**Other Considerations**

* Parking is available in the large lot surrounding the church building.
* The staff will produce a bulletin for the service at no charge.
* In accordance with the directives of the UMC, the pastor officiates at all services held at the church. Other clergy may take a designated part in the service at the invitation of the pastor.
* Grace UMC does not provide any form of food service or preparation. If a reception is planned after the service, families are responsible for making their own arrangements for catering, setup, serving and cleanup. Saints Restaurant of Southington has been a frequent choice of families desiring this service.
* Use of the church hall must be requested beforehand, and approved by the pastor and/or a representative of the church Trustees. It is your responsibility to set up tables and chairs, and to store them away.

*I am the resurrection and the life.*

*Whoever believes in me shall never die.*

*~John 11: 25-26*



**Guidelines for**

**Services of**

**Death and Resurrection**

Grace United Methodist Church

121 Pleasant Street

Southington, CT 06489

graceumc\_office@cox.net

860- 628-6996

**A Service of Death and Resurrection**

 The Service of Death and Resurrection in the United Methodist Church is a service of worship which honestly faces the reality of death and grief, while expressing gratitude for a life and witnessing to the Christian hope of resurrection and life after death. Even as we acknowledge our human sorrow, we worship in the assurance that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

 We view the service as a solemn moment in the life of the Church, reminding us all of our physical mortality. But we also see this time as one in which we can be reminded to give thanks to God for sending our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we might have the gift of eternal life. In this way the central focus of the service is on the worship of God and the hope of resurrection.

**When a Death Occurs**

 The pastor should be notified immediately upon the death of a member or constituent of the congregation.

 Plans for the service and all other ministries following a death will be made in consultation with the family and are subject to approval by the pastor. If the family requests additional military, fraternal or other rites in addition to the service, these will also be subject to the pastor’s approval and direction so that the integrity of the service is maintained.

**The Service**

* The funeral service presupposes that the family has had an opportunity for calling hours and a viewing, and that the coffin has been closed before the service begins. The coffin will remain closed throughout the service and thereafter.
* The altar may not be used to hold flowers, urns or portraits. Another suitable table may be used, however, and placed where the congregation can see it from the pews.
* Please ask your florist to coordinate the delivery of flowers with the church office. We ask that floral arrangements be kept simple. Many families choose to encourage memorial donations in lieu of flowers. If this is preferred, you should note it in the obituary.

**Music**

 If the service is to be held at the church, the pastor will arrange for the services of our regular organist or an approved substitute if our organist is unavailable. Only music suitable for a service of worship at Grace UMC may be played during the service, regardless of location. Because the funeral or memorial service is a service of worship, the singing of hymns is appropriate. Selection of music is subject to the approval of the pastor.

**Honoraria and Fees**

There is no charge to the families of active, participating members and constituents of the congregation for the services of the pastor or for the use of church facilities. Under all other circumstances, a donation is appreciated for use of the building. Since the organist is a part-time employee, we ask for a standard contribution of $150.00 if music is required.