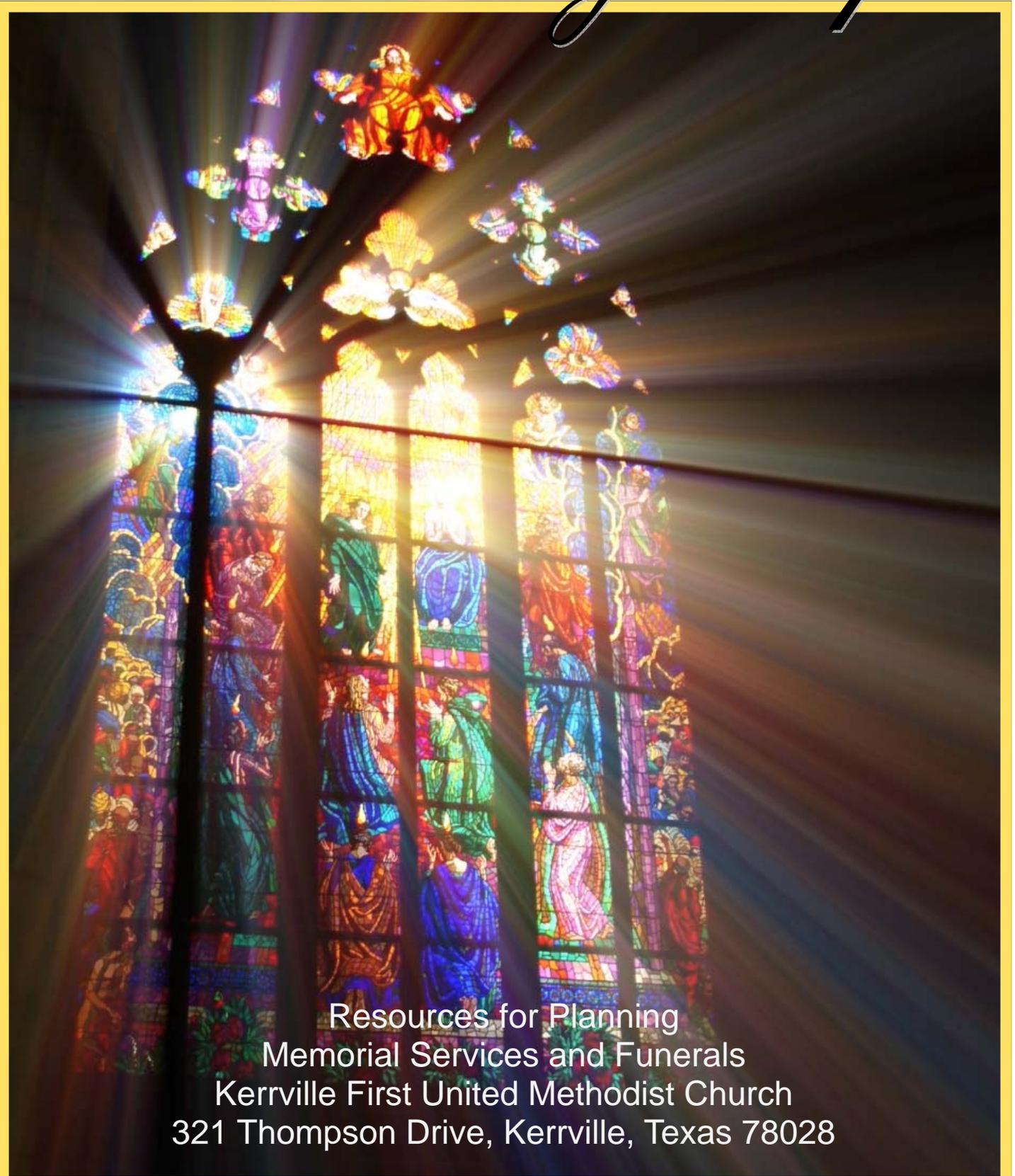


# *A Loving Gift*



Resources for Planning  
Memorial Services and Funerals  
Kerrville First United Methodist Church  
321 Thompson Drive, Kerrville, Texas 78028



Dear Friends,

We understand that the many details of planning a funeral/memorial service can be overwhelming. As your clergy, we would like to assist you in this process so we provide this booklet as a guide for your personal planning or a guide for your family.

