

MY PLANS FOR A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE*

(*We suggest this information be shared with your immediate family or those closest to you.)

From (name):

Phone/email/mailling address:

Date:

To: Pastoral Staff of Knox Presbyterian Church
3400 Michigan Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45208

Dear Pastors,

I request that you keep the following information on file at Knox Church for use in planning for a service of worship at the time of my death. I intend this to be considered apart from and in no way related to any legal document I have had or shall have prepared.

1. I prefer a ___ funeral; ___ memorial service
2. I prefer that my body be ___ viewed; ___ not viewed prior to the service of worship.
3. I prefer that the following funeral home be used _____
4. I have ___; have not___ discussed this with this funeral home.
5. With regard to the disposition of my body:
 - a. I prefer that my body be buried ___
 - b. I currently own a lot in (cemetery) _____
 - c. I do not own a lot, but I prefer burial in (cemetery) _____
 - d. I prefer that my body be cremated and that my cremains be placed as follows: _____
 - e. I have made arrangements to donate my body to _____
 - f. Recognizing that the pastors are responsible for planning the service, I make the following suggestions for scripture readings and hymns: -----

 - g. I prefer that any memorial gives take the form of: ___gifts to Knox Church; ___ flowers, ___ gifts to this organization: _____
 - h. My will is located _____, and it does___ does not ___ contain instructions regarding these matters.
 - i. These are the people I would like to be notified at the time of my death:

 - j. I have ___ have not ___ included Knox Presbyterian Church in my will.
I would like information on how to include Knox Presbyterian Church in my will _____.



Funerals and Memorial Services



Funeral and Memorial Service Planning

Knox Presbyterian Church

Whether to Hold a Funeral or a Memorial Service

A **memorial** service usually describes a service held without the body present, and held at a time convenient for relatives and friends. A **funeral** is a service with the body present, held shortly after death. During this service itself, the casket remains closed.

Planning a Funeral or Memorial Service of Worship

Knox pastors are ready to assist a family in creating an appropriate service of worship. They will be able to suggest scripture readings, hymns, and other contents of the service. Below is a list of appropriate scripture and hymns, though this is far from exhaustive.

The Knox Church organist can also assist the family in choosing hymns and music for the service. Knox will provide an organist for services held at the church.

Knox Church has a columbarium on site with niches to hold cremated remains. The Knox Church office has information on sizes, costs and how to purchase a niche.

Cost Related to Funeral/Memorial Services of Worship

There is no charge for the use of Knox Church facilities for funerals or memorials for Knox members.

For families wishing to have a reception at Knox following (or preceding) the service, the Knox Bereavement Ministry can provide cookies and coffee at no charge. If the family wishes, they may pay to have the reception catered by an outside caterer. The Knox Church office should be contacted with the name of the caterer before a contract is made with them.

The current fee for the organist is \$150 and for a soloist, \$100. Any instrumentalists desired may also have a fee.

Memorial Funds

At the time of death, many prefer that friends and family donate to Knox Presbyterian Church or to charitable organization(s) in lieu of sending flowers. This request may be given to the funeral home being used, or to the pastors.

The memorial funds may be directed to a specific Knox "special project" or to the Knox Presbyterian Church Permanent Endowment Trust. The Knox Memorial and Endowment Committee administers the Endowment Trust, and earnings from the Trust support Knox' many ministries. A permanent record is kept of all memorials, and all gifts to the Endowment Trust are acknowledged by the church.

Wills and Bequests

The question, "Should the church be included in my will and estate plan?" is often asked. How may this be done? Arrangements regarding such requests should be made with an attorney. The Knox Presbyterian Church receives

bequests from the estates of members and friends who have died. The bequest can be directed to specific "special projects" or to the Knox Presbyterian Church Permanent Endowment Fund. The income generated by the fund strengthens the church's ministries for the future. For more information about the Knox Permanent Endowment Trust, please contact a Knox pastor.

