



*Memorial
Service*
**Planning
Guide**

WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN

The apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Thessalonica,
*“ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve
as others do who have no hope.”*

As we gather following the death of a loved one, we name our grief in community and remember that we are not alone.

Care and Support

Stephen Ministry

Stephen's Ministers are trained congregational members who walk with individuals during times of grief. Through the practice of confidential/nonjudgmental listening and prayer, they offer support to many. If you are interested in knowing more and being paired with a Stephen's Minister, we encourage you to contact one of the pastors.

Grief Group

Grief can be an isolating and painful experience. Westminster offers small grief support groups where participants can share with others experiencing loss and find understanding, connection, and care.

Groups of 5-6 participants meet every other week for six sessions in a private setting and are facilitated by two retired mental health professionals.

For more information or to express interest, please get in touch with Claudia McCoy (336-944-4465) or Andee Gable (336-209-4557).

Funeral and Memorial Services

In the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), services of witness to the resurrection are understood to be acts of Christian worship. In these services, we give thanks for the life of the one who has died, commend them to God's eternal care, and proclaim the hope of resurrection through Jesus Christ.

Westminster Presbyterian Church considers it a sacred privilege to walk with families in times of loss. Our pastors and staff are honored to help craft services that are meaningful, faithful, and reflective of the Christian hope that sustains us even in grief.

Because funerals and memorial services are acts of worship, they are planned in consultation with Westminster clergy and follow the worship practices of the Reformed tradition.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to make necessary arrangements.

- Contact the church at 336-299-3785 to notify us as soon as you are able. If you are calling after hours, dial extension 125 upon hearing the church voicemail. This will forward you to one of our pastors, who can support and assist you in making plans.
- Contact the funeral home or cremation service that will assist you.

Internment

Interment may be arranged in conjunction with the memorial service and most often takes place earlier on the same day, shortly before the service begins. The timing and details can be coordinated with the pastor and funeral home.

For information about the Westminster Memorial Garden and Columbarium, please contact Catherine Morsell at 336-299-3785 extension 120.

Worship Planning

A Westminster pastor presides over all funerals and memorial services held at Westminster.

If a family wishes for another pastor or clergy person to participate in the service, Westminster clergy will extend the invitation and determine, in consultation with that individual, the portion of the service they will lead. Participation by visiting clergy most often includes the reading of Scripture or offering a prayer.

Westminster pastors will work closely with families to shape the service, including the selection of Scripture, prayers, hymns, and other elements of worship. Because the service is Christian worship, all music and liturgical elements will be appropriate to that context.

Order of Service (adjustments as needed)

Prelude/Gathering Music

Welcome

Call to Worship/ Prayer

Congregational Song/ Hymn

Prayer of Confession

Scripture(s)

Words of Thanksgiving and Hope (homily offered by the pastor)

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Congregational Song/ Hymn

Commendation

Benediction

Postlude / Benediction response

*Remembrances

The church understands that it can be deeply meaningful for family members or close friends to share memories during a service. In order to maintain the worshipful nature of the service and to ensure space for prayer, scripture, and proclamation, Westminster allows up to three individuals to offer brief remembrances.

To support those sharing:

- Invitations to speak are extended by the presiding pastor.
- Each person may share **up to one page** of remarks (single-spaced, 12-point font).
- Remarks must be **submitted to the presiding pastor at least 48 hours in advance** of the service.

The goal of these reflections is to offer memories that give thanks for a life while fitting within the reverent and worshipful context of the service.

For more extended or informal storytelling, families are warmly encouraged to create space during a reception or separate gathering where additional memories may be shared freely.

Other Rites

The pastor can discuss with family any rites honoring military service such as a flag presentation. Rites for membership in other organizations take place separately from the church service.

Flowers

The church office can offer guidance in arranging for flowers, along with preferred florists. A single arrangement is placed under the cross in the sanctuary or chapel. Any other arrangements will be distributed in narthex and/or fellowship hall. Many families use Corum Florist (336-674-5556), who are familiar with our space.

Ushers

The church typically prefers to provide ushers and greeters for the service. Some families, however, may prefer to use usher services provided by a funeral home. In those cases, a church-appointed lead usher or coordinator will be assigned to work alongside them and help ensure the service proceeds smoothly.

Technology

If families wish to compile a photo slideshow or video show to be used during the reception, they must present a thumb drive to the church office at least 48 hours before the service. This needs to be a power point presentation format. Recording and livestreaming worship services in the sanctuary only, dependent upon staff availability, are available upon request.

Memorabilia

Families may place a portrait or photo of the deceased in the room where they receive guests. Additional remembrances can also be placed on a designated table upon request.

Hospitality and Reception

When possible, Westminster is pleased to assist families in hosting a reception following the service. These gatherings offer an important opportunity for storytelling, fellowship, and mutual care.

Costs for Service

There are no fees for members for the use of the church's facilities or for the services provided by the Pastor, Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, and A/V Supervisor. The church will also prepare and print bulletins for the service.

Costs to the family may include flowers purchased by the family and any additional musicians requested beyond church staff. Additional fees may apply for non-members.

If you wish to offer an honorarium to assisting staff members, you may do so directly at your discretion. A suggested amount is up to \$100 per staff member.

Memorial Gifts

Friends and loved ones may designate a memorial that reflects the interests of the deceased, using one of Westminster's endowments or other funds. The church office can offer guidance on these possibilities. Acknowledgements will be sent to the family of all memorial gifts.

Music

Two styles of music are available depending on the musician's availability. The Director or Associate Director of Music.....

Music Guidelines: Contemporary

About God's presence in our grief:

Goodness Love and Mercy Bear Rinehart | Bo Rinehart | Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash
Great Are You Lord David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan
Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End) Jason Ingram | Michael Weaver |
Thomas Obediah Chisholm | William Marion Runyan
Hear Our Praises Reuben Morgan
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Isaac Watts
Softly and Tenderly William Lamartine Thompson
Not Be Moved Crispin Schroeder | David Linhart

Celebrating the hope of the resurrection:

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio
Blessed Assurance Fanny Jane Crosby | Phoebe Palmer Knapp
Cornerstone Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William
Batchelder Bradbury
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman
What the Lord Has Done in Me Reuben Morgan
Who You say I Am Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan

Special music for solo or small group:

Abide with Me Henty Lyte | Justin Smith
Be Still The Fray
Green Pastures (Psalm 23)
His Eye Is on The Sparrow Charles Hutchinson Gabriel | Civilla Durfee Martin
How Great Thou Art Stuart Wesley Keene Hine
I Will Run to You Darlene Zschech
It Is Well Horatio Gates Spafford | Kristene DiMarco | Philip Paul Bliss
On Eagle's Wings Michael Joncas

Precious Lord Take My Hand (gospel version) Thomas A. Dorsey Arr. By Mike Farris

The Lord's Prayer (worship Band non solo)

Up to The Mountain Patty Griffin

Music Guidelines: Traditional

Any hymns from the *Glory to God* hymnal that are meaningful to the family are likely appropriate for a memorial service, but we have offered a few suggestions below as a starting point.

About God walking with us in our grief:

#836 Abide with Me

#819 Be Still, My Soul

#39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (paraphrase of Psalm 23)

#418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

#840 When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

Celebrating the hope of the resurrection:

#649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

#326 For All the Saints

#826 Lift High the Cross

#366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#687 Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Special music for solo or small group:

At the River (Aaron Copland)

Give Me Jesus (arr. Moses Hogan)

I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (from The Messiah, G.F. Handel)

The Lord's Prayer (Albert Malotte)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (arr. Dan Forrest)

Suggested Scriptures for Memorial Services

OLD TESTAMENT

Job 19:23-27	I know that my redeemer lives
Isa. 25:6-9	God will swallow up death forever
Isa. 26:1-4, 19	God will keep them in peace
Isa. 40:1-11, 28-31	Comfort my people
Isa. 40:28-31	Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
Isa. 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25	When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
Isa. 44:6-8	I am the first and the last
Isa. 55:1-3, 6-13	Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isa. 61:1-4, 10-11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isa. 65:17-25	I create new heavens and a new earth
Lam. 3:19-26, 31b-32	The Lord's steadfast love
Dan. 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29	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	Give judgment for me, O God
Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11	A very present help in trouble
Ps. 90:1-10, 12	Teach us to number our days
Ps. 91	The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Ps. 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 106:1-5	O give thanks to the Lord
Ps. 116:1-9, 15	The Lord has heard my voice
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. 139:1-12	Where shall I go from your spirit?
Ps. 145	I will extol you, O God my King
Ps. 146	Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul

EPISTLES

Rom. 5:1-11	Hope does not disappoint
Rom. 6:3-9	Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him
Rom. 8:14-23, 31-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Rom. 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-20a	Christ raised from the dead
1 Cor. 15:20-24a	In Christ shall all be made alive
1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 50, 53-58	Death is swallowed in victory
1 Cor. 15:35-44	The natural body and the spiritual body
1 Cor. 15:50-57	We shall all be changed
2 Cor. 4:16-5:1	Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal
2 Cor. 5:1-10	From God we have a house not made with hands
Eph. 1:11-2:1, 4-10	Saved by grace through faith
Phil. 3:7-11	Knowing him and the power of his resurrection
Phil. 3:20-21	Our citizenship is in heaven
Col. 3:1-17	Set your minds on the things that are above
1 Thess. 4:13-18	The comfort of Christ's coming
2 Tim. 2:8-13	If we died with him, we shall also live with him
Heb. 2:14-18	Christ was tested in every way
Heb. 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2	Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses
1 Peter 1:3-9	Without seeing Christ, you love him
1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6	Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison
1 John 3:1-3	We are children of God
Rev. 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
Rev. 22:1-5	The Lord God will be their light

GOSPELS

Matt. 5:1-12a	The Beatitudes
Matt. 11:25-30	Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants
Matt. 25:1-13	Wise and foolish bridesmaids
Matt. 25:31-46	The Last Judgment
Luke 7:11-17	Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain
Luke 18:15-17	We enter the kingdom only as children

Luke 23:33, 39-43

John 3:16-21

John 5:24-29

John 6:37-40

John 6:47-58

John 11:17-27

John 11:38-44

John 14:1-6, 25-27

Today you will be with me in Paradise

God so loved the world

Whoever hears and believes has eternal life

Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away

Whoever believes in me has eternal life

I am the resurrection and the life

Lazarus raised from the dead

Let not your hearts be troubled