

Caring for You and Yours in the Loss of a Loved One...

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you.

Peter 1:3-4

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is difficult and we want to care for you. Though a pastor will talk with you, we hope this information will be helpful as you consider some practical needs and make funeral plans.

Ministry of Comfort

In the loss of an immediate family member (mother, father, spouse or children), the Ministry of Comfort will provide one of the three options that will best minister to you and your family.

- A. Following the funeral / memorial service a meal will be provided for the family, out of town guests and the pastors. The Coordinator of the Ministry of Comfort will contact you to ask:
 1. How many you would expect for a meal (family, out of town guests and pastors).
 2. If there is a group (church small group, ministry group, social group, neighborhood group, etc.) who has expressed a desire to help in some way.
 3. If there is anything specific you need to have at the meal (such as a table for pictures, etc.)
- B. If you prefer not to have a meal at the church, the Comfort Committee will provide a honey baked sliced turkey breast and rolls taken to your home.
- C. The third option might be a visitation reception following the service in the church fellowship hall with punch, cookies and party mix served to all guests.

A small plant is delivered to the family.

Funeral or Memorial Service

The minister will work with you to plan the worship service. He will also explain the church (and EPC) policies as to funerals at the church, the purpose being to bring order, dignity, and Christ-centered worship during the service.

The Casket, Flowers, Pictures

The Casket

- The church has a pall for use during the worship service. (You may want a live spray for when the casket is carried in and out of the church and for the graveside service.)

- If you choose not to use the pall, you may use a live spray for the casket for the service (as well as before and at the graveside).
- The American flag or other casket coverings are best used at the graveside.
- Please arrange for an open casket at the funeral home visitation only.

Flowers

- One floral arrangement (real flowers only please) may be placed on the Communion table. The church has an urn which may be used. This is standard size for most arrangements of this kind from a florist.
- You may have two additional flower arrangements in the sanctuary which would be placed at the ends of the casket on the floor.
- You may place one flower arrangement in the vestibule near the guest book.
- Please do not use other flowers in the church. You may use them in the Fellowship Hall or location of the meal or reception at the church.
- Ostentatious displays of flowers should be avoided.

Pictures

- Please do not use pictures or mementos in the vestibule or sanctuary. You may use them in your home, during the visitation at the funeral chapel or in the Fellowship Hall or location of the meal or reception at the church.
- Please do not take pictures during the service as it is a distraction to others who are there to worship and receive comfort from the Lord.

Please know that we love you and desire deeply to care for you in this hour of need. Through all the stress and tears of this hour, we give glory to God for you and your loved one and rejoice in the sure hope of the resurrection.

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