

## Funeral Policy

Christians recognize the inevitability of death. In the presence of death, Christians witness to their faith that God, in Jesus Christ, has conquered death and raises His children from death to life eternal. Christians make the occasion of death a time in which to reaffirm the hope of the gospel with solemn joy. Therefore, the service is called a "Witness to the Resurrection".

When a death has occurred the Pastor should be notified immediately, in order that the Pastor may help the bereaved in relating the reality of death to the sustaining reality of the Christian community and the hope to which it witnesses. If the Pastor is not available, then one or more of the Elders should be called to serve until the Pastor arrives.

- Prearrangements with the staff are encouraged.
- The funeral service ordinarily should be held in the church.
- The Pastor and others who may be properly invited to participate shall be in sole charge of the service.
- The paraments will be white.
- One central floral arrangement behind the Communion Table is appropriate.
- Before the Prelude begins, the casket shall be borne to the foot of the Chancel steps.
- The casket shall remain closed at all times to signify that the worship is directed to the Author and Finisher of our salvation.
- A pall for covering the casket is available and its use encouraged.
- Arrangements for pallbearers and honorary pallbearers, if desired, should be made by the family and the funeral home.
- Generally, the first two or three pews are reserved for the immediate family. The congregation, being friends of the family, should be encouraged to comfort by their nearness rather than to be seated far off.
- The service is an act of public worship and includes provision for the singing of hymns, reading of the Scriptures and Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession.
- Music expressing Christian Praise, Faith and Hope preceding and following the service shall be agreed upon by the Pastor, organist and family.
- If the family wishes another Pastor to assist in the service, the Pastor, on behalf of the Session, shall extend the invitation.