

**Soapstone UMC**  
**Guide for the Service of Death and Resurrection**

Dear Friends,

If you are reading through these materials you are likely navigating the loss of a loved one. Please know that our prayers are with you as you grieve.

As Christians, we are people of the risen Christ, which invites us to mark the occasion of death with both grief and hope. A United Methodist service acknowledges the reality of death, the pain of loss, and the hope of resurrection. Within this worship service, we remember a loved one's life and proclaim the good news that death will not have the final word.

It is our privilege to walk alongside you as you remember your loved one, and plan a service that honors their life and names the good news of resurrection. We pray that the following resources will offer help and clarity in this process.

Sincerely,

The Leadership of Soapstone United Methodist Church

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Prior to death/when a loved one dies         | (pg 3)      |
| Setting the date and time for the service    | (pg 3)      |
| Planning the service                         | (pgs 3-9)   |
| Suggested Scripture passages                 | (pgs 4-6)   |
| Suggested Hymns and Anthems                  | (pgs 6-8)   |
| Other details related to the service         | (pgs 8-9)   |
| Funeral Home/Crematoriums & Questions to Ask | (pg 10-11)  |
| Suggested Information for Obituary           | (pgs 11-12) |
| Important Documents to Locate                | (pg 13)     |
| Sample Bulletin                              | (pgs 14-15) |
| Planning Worksheet                           | (pg 16)     |

### **PRIOR TO THE DEATH/WHEN A LOVED ONE DIES**

Our pastors consider it a sacred privilege to pray with individuals and their families as they near the end of life. If time and circumstances allow, please call the church office (919-846-2212) to notify us of your situation. One of our pastors will make every effort to pray with you and your family.

In you need to reach a pastor after hours, or on the weekend, please call the After-Hours Pastoral Care Line at (919) 256-8336, and leave a message for the pastor on call.

## **SETTING THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE SERVICE**

Our pastors are happy to help you plan a service in which we remember the one who has died and give thanks for the promise of resurrection. Pastor Laura Fine Ledford

([lfineledford@soapstoneumc.org](mailto:lfineledford@soapstoneumc.org)) is the pastoral point of contact to begin planning the service.

**Before you schedule the service time and date, (with a funeral home or by printing in the obituary) please confirm that date/time with the pastor who will preside over the service.**

**This is important so as to avoid any potential conflicts.**

## **PLANNING THE SERVICE**

An important early step in planning the service is to gather your family to meet with the pastor leading the service. This is a valuable time to share stories and favorite memories of your loved one. If not already provided to you, try to recall your loved one's favorite scriptures and hymns. Included in this document you will find a list of hymns and scriptures appropriate for funerals and memorial services as well as a sample order of worship.

Important questions to consider, if this information was not provided to you:

*What type of service do you hope to have? Some options to consider are:*

- A graveside service followed by a memorial service in the Sanctuary
- A traditional funeral service in the Sanctuary, followed by burial in a cemetery
- A memorial service in the Sanctuary, where the body is not present, or only cremains are present.
- A graveside service only where casket, or cremains are buried.

As you prepare to meet with the pastor to plan the service, please bring any instructions from your loved one regarding their end-of-life planning or hopes for the service.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

During the funeral service, several passages may be shared, including an Old Testament reading, Psalm reading, New Testament and/or Gospel reading. If you happen to know passages that were important to your loved one, please include those. If you are unsure, the officiating pastor can help.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

[Job 19:23-27](#) I know my redeemer lives  
[Proverbs 31:10-31](#) A good woman  
[Isaiah 25:1, 6-9](#) God will swallow up death forever  
[Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31](#) Comfort my people  
[Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25](#) When you pass through the waters  
[Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13](#) Everyone who thirsts  
[Isaiah 61:1-4](#) The good news of deliverance  
[Isaiah 65:17-25](#) The glorious new creation  
[Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-32](#) The Lord's steadfast love  
[Ezekiel 34:11-16](#) God, the true shepherd  
[Ezekiel 37:1-14; 21-28](#) These bones can live  
[Micah 6:6-8](#) What God requires - justice, kindness, walk humbly with God

## PSALMS

[Psalm 23](#) The Lord is my Shepherd  
[Psalm 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14](#) The Lord is my light and my salvation  
[Psalm 34](#) I will praise the Lord at all times  
[Psalm 40](#) I waited patiently for the Lord  
[Psalm 42:1-6a](#) Longing for God  
[Psalm 46](#) God is our refuge and strength  
[Psalm 84](#) How lovely is your dwelling place  
[Psalm 103](#) Bless the Lord, oh my soul  
[Psalm 121](#) I lift up my eyes to the hills  
[Psalm 130](#) Out of the depths I cry to the Lord  
[Psalm 139:1-18](#) O Lord, you have searched me  
[Psalm 145](#) The Lord is gracious and merciful