As Christians, though we grieve the death of a loved one, we affirm our unique hope in our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Because of this hope, the occasion of death provides us the opportunity to reaffirm the Gospel with both joy and peace. A United Methodist service acknowledges this hope and provides your family and friends the chance to remember you as their loved one and to offer you into God's eternal care. This is a time to celebrate your life in Jesus Christ and God's gift of your relationship with those who are left behind on this earth.

If the service of death, resurrection, and celebration is well-planned, it is a time of blessing and comfort to all. We hope that the information in this guide will be beneficial to you (or your family). We also welcome the opportunity to sit with you individually to discuss any specifics concerning your own service.

It is our joy to serve you!

In God's peace,

Your clergy and music team

## A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

### 1. Prior to the Death

To come and pray with you during this difficult time is a sacred honor for our pastors. Please call the church office at (830) 257-0800 and notify us of your situation. One of our ministers will make every effort to come pray with you and your family. In the event that you call after office hours, please contact the pastor at (830) 955-0637.

### 2. When Your Loved One Dies

Please call the church office when your loved one dies if one of our pastors is not with you. If possible, one of our pastors will come as quickly as possible. If this occurs after hours, contact the pastor at (830) 955-0637.

### 3. Setting the Date and Time for the Service

Our pastors welcome the opportunity to help you plan a meaningful service to celebrate your life or the life of your loved one. If you desire that one of our pastors assist in planning and leading the service, please visit with them before you schedule the service date and time with the funeral home. Our staff designee will review the building use calendar for availability before a final service time will be set. **Please be assured that every effort will be made to accommodate the desire of your family regarding the date and time of the service.**

### 4. Planning the service

A meeting with the pastor(s) who will lead the service is an important first step in the planning process. This meeting can be done in your home or at the church. Include family members who wish to be involved. This meeting is a good time to share favorite memories and stories of your loved one.

For this meeting, please bring your loved one's favorite scriptures and hymns. Included in this resource, you will find a list of hymns and scriptures appropriate for funerals and memorial services. Perhaps your loved one has pre-planned his/her service and left instructions. Please bring this information with you.

Some important questions to consider:

What type of service do you desire?

- A graveside/inurnment service followed by a memorial service
- A traditional funeral service followed by a graveside/inurnment service
- A memorial service only (in this type of service the body is not present)
- A graveside/inurnment service only.

Where will the service(s) be held?

- In our sanctuary?
- In our chapel?
- At a funeral home/cemetery/columbarium?
- Setting of your choice?

## 5. Columbarium and Prayer Garden

The Columbarium and prayer garden at KFUMC is a sacred space. Niches are still available for purchase. The cost is \$1000 for a single niche and \$1500 for a double niche. This cost includes the etching on the stone (name, date of birth and death) as well as the urn(s) and the name plate(s) for the urn(s).

Please contact Tina Box at 257-0800 if you are interested in the columbarium being the final resting place for you or your loved one.

## 6. Costs

There is no fee for the use of the sanctuary or chapel for services for members of KFUMC. Fees for the musicians involved in the service can be discussed with Tina Box. Musicians include organist/pianist, and vocalist to lead congregational singing and any solos. Contemporary musician(s) are available. An honorarium for the pastor(s) leading the service is at the discretion of the family. These fees are typically handled through the funeral home.

## 7. Memorials

Memorial gifts are a special way to honor a loved one. The pastor leading the service can provide information about memorializing through gifts to the KFUMC Foundation, special ministries of the Church, capital improvement project or other areas of interest to the family.

