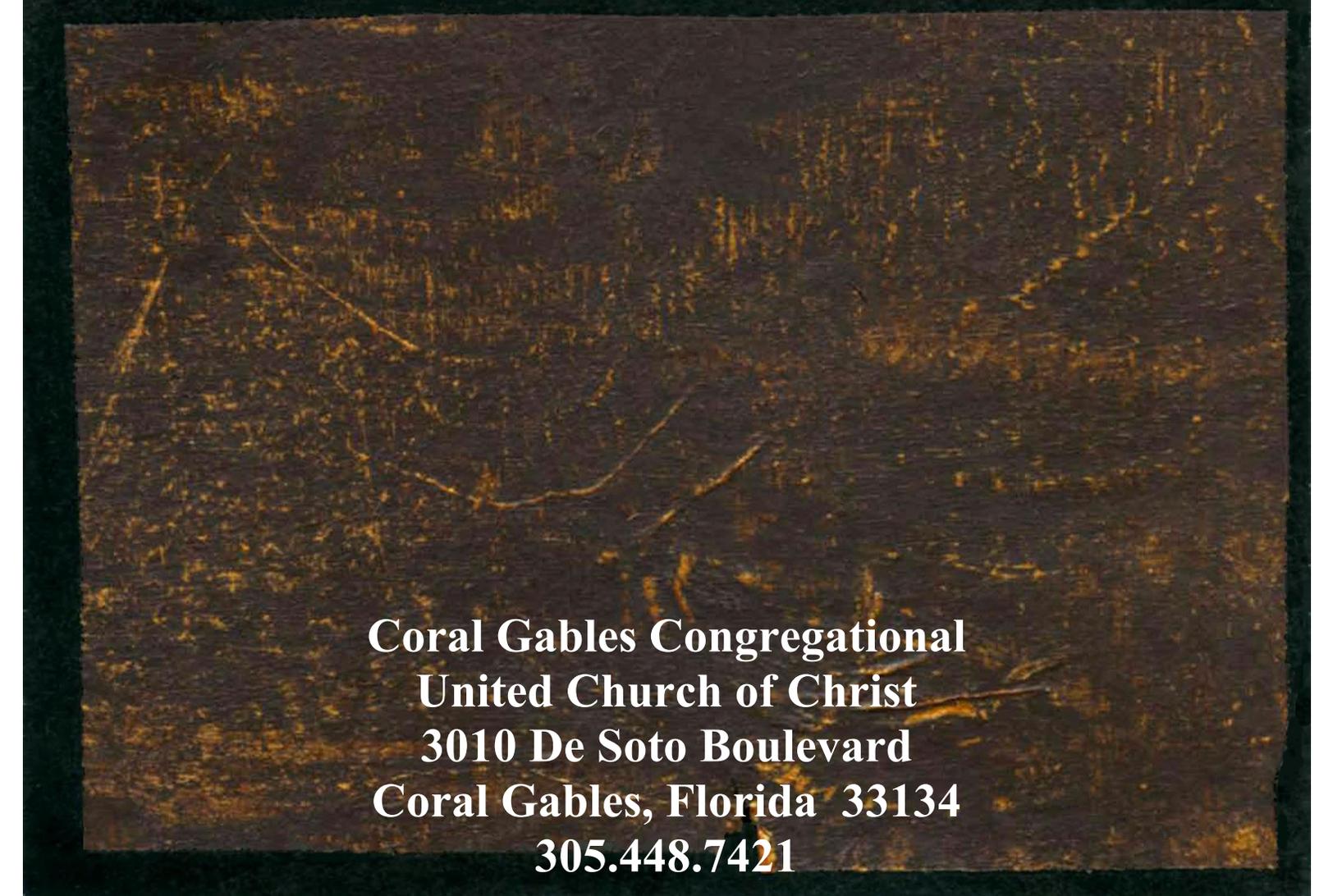




*My Funeral/Memorial Service Requests*



**Coral Gables Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
3010 De Soto Boulevard  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
305.448.7421**

Revised November 2021

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## *My Funeral/Memorial Service Requests*

Jesus said: *“I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14:3*

This material is designed to provide a tool for planning for the future when your life on this earth ends, and to support and guide your family or friends in making plans to celebrate your life. In the first days following a loved one's death, family or friends make an average of 200 decisions. During such an emotional, stressful and demanding time, plans that have been made earlier lighten the load. Your pastor is available to discuss any items with you. When you are finished, please share your worksheet with a family member or friend who will act on your behalf after your death and with the pastor so it can be held in safekeeping for the future.