## NEW TESTAMENT AND GOSPEL READINGS

[Matthew 5:1-12](#) The Beatitudes  
[Matthew 25:31-46](#) The Last Judgment  
[Luke 12:22-34](#) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...  
[Luke 18:15-17](#) Jesus welcomes the children  
[Luke 24:1-12](#) The empty tomb  
[John 3:13-17](#) For God so loved the world...  
[John 11:17-27](#) I am the resurrection and the life  
[John 11:38-44](#) Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead  
[John 14:1-6, 25-27](#) Let not your hearts be troubled  
[John 15:1-17](#) Love one another as I have loved you  
[John 16:12-22, 33](#) Sorrow becomes joy  
[John 20](#) The resurrection of Jesus

[Acts 10:34-43](#) God shows no partiality

## **EPISTLE READINGS**

[Romans 5:1-11](#) Hope does not disappoint

[Romans 6:3-9](#) Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live

[Romans 8:14-23, 31-39](#) Nothing can separate from the love of God

[1 Corinthians 15:50-57](#) Where, o death, is your victory?

[2 Corinthians 5:1-10](#) We walk by faith not by sight

[Ephesians 2:1-10](#) Saved by grace through faith

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#) The love of Christ that surpasses knowledge

[Colossians 3:12-17](#) Clothe yourselves with love

[1 Peter 1:3-9](#) A living hope

[1 John 3:1-3](#) We are children of God

[Revelation 7: 9-17](#) The great multitude from every nation

[Revelation 21:1-7](#) A new heaven and a new earth

## **MUSIC**

*To sing is to pray twice*, is a quote often attributed to St. Augustine. Music and song invite us into greater prayer as we celebrate the life of our loved one, and give thanks to God.

If your loved one did not indicate which hymns they would like to include in the worship service, the pastor or music director can make suggestions and help you determine if a song is appropriate for this service of worship. A guiding question to ask is, "Does this music give glory to God and witness to our hope in Jesus Christ?" If the service is to be in our Sanctuary and music is requested, the presiding pastor will work with our music minister to coordinate. If you would like to include secular music, it can be played during the reception.

Soloists and/or instrumentalists are frequently included in funerals or memorial services.

Professional instrumentalists can be secured by our music director, but there will be a performance fee involved for any musicians apart from our full-time music staff. Music, in addition to congregational hymns, can certainly enhance the service of worship, but it is optional. If you have someone in mind that you would like to participate musically in the funeral service, please discuss this with the officiating pastor.

*Prelude* – The pianist will provide about 10 minutes of pre-service musical selections; however if there are favorite musical pieces that you would like to include in the service, please share that information with the pastor. The musician will use their discretion as to their knowledge of the piece.

*Congregational Hymns* – Congregational singing is encouraged as it gives expression to the faith we hold and allows the gathered community to participate together in the funeral service. It is helpful to select an opening and closing hymn, if you or your loved one had particular favorites.

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. We have listed some of the hymns you might consider for use in the service.

### **SUGGESTED OPENING/CLOSING HYMNS**

|                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A Mighty Fortress Is Our God     | (United Methodist Hymnal 110) |
| Abide with Me                    | (UMH 700)                     |
| Christ the Lord Is Risen Today   | (UMH 302)                     |
| For All the Saints               | (UMH 711)                     |
| God of Grace and God of Glory    | (UMH 577)                     |
| Great Is Thy Faithfulness        | (UMH 140)                     |
| How Firm a Foundation            | (UMH 529)                     |
| How Great Thou Art               | (UMH 77)                      |
| Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee    | (UMH 89)                      |
| Love Divine, All Loves Excelling | (UMH 384)                     |
| My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | (UMH 368)                     |
| Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | (UMH 139)                     |
| Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah   | (UMH 127)                     |
| Lift High the Cross              | (UMH 159)                     |
| Thine Be the Glory               | (UMH 308)                     |

### **SUGGESTED HYMNS OF HOPE AND COMFORT**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| All Creatures of Our God and King | (UMH 62)         |
| All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name | (UMH 154 or 155) |
| All Praise to Thee                | (UMH 166)        |
| Amazing Grace                     | (UMH 378)        |
| Be Still, My Soul                 | (UMH 534)        |
| Be Thou My Vision                 | (UMH 451)        |
| Blessed Assurance                 | (UMH 369)        |
| Blest Be the Tie that Binds       | (UMH 557)        |
| Breathe on Me, Breath of God      | (UMH 420)        |
| He Leadeth Me                     | (UMH 128)        |
| Hymn of Promise                   | (UMH 707)        |
| I Love to Tell the Story          | (UMH 156)        |
| It Is Well with My Soul           | (UMH 377)        |
| Shall We Gather at the River      | (UMH 723)        |
| Soon and Very Soon                | (UMH 706)        |

