

Hope in Death: Practical Preparation for End of Life



A Guide to Funeral Planning
Grace Presbyterian Church

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
John 11:25

**GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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INTRODUCTION

None of us enjoys thinking about death, whether it is our own death or the death of someone close to us. The finality of death and the pain of separation cause most of us to avoid the subject. Consequently, few of us have carefully discussed funeral or memorial service arrangements with our families or with our ministers.

Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the church encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, including decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation or donation of the body for medical purposes. These plans should provide for arrangements which are simple, which bear witness to the resurrection, and in which the Christian community is central.” (Book of Order, PCUSA, W-4.10002) Planning for what is inevitable for all human beings can be a significant spiritual experience for you, and also a gift of love for your family and friends.

This booklet is offered as part of our ministry of love and hope to you and your family. It is divided into six parts: Part I is the place where you can record information that deals with some of the practical matters which must be addressed at the time of your death. This includes such things as: general information about your life, education, church and family; location of your bank, passwords and important documents; and military and civic service. In Part I you will also find information on estate planning and financial documentation. Part II briefly describes how Presbyterians see death and resurrection. Part III includes guidelines for services and suggestions for hymns and readings. Part IV contains a list of resources on death, dying, and grief, as well as a place to list friends to be contacted at the time of your death

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians’ attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

As you reflect upon your life, may you embrace even more deeply the love of God we know in Jesus Christ. May the information recorded in the booklet be more than a catalog of facts. May it bear witness to your faith. There could be no greater gift to your family and friends than this.

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not
perish but may have eternal life.*

John 3:16

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PART I
PERSONAL
RECORDS, INVENTORY, AND
PLANS UPON DEATH

For

Dated: _____

CONTENTS:

PART I	INVENTORY: CONTACTS, ASSETS, DOCUMENTS AND LOCATIONS
	1. Personal Details
	2. Important Documents
	3. Immediate Family Members
	4. Real Property and Substantial Assets
	5. Advisers
	6. Financial Assets & Liabilities
	7. Insurance Policies
PART II	PLANS AND INSTRUCTION UPON DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY
	8. Things to Do Upon Death
	9. Final Arrangements and Desires
PART III	OTHER MATTERS
	10. Other Matters

IMPORTANT NOTE:

This document does not take the place of a Will, Durable Power of Attorney or Health Care Directive and has no legal effect. It is for convenience only – to assemble in a single convenient place confidential information that will assist in estate planning and to be a valuable resource to your family in case of your death or serious injury.

As you plan your estate and consult with your attorney, please prayerfully consider including our church in your estate plans.

As this document includes confidential information, it should be kept in a safe place with a copy provided to at least one of your immediate heirs.

**INVENTORY:
CONTACTS, ASSETS, LIABILITIES, DOCUMENTS, AND
LOCATIONS**

1. PERSONAL DETAILS:

Full Legal Name (including maiden)	
Physical Address	
Social Security #	
Date & Place of Birth	
Citizenship	
Marital Status	
Spouse Name (including maiden)	
Date & State Married	
Prior Marriage(s) (names & date married)	
Occupation, Employer & address	
Education, Institutions & Degrees Awarded	
Father's full name Living (Y) or (No)	
Mother's full name Living (Y) or (No)	
Siblings	
Organ Donor (Y) or (No)	
Donate to science (body, tissue) (Y) or (No)	
Emergency Contact (Name, phone #'s)	

2. IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT	OTHER INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE (if applicable)			Document Disposition	
	Title	Name	Address/ Telephone	Location (Original & Copies)	Date Signed
	Last Will and Testament and/or Trust Document	Preparing Attorney			
	Executor				
	Substitute Executor				
	Trustee				
	Guardian				
Durable Power of Attorney					
Health Care Directive (Living Will)					
Organ Donation Documents, Burial Policy, Plot or Columbarium Niche					
Birth and marriage certificate(s), divorce decree, adoption documents, driver's license					
Retirement Plan/Pension plan documents					
Safe/Safe Deposit box (location, number, key/Combination)					
Tax Returns					
Property deeds, mortgages, vehicle & other titles & registration, Bills of Sale					

Insurance policies (medical, long term care, life, property, liability, auto)					
Other documents (e.g. passport, appraisals, pre- nuptial agreements, stock certificates, bonds, charitable pledges, monthly obligations)					

3. IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

Relationship	Name	Address	Telephone
Additional family and close friends can be added below			

4. REAL PROPERTY & SUBSTANTIAL ASSETS (description and location)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION/ DESCRIPTION	OWNERSHIP (name other owners and shares)	DEBT (type/ maturity/ lender)	DOCUMENT location
Residence				
Other Real Property (second home, investment real estate)				
Burial Plot or Columbarium Niche				
Business Interest (including key employees, associates, tax ID numbers)				
Substantial Tangible Assets (automobiles, jewelry, antiques, collections, <i>e.g.</i>)				

5. ADVISORS:

ADVISOR	NAME	FIRM or COMPANY & ADDRESS	TELEPHONE/ EMAIL
Attorney, Trust & Estate			
Attorney, personal/ business			
Financial Advisor			
Accountant			
Physician, Primary Care			
Physician, Others			
Pastor			
Insurance Agents (life, health, long term care, casualty & property)			
Employer (including chief officer & benefits person)			

6. INSURANCE POLICIES

Policy Type	Insured Policy Location	Insurance Company	Agent Contact
	<i>[Person or Property Insured] [Policy Location]</i>	<i>[Institution]</i>	<i>[Agent Name] [Company] [Telephone]</i>
Health			
Long Term Care			
Property			
Auto			
Life			
Other			

7. FINANCIAL ASSETS/LIABILITIES (inventory, location, numbers)

Assets	Type	Owner(s)	Institution and Number
BANKING	Checking	<i>[Account Owners]</i>	<i>[Financial Institution]</i> <i>[Account Number]</i>
	Savings		
INVESTMENT	Investment account(s)		
	Retirement (IRA, 401k, 403b)		
	Educational Savings		
	Pension Plan		
	Other - <i>[Describe]</i>		
	Other - <i>[Describe]</i>		
Debt/ Liability	Type	Mortgagee/Debtor	Creditor Institution and Number
	Mortgage	<i>(Name)</i>	<i>[Financial Institution]</i> <i>[Account Number]</i>
	Loan		
	Credit Cards		
	Other - <i>[Describe]</i>		
	Other - <i>[Describe]</i>		
Special Financial and Other Obligations	Type	Description	Parties and Addresses

PLANS AND INSTRUCTION UPON DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY

8. THINGS TO DO UPON DEATH

	Authorize organ donations (for registration in your state, see donatelife.net)
	Comments:
	Notify: immediate family, relatives and friends (list with name, address, numbers), pastor/spiritual advisor, executor or estate personal representative, trust and estate attorney, family attorney, employer/office, others
	Comments:
	Secure copies of death certificate
	Comments:
	Apply for life insurance, Social Security death benefit, employer/employment benefits, pension plan death benefits
	Comments:
	Cancel any credit cards no longer needed
	Comments:
	Review accounts payable and other outstanding obligations
	Comments:
	Review automatic payment arrangements for continuation or termination
	Comments:
	Autopsy preference (specify)
	Comments:

9. FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DESIRES

Cremation or burial wishes	
List of prepaid funeral expenses and/or burial policy	
Burial plot or columbarium niche	
Funeral or memorial service wishes	
Memorial donations preference	
Personal information desired or to be included or excluded from death announcement or obituary	

OTHER MATTERS

10. OTHER MATTERS

Computer, web accounts, voice mail passwords, alarm codes, home safe combination	
Location of address book, keys to house, cars, etc.	
Pets (name, age, veterinarian, care upon death)	

Prepared this ___ day of _____, 20__ by _____

ARMED FORCES

Branch of service: _____ Service serial number: _____

Date entered service: _____ Place: _____

Type of separation or discharge from service: _____ Date: _____

Place of separation: _____

Location of military discharge papers (DD214): _____

Highest grade, rank, or rating received: _____

Wars/Conflicts served: _____

Additional information (medals, honors, citations): _____

GOVERNMENT OR FOREIGN SERVICE

Branch of Government or Foreign Service: _____

Date entered service: _____ Place: _____

Retirement or discharge from service: _____ Date: _____

Place of separation: _____

Position: _____

Location(s) of service: _____

Additional information (medals, honors, citations): _____

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Activities, Interests, Offices Held

Organization, Office, Position, Years of Association

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Fraternal, Civic and Professional Organizations

Organization, Office, Position, Years of Association

Helpful Contact Information

Veterans Benefit

If you think you may qualify for VA benefits such as burial allowance, headstone, markers, and/or burial flags, contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to verify eligibility. www.va.gov or (800) 827-1000.

To facilitate receiving veteran benefits for which you or your survivors may be eligible, the following information will be needed by the VA office:

- Proof of veteran's military service ((DD214)
- Service serial number
- Marriage license (if applicable)
- Children's birth certificates (if applicable)
- Certified copy of death certificate

Military Retiree Death

To report a military retiree's death, contact a Casualty Assistance office.

- Army (800) 626-3317
- Marine Corps (800) 847-1597
- Navy (800) 368-3202
- Air Force (800) 433-0048
- Coast Guard (800) 772-8724

Report the death of the military retiree to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) by calling (800) 321-1080. Have the decedent's Social Security number (SSN) and the date of the death when you call.

Visit www.dfas.mil/dfas/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death for more information.

Credit Reports

Inform all three consumer reporting agencies of the death. Mail a copy of the death certificate to each consumer reporting agency. They will add a deceased notification to the credit file. This credit freeze will prevent anyone from opening a new account in the decedent's name.

- Equifax (800) 685-1111 www.equifax.com
P. O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241
- Experian (888) 397-3742 www.experian.com
P. O. Box 4500, Allen, TX 75013
- TransUnion (888) 909-8872 www.transunion.com
P. O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022

Social Security

Inform the Social Security Administration of the death.
Social Security Administration (SSA)
(800) 772-1213
www.ssa.gov

PART II

ESTATE PLANNING

What follows is a list of suggestions that will be very helpful to your family at the time of your death. Your family should be informed of the location of information on this list.

ESTATE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Important Identification Numbers

- Social Security number
- Tax Identification number, if you have businesses
- Driver's license number
- Birth certificate/adoption papers
- Passport number

Personal Documents and where they are located

- Name and contact information for person who has power of attorney and person who is to serve as executor
- Will
- Power of Attorney
- Health Care Power of Attorney
(it is helpful for you to provide signed originals to the people you have named)
- Marriage License
- Divorce/separation papers
- Tax records for current and past years
- Copies of gift or estate tax return filed over the last 3 years
- Appraisals for valuables such as jewelry, coins, paintings, musical instruments, etc.
- Diplomas
- Real Estate Deeds

Business Paperwork

- Insurance papers of all kinds: property, healthcare, disability, life, vehicle, etc.
- Outstanding loans and or loans payable to you
- Outstanding charitable pledges
- List of monthly obligations and how paid
- Credit cards
- Investment records (money market, brokerage and retirement accounts, savings bonds, etc.
- Inventory of personal property (including locations)

Location of current address book: _____

Location of Safe Deposit Box and keys: _____ Box #: _____

Location of keys to other homes/buildings: _____

Home Safe: _____

Alarm Codes: _____

Location of passwords for computers, phone, special accounts, online accounts, voice mail:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Banking & Investments

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	CONTACT PERSON & PHONE NUMBER/ EMAIL	ACCOUNT TYPE & ACCOUNT NUMBER

PART III

What Presbyterians Believe About Death and Resurrection

What We Believe About Death

Presbyterians, as all Christians, believe that death has been conquered by God through Jesus Christ. Death is a solemn and mysterious human experience, bringing painful separation from loved ones and friends. However, we remember the bold claim of the New Testament that in Christ, God is the Victor over death and the grave.

The central doctrine of the Christian faith is the resurrection. “Jesus Christ is risen today” is not only the Easter message, it is the message of every day in the year, and it is the foundation of the life of the church. We believe that, as followers of Christ, we will share in his victory. We, of course, grieve deeply when a loved one has died, but as Christians we also celebrate the resurrection and the life that comes through Christ.

When Death Occurs

It is important that the Minister be notified immediately when there has been a death, so that you may be in touch with the spiritual and practical support the Church can offer. The Minister is available to be with family members as they go through the experience of death, and to assist in decisions as requested, including going with you to the funeral home to aid and support you in the decisions which need to be made. The Minister can counsel you regarding the funeral service and arrangements for it.