### *Planning Faithfully, Choosing Wisely*

#### **What is the difference between a funeral and memorial service?**

Simply put, at a funeral service the body of the deceased is present, whereas at a memorial service, either the deceased's ashes or no remains are present. Both services provide an opportunity to celebrate the fullness of one's life and to offer thanksgiving back to God for the promise that death is not the end.

#### **Should I make pre-arrangements with a funeral director?**

Making the decision to pre-arrange some aspects of your funeral and/or burial is helpful. An appointment with a funeral director in advance of death is a wise step to help you decide what you and your family need from the many services available.

#### **How does the Church view cremation?**

Cremation is an acceptable way for Christians to deal with one's earthly remains. The Scriptures tell us that we are formed “of the dust of the ground” (Genesis 2:7) and, after death, we shall return “again to dust” (Job 34:15).

#### **How soon after death does a funeral or memorial service take place?**

Funeral services are generally held within three to five days following death, thereby allowing appropriate time for family members and friends to gather for the service. Memorial services can be held at any time.

#### **What fees are associated with a funeral or memorial service at Coral Gables Congregational UCC?**

There are no fees for active church members. This includes the pastor, organist/pianist and a soloist. If a reception follows, there is no charge for the space but the family/friends must supply the food.

#### **May we have a visitation at the church the evening before the service, or must that take place at a funeral home?**

The visitation may take place at the church the afternoon and/or evening before the service if there are no other events already scheduled in the Chapel or Sanctuary. It is also possible to have visitation before the service if the church calendar allows for it.

#### **Who is responsible for producing the order of worship and bulletin?**

After the service has been planned with the pastor, the church office will produce the bulletin at no cost to your family.

**What if I desire to have memorials directed to the church or other organizations?** This is an honorable thing to do. Coral Gables Congregational UCC and any other organizations you choose are blessed when memorials are directed to support their ministries and missions.

## Thinking about Things...

Funerals/Memorial Services may be personalized in a variety of ways and there are many choices to make. Facing some of those decisions now will make the process less demanding for your loved ones later. Here are some things to think about...

**Favorite hymns** you would like sung. Most services include one to two hymns. Here are some suggestions with the page number in the *UCC New Century Hymnal*.

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore You* – 4  
*O God Our Help in Ages Past* - 25  
*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* - 32  
*Love Divine All Loves Excelling* - 43  
*God Be With You Until We Meet Again* - 81  
*Abide with Me* - 99  
*Lift High the Cross* - 198  
*Christ the Lord is Risen Today* - 233  
*For All the Saints* - 299  
*I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry* - 351  
*Great Is Your Faithfulness* - 423  
*In the Bulb There is a Flower* - 433  
*It Is Well With My Soul* - 438  
*A Mighty Fortress* - 439  
*Softly and Tenderly* - 449  
*Be Now My Vision* - 451  
*Precious Lord* - 472  
*Blessed Assurance* - 473  
*God's Eye Is on the Sparrow* - 475  
*My Life Flows on in Endless Song* - 476  
*God is my Shepherd* – 479  
*O Jesus, I Have Promised* - 493  
*Pues si vivamos* – 499  
*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* - 506  
*Amazing Grace* - 547  
*How Great Thou Art* (Not in the hymnal)  
*This Is My Father's World* (Not in the hymnal)

**Favorite scripture passages or other selections** you would like read or included in the service in some way. If desired, family members or friends may be asked to serve as readers.

### Old Testament

Job 19:23-27a - *For I know that my Redeemer lives*  
Isaiah 25:6-9 - *Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces*  
Isaiah 61:1-3 - *The Lord has anointed me... to bind up the brokenhearted*  
Psalm 23 - *The Lord is my shepherd*  
Psalm 46:1-7 - *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*  
Psalm 91:9-16 - *Under God's wings you will find refuge*  
Psalm 118 - *Give thanks to God for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever*  
Psalm 121 - *I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?*

Psalm 130 - *My soul waits for God, more than those who watch for the morning*

Psalm 139:1-12 - *O God, you have searched me and known me...even the darkness is not dark to you*

Psalm 149 - *Sing to God a new song*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a; or 3:1-8 - *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven*

### **New Testament**

Matthew 5:1-12 – The Beatitudes: *Blessed are the poor in spirit...*

Matthew 11:25-30 - *Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens*

Luke 6:20-23 - Jesus speaks blessings and woes

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world*

John 11:21-27 - The raising of Lazarus: *I am the resurrection and the life*

John 14:1-6 - *In my Father's house there are many dwelling places*

Romans 5:1-5 - *Suffering produces endurance...and hope does not disappoint*

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 - *Nothing can separate us from the love of God*

