



## Celebration of Life for Loved Ones

*"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."  
Psalm 34:18*

In the company of believers, and through the strength of worship, family, and friends, we can find renewal in the Christian faith, hope, and love that sustain us in times of grief. At John Wesley Methodist Church, the focus of memorial services and funerals is to remember the promise of Jesus: *"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."* These words point to a God who knows our pain, comforts those who mourn, and promises the hope of resurrection. Our services offer an uplifting celebration of God's power over death, expressed through scripture, prayer, and music.

We at John Wesley Methodist offer our heartfelt condolences to you and your family during this time of grief. We are here to walk alongside you, as the Body of Christ gathers to surround you with love, comfort, and hope as we celebrate the life of your loved one.

### SCHEDULING A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The first step in planning a Service is to select the best date for those who will be present. Celebrations of Life are held Monday through Thursday, at 11:00 am or 3:00 pm. Depending on the church schedule, some Fridays at 10:00 am are a possibility (with a small additional cost for extra staff; see *Frequently Asked Questions*). Saturdays and Sundays, and many days during the Holiday season, are reserved for Worship and other church events. We recommend having two possible dates as the availability of staff (clergy, musicians, production staff, etc.) and our building are factors. Begin by contacting Arlene Rollins to assist you in securing a date.

Once you secure a date, Arlene Rollins will guide you through the planning process as you meet with both her and the officiating clergy. Click the links below to access the resources below for helpful information in the planning process.

- [Celebration of Life Planning Guide](#)
- [Service Planning Resources \(music & Scripture recommendations, sample Order of Worship\)](#)

## FREQUENT QUESTIONS?

### I (or the deceased) am not a member of John Wesley; can you still do a Service?

We believe that God is the creator of all people and loves every individual as only God can. At John Wesley Church, it is our ideal to come alongside anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one. As we strive to care for all, our availability will depend on the Pastors' and the church facility's schedule.

### What all is included with your Service?

- Meeting with a Pastor and the Guest Coordinator to discuss and provide ongoing coordination of all details regarding the Service.
- Celebration of Life held in JW Sanctuary and Reception to follow in the Welcome Center.
- Caring volunteers present to provide hospitality for family and guests.
- Design and printing of the bulletin.
- John Wesley's production team will create and manage all media and sound for the Service.
- Service will be live-streamed and recorded on a flash drive for the family (barring any technical difficulties).
- Immediately following the Service, the JW Hospitality Team provides a Reception which includes a light meal.

### What is the cost for a Service?

Our Wesleyan heritage teaches us that it is a privilege to serve others through our ministries. In this spirit, there is no charge for the use of John Wesley Methodist Church facilities or for the care of our pastoral staff. If a family finds that Friday is the most fitting day for a service, please note that an additional fee of \$500 is required, as this is ordinarily the staff's day of rest. Certain musical requests may also carry additional costs

Honorariums may be given as suggested below:

- Song leader \$150. Payable directly to the song leader.
- Soloist, vocal or instrumental, minimum of \$150. Payable directly to the vocalist.
- Organist/Pianist/Guitarist \$150. Payable directly to the musician.
- Officiating Pastor: The honorarium is discretionary but generally starts at around \$200. Payable to the pastor.