

# FUNERALS AT DECATUR

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



DECATUR FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
300 E PONCE DE LEON AVENUE  
DECATUR, GA 30030  
404-378-4541  
DECATURFIRST.ORG

*No matter who you are,  
where you have been,  
what you have been up to,  
or who you love,  
you are loved and welcome here.*

The death of a loved one, whether it is sudden or expected, is an emotional strain on the family. The information in this booklet is designed to assist you and your family in planning a service that will be of comfort and strength. These arrangements can be made ahead of time or at the time of death.

Contact information, scriptures, hymns, and other helpful information have been included.

Please feel free to call on our Director of Music + Worship at any time when dealing with the death of a family member. It is our desire to be your extended family during this time.

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC + WORSHIP, CATHERINE WILSON**  
404-378-4541 • [cwilson@decaturfirst.org](mailto:cwilson@decaturfirst.org)

Contacting the church first for availability of the facility and the minister will save time and confusion when making arrangements with the funeral home.

## SERVICE CHECKLIST

DECEASED'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S NAME (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN'S NAME & AGES (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

OFFICIATING CLERGY \_\_\_\_\_

SCRIPTURE/SCRIPTURES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HYMNS/MUSIC \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SOLO/SOLOIST \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FUNERAL HOME \_\_\_\_\_

VIEWING TIMES \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF FUNERAL \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF FUNERAL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## RECESSIONAL TO THE BURIAL SITE

- Music is appropriate as the family leaves the church.
- A time can be arranged for the family to greet guests as they exit the church before going to the cemetery or when they return.
- If there will be a Committal Service at the gravesite, additional scriptures, poems or words can be shared.

## QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE...

### What costs are involved with using the church and pastoral team?

The use of the Sanctuary is offered at no charge; however, there are fees associated with a service at the church.

Soloist (if provided by the church): \$125

Organist: \$250

Porter: \$150

Sanctuary tech: \$125

Clergy for non-members: \$250

As a service to you, the church will coordinate the payment to the participants. You may write one check to Decatur First UMC and we will distribute the funds accordingly.

**Do I need a funeral home?** For cremation, embalming, casket and burial services you will need the help of a funeral home. Decatur First is responsible for the worship service; we can also help in coordinating a reception should you so choose. Food and decorations are the responsibility of the family.

**Which funeral home should I use?** Our pastoral team has worked with most in the area. However, we recommend the following:

A.S. Turner and Sons	404-292-1551
Grissom-Clark	404-373-3191
Donald Trimble	404-371-0772

### When should I plan the service?

It is customary to hold a service at the earliest 2-3 days following a death to allow time for notification of family and friends and for the information to be published in the newspaper.

### What else do I need to know?

The clergy at DFUMC are available to be of assistance in planning, leading, and implementing a service of Christian worship suitable for a funeral or memorial service.

Inclusion of guest clergy not associated with DFUMC needs to be approved by the Senior Pastor, Rev. Dalton Rushing.

The church will provide printed bulletins. If you would like a slide show, please provide a USB flash drive with the pictures in a power point or Keynote format at least 3 days prior to the service. We provide a qualified sanctuary technician for a fee to run the slideshow. No flash photography is allowed during the service.

If the family prefers, in lieu of flowers a fund can be established at DFUMC as a memorial to the deceased.

### Memory Garden

Our Memory Garden is a quiet place for your loved one's cremated remains. Ashes may be scattered or buried and a plaque on the garden wall honors those who are remembered there. If you prefer to have an interment only, the memory garden is limited to 12 people. For information, call the front office at 404-378-4541.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE FOUND AT**  
**[decaturfirst.org/funerals](http://decaturfirst.org/funerals)**

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE SERVICE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

- Exodus 14:5-14, 19-31
- Isaiah 40:1-6, 8-11, 28-31; 43:1-3a, 5-7, 13, 15, 18-19, 25; 44:6, 8a; 55:1-3, 6-13

### **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**

- 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20, 35-44, 53-55, 57-58
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 4:5-18
- Romans 8:1-2, 11, 14, 17-18, 28, 31-32, 35-39
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27; 22:1-5

### **PSALMS**

- 23, 42, 43, 46, 90, 91, 103, 116, 121, 130, 139, 145, and 146

### **GOSPEL LESSONS**

- John 3:16; 14:1-4, 5-10a, 15-21, 25-27; 11:1-5, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44
- Luke 24:13-35

These are only suggestions of scripture that can be used in the service. Passages of scripture can be favorites of the deceased or of comfort to the family. Typically, one or two scriptures are chosen.

### **EULOGY/WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

- Poems, letters or words from a family member/friend may also be included

### **HOMILY/SERMON**

- Presented by a pastor of your choosing

## **MUSIC**

- Gathering music for pre-service - selections might include favorite hymns of the deceased
- Hymns found in the United Methodist Hymnal - congregational or sung as a solo
- Solo or ensemble music of a spiritual or comforting nature
- Other songs or music may be used after consulting with the presiding pastor

Here is a list of hymns appropriate for use as gathering music, to be sung by the congregation or as a solo. This list is not all inclusive.

- Ask What Great Things I Know
- Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- Close To Thee
- How Great Thou Art
- Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
- On Eagles Wings
- Marching to Zion
- Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
- Stand By Me
- Hymn of Promise
- Amazing Grace
- It is Well With My Soul
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand
- When We All Get To Heaven
- Abide With Me
- Be Still My Soul
- Sing with All the Saints in Glory