

Funeral Planning

In Your Time of Loss

The death of a loved one is a tragic event. We mourn the loss of someone we love, but it can also be a time to give thanks for that loved one and a time to remember the miracle of life. The Bible reflects many emotional responses to the reality of death, which may include anger, denial, guilt, lament, resignation, thanksgiving, and trust.

We are so sorry to hear of your recent loss. Grace Point Church and its pastors desire to assist you and your family in your time of grief. The information in this brochure will be helpful as you plan a funeral or memorial service. The pastors of Grace Point Church will assist you to design the kind of ceremony which will be meaningful to you, your family and friends. We assure you of our support and prayers.

Please note that in planning for a funeral there is no need to feel rushed. Emotions tend to be running high and it is good to take time to grieve and prepare well. We have found that funerals are usually planned for 8-10 days after the passing.

Some Key Questions:

One of the pastors of Grace Point will meet with the family to plan the service. Please come to the meeting prepared to answer these questions which will help build the foundation for the development of an appropriate service.

- The name and contact info of a single point person from the family for communication with the Grace Point staff.
- Which funeral home are you working with?
- How many people do you roughly expect to have in attendance?
(Family/Friends/Coworkers/Church)
- Do you wish to use the church auditorium (100-600), the chapel (up to 100) or have the service at the funeral home?
- Will there be a viewing? If so, when?
- Number of people in the processional.
- What music do you wish to have? This includes music at the beginning of the service, singing of hymns, or any other special requests? **All musical needs** are to be determined and arranged by the family.
- Do you wish to have a table setup for memorabilia?
- Is there a favorite Scripture passage that you would like to read or be reflected upon?

Reception:

Grace Point Church has a gymnasium that is available to host receptions of various sizes. This allows families and friends to gather, share stories and memories, and offer support to one another. We have a kitchen as well as tables and chairs. We do not arrange catering, but you are welcome to rent our facilities and either use your own caterer or we can recommend one. Please note we are only licensed as a 'warming kitchen' so food cannot be cooked on site. We do encourage that you use disposable plates, cups, and cutlery, and either rent table clothes or purchase disposable ones if desired.

What will Grace Point Church do?

The Pastor will offer pastoral care and meet with the family upon notification of the death to discuss all aspects of the service and plan it together. The pastor will conduct the service and can also go the cemetery for the committal. Our pastors are available for any follow-up which may be needed or requested.

The Sound/Video Technicians will run the soundboard and video, for specials, congregational hymns, slideshows, etc. during the service and will be available before the service to do any necessary sound checks for any music that will happen in the service. They can also build slides to project congregational song lyrics and an 'in memory slide' if a picture of the loved one is provided.

A Site Host will be present before, during and after the service to assist the funeral home and/or family in helping the day run smoothly.

A Custodian can set up tables and chairs and do all necessary take down and clean up after the reception is finished.

A funeral at Grace Point Church is typically quoted at roughly \$800, depending on the services required. This does not include an honorarium for the pastor. A facility quote will be given the day you meet with the pastor, and the final invoice mailed out to you a week after the funeral.

What is Grace Point Church **not** able to do?

- Create a slideshow. A family/friend or the funeral home can create one. It must be in an **MP4 format on a USB**.
- Create and/or print brochures, including music lyrics. A family/friend or the funeral home can create and print a beautiful brochure.
- Provide ushers. This is often provided by the funeral home. If there is no funeral home participating in the service, we suggest family friends or relatives to help people sign guest books and seat them.
- Pianist should be arranged by the family. We can provide names of people that can be hired if needed.
- Organize caterers or provide a kitchen supervisor to help put out and prepare food/refreshments.
- Provide cloth table cloths, dishes and serving platters.

Dealing with Grief:

There are a variety of resources available. Printed resources are available which you may find helpful. One example is "Understanding Your Grief – Ten Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart", by Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt. You may wish to talk with your pastor, a counselor or a friend who has experienced the death of a loved one. You may also wish to attend a grief support group. Be assured God's grace is with you.
