Members of the Funeral Guild will be present the day of the service to assist the family as needed.

There are no charges for the use of the sanctuary or chapel for funeral or memorial services. It is not necessary to provide honoraria to Belmont UMC pastors or musicians for their part in your loved one’s service as this is fulfillment of their vocation to the church. You are most welcome to make a donation to the church in appreciation for the staff’s ministry to your family, but this is not expected.

Planning in Advance

Many people find it comforting and helpful to plan for their own services well in advance. A pastor can guide you through the process of choosing your favorite hymns, service music, and scripture passages. A copy of the service you plan will be kept by the pastor. This can be a tremendous help to your family. Please contact Rev. Paul Purdue, paul@belmontumc.org to schedule a time to plan for your own or a loved one’s service.

A Selection of Scriptures (Common English Bible translation)

Psalm 23 - The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

Isaiah 40:1-8 - Comfort, comfort my people!

Isaiah 40:28-31 – Don’t you know? haven’t you heard?

Isaiah 55:1-13 – All of you who are thirsty, come to the water!

John 14 - Don’t be troubled. Trust in God.

Romans 8:31-39 – So what are we going to say about these things?

I Corinthians 13 -If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don’t have love,

A Selection of Scriptures Continued (Common English Bible translation)

Ephesians 3:14-21 - This is why I kneel before the Father.

Revelation 21:1-7 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

A Selection of Hymns

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Abide with Me

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

Amazing Grace

Be Still, My Soul

Be Thou My Vision

Blessed Assurance

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Fairest Lord Jesus

For All the Saints

God of Grace and God of Glory

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty

How Great Thou Art

Hymn of Promise

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

It Is Well with My Soul

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Lift High the Cross

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Morning Has Broken

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

My Hope is Built

My Jesus I Love Thee

Nearer, My God to Thee

O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

On Eagle's Wings

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Rejoice in God's Saints

Shall We Gather at the River

Sing With All the Saints in Glory

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

The Church's One Foundation

The God of Abraham Praise

Thine Be the Glory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

PLANNING GUIDE

Service of Death and Resurrection

1. Your (or your loved one's) Name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

Email _____

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

Phone number(s) _____

Phone number(s) _____

3. Location of Service:

____ Belmont UMC

____ Funeral home chapel

____ Graveside

____ Other location

4. Date & Time of Service: _____

5. Day, Times, Location of Visitation: _____

6. Hymns to be *sung*: (see list of suggested hymns in Funeral Guild Guide)

7. Hymns to be *played*: (see list of suggested hymns in Funeral Guild Guide)

8. Scriptures to be read: (see list of suggested scriptures in Funeral Guild Guide)

9. Witnesses (family or friends who will speak): _____

10. Pastor(s) to participate:

11. Pallbearers: _____

12. Honorary Pallbearers: _____

13. What would you want people to know about your or your loved ones life? _____

14. Other items you want known: _____

15. 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