

*Before the Service* — The family will meet in the Church Parlor before the service begins. The minister will lead them into the service from that location.

*The Service* — is a worship service and in the Presbyterian tradition, the pastor is responsible for how worship is conducted. He or she will design and handle every aspect of the service if you wish. Or they will confer with you about whether you would like music or not, people to share memories of the deceased, or special passages read. If a bulletin is needed, the church will prepare it for you.

*After the Service* — The Dorcas Ministry is very willing to provide refreshments either at a local home or at the church. They may also assist with house-sitting, if requested.

*Memorials* — People often express their regard for the deceased and his or her family by giving a financial contribution to a charity or the church. If contributions are made to the church and you would like to designate that the contributions be applied to some specific need there, the pastors or administrator would be happy to speak with you about what might be appropriate.

*Grief* — is human and not un-Christian. It is about loss and change. It can be a mixture of feelings from tenderness and sadness to thankfulness and trust to guilt and regret. Every person's journey with grief is different. It can be beneficial to meet with a counselor, a medical doctor, a grief recovery group, and/or your pastor during the journey.

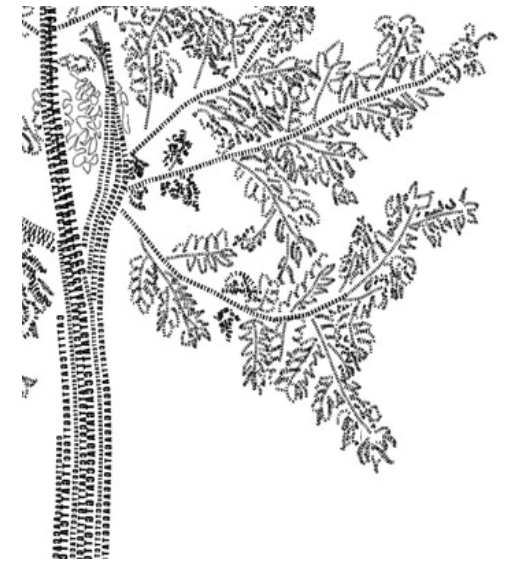
*Faith* — Ours is a trust in Jesus Christ. In his coming, teaching, living, dying, and rising he reveals the gracious heart of God. We commend to you resting in his strong and good arms, now and forever.

*Bible* — Here are some passages for our instruction and comfort —  
Isaiah 40:28-31 Psalm 23 & 103  
Romans 8:31-39 I Corinthians 15  
Rev. 21:1-4 John 11:17-27  
John 14:1-6 Psalm 121

*Hymns* — Here are some traditional hymns that may bring help —  
*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*  
*God of Our Life*  
*I Greet Thee, My Sure Redeemer*  
*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*  
*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*  
*For All the Saints*  
*Amazing Grace*

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# The *F*uneral at EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



“...there is nothing in life or in death that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 8:38

# Helpful Information

*A* **funeral** means there has been a death and that may mean many things — loss, sorrow, relief, guilt, numbness, joy in God's help, or something that a word cannot be put upon. Whatever it is you are encountering as you consider a funeral, we want you to know of our concern and regard for you. This pamphlet is meant to be of simple and practical help. If there is any question or need you have, please just ask.

Your point of contact is the pastor. The pastor will meet with you to assist you regarding issues such as which funeral homes, burial or cremation, the timing of a service, and how a service is conducted.

*T***iming of services** — consider the needs of your family and friends. How long will it take for them to arrive if they travel from someplace else? A service that begins before lunch or mid-afternoon can be helpful for those in the area with work schedules. But always wait for confirmation from the pastor that he and/ or the church are available before setting your plans.

Services may be conducted at the church, funeral home, or graveside. If the body of the deceased person is present, it is a funeral service. If the body is not present, it is a memorial service. Sometimes a brief graveside service will either precede or follow the one at the church or funeral home. If the body is present, the funeral home will care for the transport and placement of the casket. They may ask if you would like to designate pall bearers (those who carry the casket).

*O***bituaries** — These may be handled by the family directly or by the funeral home.

*F***lowers** — In the Eastminster sanctuary flowers may be displayed on standards in the area of the casket. If there is not casket, the vases regularly used in the worship service may be used for floral tribute. No nails, tacks, or screws are to be inserted into any part of the building or woodwork, including the pews.

*P***hotographs** — Either the narthex or the chancel are appropriate places for photographs to be placed. They should be placed adjacent to the communion table and not in front of the Bible.

*C***asket** — The funeral home will help with the selection of a casket (or urn, in the case of cremation). If the casket is present for the service, it is normally closed before the service begins.

*R***egister** — If you wish to record the names of those attending the service, either the family or funeral home can supply an appropriate booklet.

*M***usic** — Arrangements for music are made with the minister. Normally only the church music director, or one approved by the organist, plays the organ. As the service is sacred in nature, the music should be sensitive to that nature. The organist can provide the music or consult with the family about their wishes.

*O***ur Memorial Garden** — was established as a place of beauty for prayer and contemplation. In addition, it is a peaceful place for repose for individuals who desire cremation. The cremains of members of our church, their families and others may be placed there. This follows the ancient practice of having a place for burial near where one worshiped. An application shall be completed for a request of interment. A Memorial Book in the church office will contain all pertinent information of the person interred.

The Memorial Garden is a perpetual-care facility, and is governed by a committee with rules and regulations for orderly usage and maintenance.

*F***ees**— There is a \$150 cost for non-members to help offset building and maintenance costs. Please help us keep this fee low by having helpers leave our facility as clean as possible.

A minimum of \$200 is required for interment in the Memorial Garden. The Session, at its discretion, may waive this fee.

The honorarium for the organist is \$150; he/she can advise you of rates for and availability of additional musicians.

Should there be special audio-visual needs, our equipment requires our technicians. The honorarium is \$50.

In most cases, the honorarium for the pastor is handled by the funeral home. The other honoraria and fees are made payable to Eastminster Presbyterian..