The Worship Service

The service should take place in the Sanctuary of Grace Presbyterian Church, where worship is normally held. The minister, in consultation with the family, is in charge of this service. The funeral or memorial service is a witness to God’s love offered to all people, a love that strengthens and supports, even in times of grief and loss. It is a witness to God’s promises in Jesus Christ, affirmed in Christ’s resurrection from the dead, and to the sure and certain hope of our own resurrection.

These services are a time of praise of God.

- a. At a Funeral Service, caskets should be closed for worship so we can focus on God. If the family desires a public viewing, the best place for that is generally at the funeral home the day prior to the service.
- b. We encourage the use of the congregation's pall in covering the casket. The pall provides Christian symbolism and indicates we are all equal in the eyes of God. It eliminates the need for fancy caskets or flowers for the casket.
- c. Music should focus on the love and power of God. Our organist will play the music keeping in mind the family's wishes and in consultation with the minister and family.
- d. The Book of Common Worship and the Funeral Supplemental Guide, and the Directory of Worship, available in the office, suggest many hymns prayers and scripture passages suitable for the occasion.
- e. The use of bulletins, to encourage participation in worship, is recommended and will be provided by the church at no charge.
- f. We hope to personalize the worship and to reflect the life of the person who has died. The minister will provide a reading of scripture and a brief message. If the family wishes for someone to provide remembrances or a eulogy, that may be incorporated into the service or at the time of burial or interment.
- g. Because the focus of a worship service is God, we ask that flowers be kept to a minimum. Flowers may not be placed on the communion table or in a place that obstructs the view of the cross.

When There Are Children

When children are present in the family where a death occurs, two main concerns usually surface for adults: (1) What shall we tell the children? and (2) Should children be included in the family's sense of crisis and loss, the funeral, and subsequent related events?

As for what to tell children, they should be told as simply and as clearly as possible what has happened, the Christian meaning of death as a part of life in God's world, and something of what it will be like not to have that loved one in the family circle any more. Children are very intuitive and will know that something sad has happened. When adults are not honest and open with children about a death, the "not knowing" can often produce anxiety and fear. Let children be a part of the grieving process. As for including children in what happens, it is strongly suggested that children remain a close, vital part of the total experience. As Jesus told his disciples, "*Let the children come and do not forbid them,*"

About Money

A funeral at Grace Presbyterian Church is a worship service of the congregation in celebration of the resurrection and a gathering for mutual comfort and support. Consequently, there is no fee for the use of the Sanctuary or other facilities. At the discretion of the family, a monetary gift may be given to the minister. **A fee of \$150 is required for an organist.**

A contribution to the church's Memorial Fund is a fitting, enduring tribute to a friend or family member who has died. Often, people are urged to make such contributions instead of sending flowers. Memorial contributions made to the church are acknowledged individually and the family is provided with a list of those who have contributed. Memorial Gifts are placed in a special fund which is then used by the Session, with the family's approval, for special purchases of lasting value as needs arise. It is also possible to specify that Memorial Gifts be used for particular purposes (library books, Hymnals, organ repair, redecoration, etc.). You may consult with the Minister to determine an appropriate designation.

Preparing For Death

Death is often surrounded by shock, grief, and bewilderment. There are things each of us can do to make our own death somewhat easier for our loved ones, and to assure that our personal preferences are honored.

Completing the General Information, Estate Planning, and Service Planning sections of this document will assist your loved ones in their attention to taking care of your services and financial concerns.

During long, terminal illnesses, and after the death of a loved one, people need a support system. There may be strong feelings, such as anger or guilt, which may seem inappropriate, but which in reality are normal. Your church can help you. Feel free to discuss these feelings with your minister, or with trusted friends.

The grief process may take a long time. As Christians, we can help each other live our faith in this crucial area of human existence.

Remember that the Minister, officers, and members of Grace Presbyterian Church want to be with you and support you as you work through your grief, and as you put your life back together again. Turn to them for prayer and counseling, conversation and support, encouragement and assurance, and God will bless, comfort, and sustain you through your time of loss.

PART IV

GUIDELINES FOR FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICES

“The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community’s continuing life and witness to the resurrection. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor.”