## 8. Important questions and concerns.

Topics to discuss with the funeral home:

- Casket and casket container
- Cemetery lots, if not purchasing a niche in the columbarium or scattering remains
- Flowers
- Processional to cemetery
- Scheduling a visitation time
- Obituary in the newspaper and deadline for submission (often an abbreviated version is included in the bulletin for the service)

## 9. Flowers

Flowers are symbolic of Christ's resurrection and an appropriate way to honor a loved one. We ask that the funeral home or family take responsibility for the removal of all flowers upon the completion of the service. However, if you wish to leave some flowers to be shared with our homebound members, please discuss with the pastor leading the service.

## 10. Reception

KFUMC is happy to offer a reception of light snacks or cookies, punch, and coffee for your loved ones and those attending the service. This is an opportunity for friends and family to gather together to share memories and love one another. Catering options are available for a fee if you desire more than the standard reception.

## 11. Nurture and Care

What happens after meals are no longer brought in and cards no longer arrive in the mail? KFUMC offers several ministries for the spouse/family of the deceased. Grief Share is a 13-week program offered several times during the year. Facilitators lead the group through a time of discussion and sharing; a faith-based video and workbook are also included in this program. This is an excellent support group to help you understand your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

Beloved Faith Friends (BFFs) is an outreach ministry to widows. Its purpose is to support each other through the grief, transition and reality of being a widow. The group meets monthly.

Please contact Pastor Donna (830) 257-0841 or [donna.magee@kfumc.org](mailto:donna.magee@kfumc.org) for information about any of these programs.

## 12. Music

When the service is held in our Sanctuary or Chapel and music is requested, Tina Box will contact our Director of Music and Worship, Dr. David Baker, to make arrangements.

Because music is often a significant part of people's lives, it is natural that music be an integral aspect at the service to remember and celebrate the life of your loved one. These suggestions are offered to assist you, or your family, at this difficult time.

A funeral/memorial service is a time to sing the great music of the church that witnesses to the Lord of life. Secular music is not appropriate for a worship setting; however, it could be played at the funeral home visitation or other settings outside of the sanctuary.

The pastor, or Director of Music and Worship will help determine the appropriateness of a song for this service of worship. A question to consider is, "Does this music give glory to God and witness to our hope in Jesus Christ?"

## ***Music***

Soloists and/or instrumentalists are frequently included in funerals or memorial services. Members of our music staff and some choir members typically serve as soloists. Having a friend or relative provide music is acceptable if the person has the musical abilities necessary and the emotional strength to sing or play at a time when they may be grieving. Music, in addition to congregational hymns, can enhance the service, but it is not required nor should family members feel obligated to arrange for it.

## ***Prelude***

The organist/pianist will provide 10-20 minutes of pre-service selections from classical and sacred literature.

## ***Congregational Hymns***

Congregational singing is encouraged as it involves everyone and expresses our faith. Selecting one or two hymns that are familiar to those attending is suggested.

Many congregational hymns can also be sung as solos. All music selections should give glory to God and witness to our hope in Jesus Christ. Some of the hymns considered appropriate for the service are listed on the following pages.

## ***Opening Hymns***

* A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	No. 110
* Christ the Lord Is Risen Today	No. 302
* Fairest Lord Jesus	No. 189
* For All the Saints	No. 711
* God of Grace and God of Glory	No. 577
* Great Is Thy Faithfulness	No. 140
* How Firm a Foundation	No. 529
* How Great Thou Art	No. 77
* Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	No. 89
* Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	No. 384
* My Hope Is Built	No. 368
* Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	No. 139

## ***Hymns of Hope and Comfort***

*Abide with Me	No. 700
*How Sweet the Sound	No. 378
*Be Still, My Soul	No. 534
*Beneath the Cross of Jesus	No. 297
*Blessed Assurance	No. 369
*Blest Be the Tie That Binds	No. 557
*Children of the Heavenly Father	No. 141

*Hymn of Promise	No. 707
*I Love to Tell the Story	No. 156
*In the Garden	No. 314
* It Is Well with My Soul	No. 377
* Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross	No. 301
* Jesus Loves Me	No. 191
* My Faith Looks Up to Thee	No. 452
* On Eagles' Wings	No. 143
* Precious Lord, Take My Hand	No. 474
* Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me	No. 361
* Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	No. 381
* Shall We Gather At the River	No. 723
* Soon and Very Soon	No. 706
* Surely the Presence of the Lord	No. 328
* What a Friend We Have in Jesus	No. 526