End of Life Care

Each end-of-life story is different; death may come suddenly or gradually. Advance care planning for the end-of-life is making decisions now about the care you would want to receive if you become unable to communicate for yourself. These are your decisions to make based upon your values, faith, beliefs, preferences and conversations with your loved ones. Having an end-of-life care plan in writing now will alleviate your loved ones and healthcare providers from the burden of making hard decisions on your behalf, guessing what you would want, while also navigating the stress and grief of dying and death. Knox Church pastors can offer you resources to guide you in creating your advance care plan.

Resources for times of Grief

The best way to begin navigating grief is to be aware of its necessary and natural part of the healing process in times of loss. The grief process includes shock, numbness, loneliness, despair and anger. These feelings are all normal and never to be construed as indicative of a person's level of faith. The Knox pastors, Faith Community Nurse, Stephen Ministry Director, Stephen Ministers, and the congregation are ready to support members and friends who are facing the reality of death and the loss of loved ones.

Scripture and Hymn Suggestions For Funeral and Memorial Services

Older Testament Readings

- Job 19:23-27: "For I know that my Redeemer lives....then in my flesh I shall see God...."
- Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." "...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles..."
- Isaiah 65:17-25: "For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth....no more shall the sound of weeping be heard....for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord....Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear...."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15: "For everything there is a season...."
- Psalm 16:5-11
- "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy...."
- Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...."
- Psalm 27: 1, 4-9a, 13-14: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"
- Psalm 46:1-5, 10-11: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...." "Be still and know that I am God."
- Psalm 90: 1-10, 12: "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations....For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past...."
- Psalm 91: "You who live in the shelter of the Most High,.... will say to the Lord, 'My refuge...my God, in whom I trust....When they call to me, I will answer them...I will rescue them and honor them...and show them my salvation.'"
- Psalm 103: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me....Bless the Lord...who redeems your life...who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy...."
- Psalm 106:1-5: "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever."
- Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the hills...my help comes from the Lord....The Lord is your keeper...he will keep your life...from this time on and forevermore."
- Psalm 139:1-12: "O Lord, you have searched me and known me....Where can I go from your spirit?"
- Psalm 145: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised....The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made....The Lord is near to all who call on him...."
- Psalm 146: "I will praise the Lord as long as I live...Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth...who keeps faith forever...."

Newer Testament Readings

- Matthew 5:1-12a: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted...."
- John 6:47-58: "I am the bread of life....Whoever eats this bread will live forever...."
- John 11:38-44: "Jesus, greatly disturbed, came to the

tomb...[and] said, 'Take away the stone...Did I not tell you if you believed, you would see the glory of God?...' Lazarus, come out!..."

- Romans 8:14-23, 31-35, 37-39: "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption....If God is for us, who is against us?...[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- John 14:1-6, 25-27: "Do not let your hearts be troubled....In my Father's house there are many dwelling places...I go to prepare a place for you....I am the way, and the truth, and the life....My peace I give to you....do not be afraid."
- I Cor. 15:3-8, 12-20a: The Apostle Paul testifies to the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
- I Cor. 15:53-58: "'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'....Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ....in the Lord your labor is not in vain."
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1: "So we do not lose heart...For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God...eternal in the heavens."
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18: "But we do not want you to be uninformed...about those who have died...For the Lord himself...will descend...and the dead in Christ will live...so we will be with the Lord forever..."
- 2 Timothy 2:8-13: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead...that is my gospel....The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him...."
- Revelation 21:1-4, 22-25: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth....See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them...he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more...."

Suggestions for Appropriate Hymns

For all the Saints
Lord of the Living
O Lord of Life
A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Be Thou My Vision
Come, Christians Join to Sing
For the Beauty of the Earth
God of our Life
God of the Ages
Psalm 23
O Master let me walk with Thee
Praise Ye the Lord the Almighty
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
How Great Thou Art
I Sing the Mighty Power of God
Now Thank We are our God
Our God, our Help in ages past
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound