

You are *Loved*

We are deeply saddened for your loss and offer our heartfelt sympathy to you and your family. Our prayer is that the God of Comfort will be with you and your family during this difficult time. We have prepared this packet to help in the preparation for a Celebration of Life/Memorial Service and also to provide information that may be helpful to you and your loved ones in the days ahead.

It is our desire to assist you in providing a Celebration of Life/Memorial Service that will reflect your loved one's life and create a meaningful tribute and memorial. We will make arrangements to talk with you and your family about the details of the Celebration of Life/Memorial Service and have included in this packet some forms that will help us with the planning and preparation of the service.

Our ultimate purpose is:

- To honor your loved one whom has passed away.
- To bring comfort and share God's love with all who attend and that this will be a time of reflection and an opportunity to share memories.
- To honor our Heavenly Father by lifting him up as our Creator and lover of our soul, the one who sent His Son that each of us might have everlasting life.

Also included in this packet is important information for various groups and government agencies that may be useful to you as you make final decisions concerning your loved one's estate.

Our Care Team is here for you to help meet your needs and support you especially during this time of loss.

***Love in Christ,
Care Pastor***

Sample Order of Service

*Celebration of life/Memorial service
Name
Date and Time
Bayside Community Church
Campus*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

SONG

VIDEO PRESENTATION

FAMILY TRIBUTES/EULOGIES

SONG

MESSAGE

SONG

ANNOUNCEMENTS/INVITATIONS

CLOSING PRAYER

Checklist of Things to Consider

Notify

- Doctor or Medical Examiner
- Church and Minister
- Funeral Home/Crematorium
- Relatives and Friends
- Cemetery or Memorial park
- Pallbearers
- Musicians/Vocalists
- Insurance Company
- Fraternal Organizations
- Newspapers
- Credit Card Companies

Things to Decide

- Choice of disposition
- Memorial and burial estate
- Casket Type
- Vault
- Open/Closed casket
- Clothing
- Flowers
- Food
- Time of service
- Location
- Transportation
- Thank you cards
- Photography/Video
- Music

Possible Expenses to be Paid

- Doctor
- Hospital
- Drugs and Medication
- Funeral Home
- Cemetery lot
- Internment services
- Minister
- Florist
- Clothing
- Transportation
- Food
- Lodging
- Death Certificates
(How many you will need?)
- Obituary

NOTE: This list is not intended to be a complete list but is intended to be a reminder of things to consider.

Important Information

SOCIAL SECURITY

If the deceased person has worked and paid into Social Security, some of the Social Security taxes paid are applied toward the survivor benefits. The amount of these benefits will be determined by Social Security. For answers to specific questions, contact the nearest Social Security Office. You may also contact them at www.ssa.gov or call **(800) 772- 1213** between the hours of **7 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays**. The operator will need to know the deceased person's social security number, date of death and survivor's information.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Honorably discharged veterans and their survivors may be eligible for a wide range of benefits. Information on a variety of topics may be obtained by contacting the nearest Veterans Administration office. You may also contact them at www.va.gov or call **(800) 827-1000**. For specific information about benefits, have the deceased person's VA number available for the benefits counselor when you call. Some of the benefits currently available to survivors of honorably discharged veterans include a burial flag, presidential memorial certificate, headstone or marker for the grave or niche of the veteran, and in some cases, burial allowances.

PROBATE

Simply stated, probate is the court process following a person's death that includes

- Proving the authenticity of the deceased person's will
- Appointing someone to handle the deceased person's affairs
- Identifying and inventorying the deceased person's property
- Paying debts and taxes
- Identifying heirs
- Distributing the deceased person's property according to the will or, if there is not will, according to state law.

LIFE INSURANCE

This is a contract in which an insurance company agrees to pay money to a designated beneficiary upon the death of the policyholder. In exchange, the policyholder pays a regularly scheduled fee, known as an insurance premium. The purpose of life insurance is to provide financial support to those who survive the policyholder. When the policyholder dies, the insurance proceeds pass to the beneficiary, free of probate, though they may be counted for federal estate tax purposes.

DEATH CERTIFICATE

You will need several copies of the death certificate for transfer of property, insurance, etc. The funeral home can obtain certified copies of the death certificate for you. The funeral home may charge a fee for the certified death certificates. Certified death certificates are required for Social Security, each life insurance company, stock market or money market accounts, pension plans, each bank, real estate, transferring title for automobiles, boats, etc. probate court and personal records.