I Corinthians 13: 1-8; 13 - *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things* 1

Corinthians 15:54b -55 - *Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - *Living by faith*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again...*

2 Timothy 4:6-7 - *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*

Hebrews 13:14-16 - *We are looking for the city that is to come*

1 John 3:1-3 - *We are God's children*

Revelation 14:13 - *Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord* Revelation

21:2-5a - *A new heaven and a new earth*

### **Participation in sharing remembrances** of your life. Options include:

- a. Identifying selected family members or friends who will share remembrances.
- b. Providing an open opportunity for all those who wish to share a brief remembrance.
- c. Providing related information to the pastor, who will then weave the information gained together and present it on behalf of all family members and friends.

4. **Special music**, whether instrumental or vocal.

5. **Optional information** to be included in the worship bulletin; i.e.,

- a. Picture for the front cover
- b. Poems or meditative selections for the front or back covers
- c. Instructions concerning any post-service activities or gatherings planned (to which all are to be invited).

6. **Any other concerns or preferences.**

**We may be contacted** in the following ways: Email: [LaurieH@gablesucc.org](mailto:LaurieH@gablesucc.org);

Office phone: 305.968.6482; Address: 3010 De Soto Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida 33134

## *Other Information....*

If you are cremated, you may have your ashes scattered in the beautiful courtyard of Coral Gables Congregational UCC. A plaque with your name and date of birth and death will be placed on one of the signboards throughout the garden. The only cost is for the plaque and can be pre-purchased. Following your death, the plaque will then be ordered and placed on the board.

## *Funeral/Memorial Service Preferences*

Please return a copy to Coral Gables Congregational UCC

This form contains my personal preferences for your guidance. I do this to assist you in making decisions at the time of my death. Please follow as much as possible:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following person/s to be in charge of arrangements at the time of my death:

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Personal Information....*

Marital Status (single/married/divorced/partnered/widowed): \_\_\_\_\_

If married/partnered, to whom: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of marriage (month/day/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names and addresses/phone numbers:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Brothers, sisters, or close relatives names and contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's full names and contact information if living:

Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_

If veteran: dates, branch, rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupations(s)	Where	Length of Service
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Organizations to which you belong:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special awards or honors:

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of will and/or other important papers:

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Funeral Arrangements*

My choice of funeral director is \_\_\_\_\_

Prior arrangements ( ) have been made with the funeral director  
( ) have NOT been made with the funeral director

Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Section and lot number in the cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Deed to the lot is in the name of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to have my funeral/memorial service conducted

( ) at Coral Gables Congregational UCC (Sanctuary \_\_\_ Chapel \_\_\_)

( ) at the funeral home named above

( ) other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would prefer

- funeral (with the body present)
- funeral (with the body not present)
- memorial service (with the body NOT present)
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

I wish

- to have my body buried at \_\_\_\_\_
- to have my body cremated and the ashes interred at \_\_\_\_\_
- to have my body given to a medical school
- other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

Visitation desired?  Yes  No

If yes, where?  funeral home  church

For the Committal Service at the cemetery, I prefer  private (family only)  public  
 no committal service is desired

Do you wish for your ashes to be scattered in the Coral Gables Congregational UCC courtyard?  
 yes

I would like the service to be streamed online  yes

Explain if you intend to make an organ donation:

As a token of sympathy and concern, I would like my friends to:

- send flowers
- make a memorial contribution to Coral Gables Congregational UCC
- make memorial contributions to other (explain)

I have made a specific bequest to Coral Gables Congregational UCC in my will.

*Notes*

## *The Funeral/Memorial Service*

For the funeral or memorial service, I would like the following to be included in the worship:

Hymns for congregational singing:

Scripture passages:

Prose or poetic readings:

Special music – organ, piano, solos, songs not in the hymnal:

Specific people to be included or to speak:

Are there specific events about your life (accomplishments, associations, memories, etc.) that you would like to be shared?

Type of flowers:

Pallbearers:

Any special requests regarding the bulletin:

Other requests or suggestions:

Make several copies of your Funeral/Memorial Service Preferences form.  
Retain the original and inform a family member or friend of its location.  
Give a copy to that person and/or others of your choice.

***Return one copy to Coral Gables Congregational UCC  
Do NOT keep this document in a safety deposit box***

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

All forms will be stored in the Pastor's Office and can be updated at any time.