

### **Service folder**

The church office will provide a printed bulletin for the service. The pastor will assist in its content and preparation.

### **Photo display**

It is appropriate to display photographs and mementos in the entrance and/or Fellowship Hall. Easels are available by prior arrangement.

### **Visitation**

Visiting hours at the church prior to the memorial service are permitted as scheduling allows.

### **Videotaping**

Videotaping of the service is permitted and is the responsibility of the family.

### **Fees associated with a service**

There is no charge for use of the church building for a memorial service. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has established these fees for church staff:

**\*Pastor** (for non-church members) \$150  
(There is no set fee for members;  
an honorarium will be accepted.)

**\*Organist/pianist** \$100

**Sound technician** \$ 50

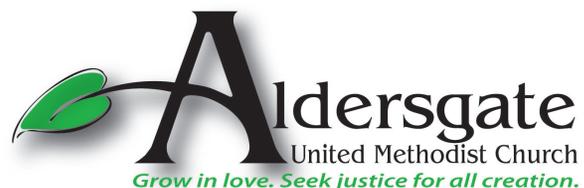
**Luncheon/Reception** Actual cost of the meal

*\*If not otherwise covered by the funeral home.*

### **Contact information**

When a death occurs, both the church office (363.3446) and the pastor (308.9925) should be informed. Church office hours are generally 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

To arrange for a meal/reception, contact Wendy Clark, 363.8500, or the church office, 363.3446.



4301 Ambrose Ave NE • Grand Rapids MI 49525-6122  
616.363.3446 • [www.graldersgate.org](http://www.graldersgate.org)

# **Aldersgate's ministry of caring at the time of death**



*Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Bereavement Ministries*



## Aldersgate's ministry of caring in times of grief

The death of a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences of life. For Christians, death is but the prelude to a new life. Death is a time to celebrate the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and rejoice in the promise we have for eternal life. However, death is also a time of grief, confusion, numbness and sorrow.

### Planning ahead helps all concerned.

At Aldersgate United Methodist Church we desire to assist you in the preparation and planning that inevitably takes place at the time of death. We have discovered that if people think ahead about the decisions that need to be made surrounding their death, not only can they be assured that their wishes will be carried out, they will also make it easier for their loved ones. We have provided space in this folder for you to write down your wishes. Additional related information is below to help you and your family prepare as plans need to be made.

### Why have a worship service?

A worship service of remembrance gives a sense of closure to a life and brings a certain reality to the death that may not happen in any other way. Spiritually and psychologically, God can use a worship service to guide us in the process of grieving. The presence of family and friends at this time supports and strengthens us.

### Funeral home or church?

A funeral or memorial service is normally held in a church, cemetery or funeral home. For Christians it is particularly appropriate to use the church. After all, it is where many of the important events of a Christian's life take place: baptism, religious education, confirmation, joining the church, worship, and marriage.

### Burial or cremation?

While many choose traditional burial, an increasing number of people are opting for cremation. It is seen as good stewardship: more environmentally-friendly and less costly.

Aldersgate offers the opportunity to inter ashes in our **Garden of the Pines**, where they are mingled with the soil. Many have chosen the garden because it is close to their spiritual home. Applications for the use of the garden are available from the church office. A fee of \$600 for perpetual care of the garden is required at the time of application. Each interment is recorded in an archival-quality memorial book, and a plaque bearing the name and vital dates of the deceased is mounted on the church wall.

### Monetary remembrances: memorials and endowment gifts

Many friends and family will want to remember a loved one with a monetary gift. Aldersgate's Stewardship Committee invites you to consider special gifts and bequests to our church. Just as the church has been supported during a person's life, it is appropriate to continue that support after death.

**Gifts in memory of a loved one** may be designated either for a one-time purpose or to the endowment fund.

**Endowment gifts** are invested and the principal amount is never spent. Interest earned from endowments funds ministries of the church forever. Each year, grants are given from endowment income to ministries related to our church but not in its budget. This makes possible ministries that could not otherwise be funded.

More information about options for appropriate monetary remembrances may be obtained from the pastor or the church office manager.

Envelopes to facilitate giving to the church are available.

*more information is on the back*

## About My Service

Information that may be used at my funeral or memorial service

*(to be kept on file at the church)*

Things that have been meaningful to me...

Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite hymns \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite author/reading \_\_\_\_\_

Poem \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

Personal notes \_\_\_\_\_

signed \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

*Planning ahead helps all concerned.*

