

# WESLEY MEMORIAL

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

## Guidelines for Planning Funerals

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[www.wesleymemorial.org](http://www.wesleymemorial.org)

**Funerals** at Wesley Memorial are services of worship that expresses gratitude to God for the life of the one who has died and bears witness to our hope that because Christ has been raised from the dead, we too will be raised to new life in him.

## **WHEN DEATH OCCURS**

When the death comes, one of the pastors of Wesley Memorial should be called at once to represent the presence of the church and to provide comfort and prayer. All arrangements for the funeral or memorial service should be made in consultation with the pastor.

## **SERVICES AT THE CHURCH**

Because the funeral is a service of Christian worship, the most appropriate place for Christian people to gather for The Service of Death and Resurrection is in the Sanctuary or the Chapel. Funerals may be held at other locations (funeral home, school auditoriums, fraternal organizations etc.) and this should be arranged with pastor and the funeral director. Some of the services provided for funerals held at Wesley Memorial may not be available for funerals held off campus and/or a small charge maybe required.

## **PASTORAL MINISTRY**

One or more of the Wesley Memorial pastors will lead the service, depending on their availability and the request of the family. Other pastors are welcome to participate by invitation of one of our pastors.

## **MUSIC AND THE SERVICE**

It is appropriate to sing hymns at the burial of the dead. The selection of hymns, prayers, scripture and other details of the service is done in consultation with the pastor and the organist and under the guidelines of the United Methodist Book of Worship and United Methodist Hymnal.

## **PALL FOR THE COFFIN**

A pall to cover the coffin during the service in the Church is provided by the Altar Guild. It symbolizes our baptism and reminds us of our identity as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is placed over the coffin when it is brought into the Sanctuary. Therefore, flowers are not placed on the coffin. The pall is not to be taken to the funeral home or gravesite. An alternative to the pall would be a "blanket" of flowers (provided by the family) or an American flag (provided by the funeral director) for veterans.

## **FUNERAL EXPENSES**

There is no charge for the use of the Sanctuary or Chapel or for the service of the Wesley Memorial pastor(s) and organist. Donations to the church as an honorarium may be given, but are not required. If guest musicians are invited to participate in the service, an honorarium is expected.

## **BURIAL**

Burials may take place in a cemetery off the campus of Wesley Memorial or in the Columbarium on the Wesley Memorial campus. The burial may occur before the funeral service or immediately following the service. The arrangements for the burial should be made in consultation with the funeral director and pastor. Information about the Columbarium is available from the Executive Pastor.

## **FLOWERS**

The family may place one floral arrangement on the re-table behind the Lord's Table in the Sanctuary or on the altar in the Chapel. This floral arrangement shall be in a 5" paper mache container and shall be the responsibility of the family. All other floral arrangements will be displayed in the Asbury Room or the narthex.

## **OTHER SERVICES**

Other services provided by Wesley Memorial are as follows:

- Wesley Memorial will provide a printed order of worship on the standard funeral bulletin. There will be charges for additional pages, pictures, and color copy.
- Wesley Memorial will provide ushers for the funeral. This service is not available for funerals held off the campus of Wesley Memorial.
- Wesley Memorial will provide a reception preceding or following the service in the Asbury Room. Lemonade, water, and cookies will be served. The family may display pictures of the deceased at this time. Audio visual media may be used at this time but not in the Sanctuary or the Chapel. This service is not available for funerals held off the campus of Wesley Memorial.
- The Bereavement Team of Wesley Memorial will provide supportive services to the family of the members of Wesley Memorial, including but not limited to a meal before or after the funeral, house sitters on the day of the funeral, a supply of paper products. These may be discussed with the pastor at the time of planning the funeral.