Celebrating a Life

As you are in the process of planning a Memorial/Celebration of Life service for your loved one, we extend our condolences for your loss.

Preparing for a Memorial/Celebration of Life service may take place some time later with more time for planning and preparation and for the distant and very busy family and friends to attend. It is worth considering if there are a great number of people who would like to attend or if you would like the service itself to be private.

Right now is a time of mixed emotions. Grief and sadness for sure, but it is also a hectic time. There is so much to think about in the planning of a service to remember a life shared and celebrated. We are providing this packet of information to help in the planning and celebrating of your loved one.

It is our desire to help you create a loving and memorable service that will reflect your loved one with favorite family photos, videos, songs, stories, memorabilia, eulogies that will create a lasting celebration of your loved one's life and legacy. We can make available our teams, facilities, and support services to create a meaningful celebration of their life.

Bayside Community Church is here to be with you during this time and to walk with you in the weeks and months to come. Our Care Ministry team will follow up by providing grief support materials, counselors and community resources that will help you with your grief journey.

You can reach our team by calling the church office and speaking with our Care Ministry staff.

941-755-8600



Bible Verses to Hold Onto

Death is never easy. The Bible says that death is the enemy (**1 Corinthians 15:26**), yet death is a very natural part of our finite being. Death ends a person's life story, yet it touches the living stories of countless others. Today you may choose to put in God's hands all of the struggles you are experiencing with the death of your loved one. Someone said "Grief is a passage, not a place to stay. It is the price of love." God has a plan for your life that is beyond your imagination. Choose to trust him today. Following are some of God's promises that can be helpful if remembered during difficult times.

- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." **Matthew 5:4**
- I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." **Psalms 18:1-3**
- and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning; or crying or pain ... " **Revelation 21:4**
- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain ... " **Psalms 23:4**
- I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." **Philippians 4:13**
- For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." **Romans 8:18**
- He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." **Psalms 147:3**

A prayer for you during this time

"Eternal God, our very help in every time of trouble, send your Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen us, that we may have hope of eternal life and trust in your goodness and mercy, and help us to remember that you love us unconditionally, wholeheartedly and continually, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Memorial Follow Up

The Memorial follow up is a critical step in providing care and support in the weeks after the Memorial/Celebration of Life service. People often receive a great deal of care and support immediately after a loved one dies. Within a few weeks, however the cards, letters, visits, and phone calls tend to taper off. Just when the reality of the loss is beginning to sink in, grieving people can find themselves feeling alone and forgotten.

Our Care Ministry team is committed to keeping in touch during the critical weeks and months after the loss of your loved one.

Our grief support includes a series of four books over the course of a year, to reach out with care at four crucial points during the grieving process, providing helpful, timely information while helping the person feel valued and remembered.

Book 1 **A Time to Grieve** three weeks after the loss

Book 2 **Experiencing Grief** three months after the loss

Book 3 **Finding Hope in Healing** six months after the loss

Book 4 **Rebuilding and Remembering** eleven months after the loss

Each book focuses on the feelings and issues a person is likely to be experiencing at that point in his or her grief, offering comfort, help and hope throughout that difficult year.

The Memorial Team will follow up with the family to see if they have received the books and to see how they are doing. It is recommended that the individual and/or family have engaged in Pastoral Care or counseling using the Grief resources provided in this packet.

Today's Date

____/____/____

Memorial Request Form and Checklist

Deceased _____

Point of Contact _____

Contact Information _____

Pastor-on-call _____

Funeral Home/Crematorium

Date & time _____

Funeral home/Crematorium location _____

Florist & Details _____

Memorial/Celebration of Life Service

Type of Service

Military Beach Grave side only Cemetery Other

Service Date & Time _____ / _____ / _____ AM/PM

Service Location _____

Approximate Number of Guests _____ Pastor/Officiator _____

Order of Service Notes

Special Requests _____

After Service Gathering

Gathering Times _____

Gathering Location _____

Last Words

If he/she could write his/her own obituary now, what might he/she say or include?

If he/she would have me say one thing from the pulpit during the memorial service, what do you think it would be?

***The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.***

Psalm 34:18