The Church's One Foundation (UMH 545 or 546)  
What Wondrous Love Is This (UMH 292)

### **SUGGESTED SOLOS**

Amazing Grace (UMH 378)  
How Great Thou Art (UMH 77)  
Hymn of Promise (UMH 707)  
It Is Well with My Soul (UMH 377)  
The Lord's Prayer (UMH 270 or 271)  
On Eagle's Wings (UMH 143)  
Psalm 23 (UMH 137)  
Surely the Presence of the Lord (UMH 328)

### **OTHER DETAILS TO CONSIDER RELATED TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

#### **FLOWERS**

The family of the deceased often provide flower arrangements for the funeral service, typically placed on the Communion Table in the Sanctuary, on a stand in the Sanctuary, and/or an arrangement in the narthex. Flowers that are sent by others will be placed in the narthex or Sanctuary, per your wishes.

#### [The English Garden](#)

(919-341-6650)

#### [Fallon's Flowers](#)

(919-828-4134)

#### [Gingerbread House](#)

(919-870-1894)

#### [Wake Forest Florist](#)

(919-556-2144)

#### **RECEPTIONS**

If you would like time to visit with guests after the funeral/memorial service, the church will provide space upstairs in Room 200, along with light snacks.

If you would like to provide additional food items, you are welcome to do so. Please let the pastor know so that adequate table space is set up.

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Memorial gifts are a special way to honor a loved one, or to leave a legacy in their name. We are happy to include memorial gift information in the funeral bulletin.

## **CEMETERY AND ASH GARDEN**

If your loved one has chosen to be cremated and has not selected a place for their ashes to be inurned, you may consider the Soapstone Cemetery (located at **10301 Old Creedmoor Road**). Within the cemetery, there is an ash garden, where cremains can be spread, as well as space for a casket or cremains to be buried. If you choose to bury an urn in the cemetery, you may order a marker for the space. The marker can be ordered from any company ([Wake Monument](#) is one option) and can be up to 20x20x3 in size. There is no cost to Soapstone UMC members or their immediate family members who would like to be buried in the cemetery. Our full Cemetery Policy is [linked here](#).

## **HONORARIUMS**

The Sanctuary and reception areas are available at no cost to church members for services held at Soapstone UMC.

There is no charge for the Soapstone pastors or Soapstone music director. However, if you wish to give an honorarium, a suggested amount would be between \$150 and \$250.

If you would like to invite a soloist or special musician (violinist, for instance), our music director can assist you. The fee for a soloist or special musician typically range from \$100-\$250, depending on the musician, and will need to be given directly to the musician on the day of the service.

## **SERVICES FOR NON-CHURCH MEMBERS**

If the sanctuary and pastors/staff are available, we are potentially able to host funeral/memorial services for non-members. If the deceased is not a church member, the following should be remitted to Soapstone UMC on the day of the service.

Pastor: \$250

Pianist: \$150

Guest musicians: Fees vary

AV Coordinator: \$100

Sanctuary use fee: \$250

Sanctuary cleaning fee: \$100

## **FUNERAL HOME/CREMATION SERVICES**

*This list is not an endorsement by Soapstone UMC, but are the businesses often used by those in our congregation.*

[Renaissance Funeral Home](#)

919-866-1866

[Bryan-Lee Funeral Home](#)

919-772-8225

[Mitchell Funeral Home](#)

919-783-7128

[City of Oaks Cremation](#)

919-438-1649

[Cremation Society of the Carolinas](#)

919-571-3300

[Endswell Funeral Home](#) (for green burials)

919-907-9777

## **QUESTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL HOME**

Topics to discuss with the funeral home:

- Submitting obituary
- Cremation- Cremains will need to be delivered to the church 3-4 hours before the service so that they can be placed in the Sanctuary.
- If your loved one will be buried in a cemetery, ensure that the funeral home is available for the burial on the same day and around the same time as the funeral service.
- Cemetery plots (if these are needed)
- Casket/casket container (if this decision was not made by your loved one)
- Processional to cemetery (will you need to use their car services)

## **SUGGESTED INFORMATION NEEDED FOR OBITUARY**

If you plan to include an obituary in the newspaper, on funeral home website or in the bulletin for the worship service, the below questions may be helpful. You can put as much or as little as you want in the newspaper (the cost increases based on length and photos).

### **NAME/ANNOUNCEMENT**

Full name of the deceased, including nickname (if any)

Age at death

Date of death

Residence at the time of death (for example, the name of the city)

### **LIFE**

Date of birth

Place of birth

Names of parents

Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends

Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse

Education: school, college, university and other

Awards and other recognitions

Employment: jobs, activities, colleagues,

Military service

Places of residence

Hobbies, sports, interests, activities (what gave them joy?)

Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held

Achievements

## **FAMILY**

Survived by (and place of residence):

Spouse

Children (in order of date of birth, followed by spouse's name in parentheses if the child is married)

Grandchildren

Great-grandchildren

Great-great-grandchildren

Parents

Grandparents

Siblings (in order of date of birth)

Other family members/friends you'd like to include by name

## **SERVICE**

Day, date, time, place

Name of officiant, pallbearers (if using) honorary pallbearers, other information

Visitation information if applicable (day, date, time, place)

Reception information if applicable (day, date, time, place)

Other memorial, vigil or graveside services if applicable (day, date, time, place)

Place of interment

Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements

**END**

Memorial funds established; Charitable giving established (include address)

Thank you to people, groups, or institutions

**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS TO LOCATE**

- **MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Physicians, healthcare providers, allergies, assistive devices; medications. If there is a Do Not Resuscitate order - where is that located?
- **ORGAN DONOR:** If so, specify.
- **CREMATION:** Is this your wish? If so, you must have a written document signed by you. There is a form provided by the Funeral Home of your choice. It can also be found [online](#) or by searching for “Cremation Authorization.”
- **FINANCIAL INFORMATION:** Lock Box at Bank (where is the key located and who is on the signature card?) Checking, Savings Accounts; Money Market Accounts; 401k accounts; IRA Accounts and Annuity; Living trust document (if desired); Deeds to Real Estate, Stocks and Bonds, Income tax returns; Home Equity Loan. You will need to provide the institutions, locations and phone numbers, along with the account numbers.
- **INSURANCE INFORMATION:** List all of Insurance Company policies, name of agency and phone number, name of insured; beneficiary; face amount of policy and policy owner of each one you own. (Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Homeowner's Insurance, Long Term Insurance & Car Insurance.) Where are these policies located?
- **LEGAL DOCUMENTS:** Last Will & Testament; Healthcare Power of Attorney; Living Will; Durable Power of Attorney; Guardianship; Trust Documents. (Name of Attorney, address and phone numbers for each where applicable.) Original signed copies are needed.
- **SOCIAL SECURITY DOCUMENTS:** Social Security Card and Annual Social Security Benefit.
- **CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES:** Birth Certificate; Marriage License; Divorce Decree if any previous marriages; Death certificate for any previous spouses.
- **DEEDS AND TITLES:** Deeds for property; vehicles, boats, campers, etc. If you own property and the deed or title is held by a lending institution - list the name and phone number of each institution.
- **DEED TO WHERE YOU HAVE A BURIAL PLACE:** Name of place and where located.
- **MILITARY DOCUMENTS:** Service Serial Number as well if the spouse was in the Military. Copy of Discharge Papers (Completed DD214 Form)
- **CREDIT CARD COMPANIES:** Name of credit card company, phone number, whose name is on the account, along with the account number
- **FIREARM INFORMATION AND PERMITS:** Where are firearms located if applicable?
- **WARRANTY INFORMATION**
- **LOGIN INFORMATION FOR COMPUTERS,** including any usernames/passwords for various accounts.

**SAMPLE BULLETIN**

A Service of Death and Resurrection

**Jane Doe**

April 4, 1937 – March 28, 2025

Prelude                      *Be Thou My Vision*                      Andrea Turner, Pianist

\*Word of Grace

*(offered by pastor)*

\*Opening Hymn                      “For All the Saints”                      No. 711

\*Greeting

*(offered by pastor)*

\*Opening Prayer

*(offered by pastor)*

Old Testament Reading                      Psalm 23 *(in unison)*

Solo or special music

Epistle Reading

Revelation 21:1-7

*(can be offered by pastor or family member/friend)*

\*Gospel Reading

John 14:1-3, 18-19, 27

*(offered by pastor)*

Proclamation of Faith

*(offered by pastor)*

Words of Witness

*(offered by family member/friend- typically 3-5 min or less per person)*

\*Responsive Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

No. 384

The Great Thanksgiving

*(if you would like to include Holy Communion, you can do so at this point in the service)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

*(offered by pastor)*

\*Closing Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

No. 378

\*Benediction

\*Recessional

*Thine Be the Glory*

\*Stand as you are able.

CCLI License #236704

## PLANNING WORKSHEET

Full name and date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the pastor, we would like the following to be asked to assist the pastor:

Names of pallbearers (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Names of scripture readers (if applicable):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scripture passages to include:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Hymns (opening, responsive, closing):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Solo or anthem: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial gifts (please include names and addresses to be included in the bulletin):

---

Care of the body (my loved one will be buried/cremated/other, please include any details related to burial or inurnment):

---

Other preferences and information important in planning the service:

---