### ***Closing Hymns***

* Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	No. 127
* Lead On, O King Eternal	No. 580
* Lift High the Cross	No. 159
* O God, Our Help in Ages Past	No. 117
* Thine Be the Glory	No. 308

### ***Traditional Vocal Solos***

The Lord's Prayer	His Eye is on the Sparrow
Goin' Home	On Eagles Wings
There is a Balm in Gilead	Deep River
It is Well With my Soul	Give me Jesus
Psalms 23	My Lord What a Morning
Swing Low Sweet Chariot	Pie Jesu
Ave Maria	Deep Peace of the Running Wave
The Lord Bless You and Keep You	

### ***Contemporary Vocal Solos***

Soon (Hillsong United)
I Will Rise (Chris Tomlin)
Raised to Life (Elevation Worship)
In Christ Alone (Stuart Townsend)
It is Well

## 13. Suggested Scriptures

The following scriptures are appropriate for use in a funeral/memorial service.

### **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 40:1-8, 28-31 Comfort my people
- \* Isaiah 40:28-31 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
  
- \* Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19a 25 When you pass through the waters
- \* Isaiah 44:6-8 I am the first and the last
- \* Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 Come, all you who are thirsty
- \* Isaiah 61:1-4a The spirit of the Lord is upon me
- \* Isaiah 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
- \* Lamentations 3:19-26, 31b-32 The Lord's steadfast love
- \* Joel 2 (sel.) Return to the Lord with all your heart

### **Psalms**

- \* Ps. 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion
- \* Ps. 23 The Lord is my shepherd
- \* Ps. 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
- \* Ps. 39: 4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
- \* Ps. 42:1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
- \* Ps. 43 You are the God in whom I take refuge
- \* Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11 God is our refuge and strength
- \* Ps. 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
- \* Ps. 91 My God in whom I trust
- \* Ps. 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul
- \* Ps. 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord
- \* Ps. 116:1-9, 15 I will lift up the cup of salvation
- \* Ps. 118 Open the gates of righteousness
- \* Ps. 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
- \* Ps. 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
- \* Ps. 139:12 Where shall I go from your spirit
- \* Ps. 145 The Lord is gracious and merciful
- \* Ps. 146 Praise the Lord, O my soul

## ***New Testament***

- \* 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 on 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
- \* Luke 24:13-35      Jesus at Emmaus
- \* 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 away
- \* John 6:47-58        Whoever believes in me has eternal life
- \* John 11:1-4, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44      The raising of Lazarus
- \* John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27      Let not your hearts be troubled
- \* Romans 5:1-11      Hope does not disappoint
- \* Romans 6:3-9        Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live
- \* Romans 8:1-2, 11, 14, 17-18, 28, 31-32, 35-39      Nothing can separate us from the love to 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, 5-18      From God we have a house not made with human hands
- \* Ephesians 1:15-23, 2:1-10      Alive in Christ
- \* 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, 13, 21-25      Blessed by God
- \* 1 John 3:1-3        We are children of God
- \* Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17      These are they who have come out of the great tribulation
- \* Rev. 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13      Rest for the saints
- \* Rev. 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5      A new heaven and a new earth

## Order of Service

Prelude  
Word of Grace/ Greeting  
Hymn  
Prayer  
Psalm of Comfort  
Reflections by Family or Friends (optional)  
Hymn/Special Music (optional)  
Gospel Reading  
Message  
Prayer of Thanksgiving  
The Lord's Prayer  
Hymn  
Benediction  
Postlude

### Funeral Home List

*(This is not an endorsement of First United Methodist Church)*

Grimes Funeral Home  
400 Earl Garrett  
830.792.6300

Kerrville Funeral Home  
1221 Junction Hwy  
830.895.5111  
If no answer call 830.895.5113

Wright Funeral Home  
1913 Junction Hwy  
830.895.9923

## 14. Planning Worksheet