(Book of Order, PCUSA, W-4.1003)

- At the time of death, a family member should notify the church at 501-225-3274. Notify the chosen funeral home.
- The funeral/memorial services are worship services which witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are the types of funeral/memorial services that are customary at Grace Presbyterian Church:
 1. Public or private burial or interment prior to a memorial service in the sanctuary.
 2. Funeral service in the sanctuary followed by burial in a local cemetery or interment of cremated remains.
 3. Graveside service only.
- Specific time and location of services are planned by the minister in consultation with the family and the funeral home.
- Opportunities to gather with friends can be held in the fellowship hall immediately before or following the worship service.
- The casket is always closed in the sanctuary. If a viewing is desired, it should take place at the funeral home.

- Audio visual media can be displayed at the reception in the fellowship hall but not in the sanctuary or chapel. Photographs may be displayed in fellowship hall.
- The casket may be covered with a white pall, or a flower spray, or the American flag. The church can provide the white pall for the casket. Flower spray or flag will be provided by the family.
- The family is responsible for flowers to be used during the worship service in the sanctuary or chapel.
- Ushers, an organist and printed bulletins are provided by the church for the funeral/memorial service of any church member. Special music (soloists, instrumentalists, etc.) is the responsibility of the family to arrange, in consultation with the minister and Music Director.

PLANNING A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

The information in this booklet is a guide for your loved ones as they plan a service of worship and in celebration of your life. It is helpful for the church to have a copy of your wishes for your funeral or memorial service. Please copy the following pages to be kept on file at the church. Every effort will be made to honor your requests in consultation with your family (or those directed to handle your affairs) at the time of your death.

Information of: _____
(Full Name)

_____ I prefer a ___ private/___public burial or interment prior to a memorial service at the church.

_____ I prefer a funeral service at the church followed by burial or interment.

_____ I prefer a ___ private/ ___ public graveside service only.

_____ I prefer a service at the funeral home.

What is your preference for the disposition of your body at the time of your death?

_____ traditional burial
_____ cremation
_____ donation to medical science

If you have willed your body or organs to medical science, where may necessary documents be located? _____

What funeral home/crematory would you prefer? _____

Have you already made arrangements at the funeral home? _____

Where is your family burial plot or niche located, if any? _____

If burial of body, which do you prefer:

_____ Mausoleum _____ Ground Burial

If cremation, what type of disposition?

_____ Burial or scattering of cremated remains _____ Niche

_____ Would your family want to have a reception after the service in our fellowship hall?

Our Congregational Care Committee will generally host a reception at the church following the service.

Other needs, please specify:

Memorial Gifts

The family may choose organizations where memorial gifts are to be sent. It is helpful for the church office to have this information as well.

Memorials should be designated to Grace Presbyterian Church:

Yes____ No____

Other organization(s) to be designated for memorial gifts:

Notification of memorial gifts should be sent to:

Name_____

Relationship_____

Address_____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Estate Plan

Would you like to include Grace Presbyterian Church in your estate?

SERVICE SUGGESTIONS

At the time of death and, in particular, in the midst of grief, it is often very difficult for loved ones to know and select appropriate scripture readings, responsive readings, hymns and special music. The following are lists that may help you select hymns and readings that have special meaning to you or to your loved ones.

• **SUGGESTIONS FOR HYMNS:**

Hymns or other sacred music should be a part of the worship service. Below is a list of suggested hymns. Please indicate those you want to request be included in your memorial service. You may request others in the space provided.

If you would like assistance with your selection of hymns or special music, please contact the Music Director.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lead On, O King Eternal</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Amazing Grace</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Be Thou My Vision</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Eternal Father, Strong to Save</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>O Worship the King</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>For All the Saints</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Our God, Our Help in Ages Past</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lift High the Cross</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i> | |

Other: _____

SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE READINGS:

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

___ Job 19:23-27

___ Isa. 25:6-9

___ Isa. 26:1-4, 19

___ Isa. 40:1-11

___ Isa. 40:28-31

___ Isa. 65:17-25

___ Lam. 3:19-26, 31b-32

___ Lam. 3:1-9, 19-23

___ Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

PSALMS

___ Ps. 23

___ Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11

___ Ps. 90:1-10, 12

___ Ps. 103

___ Ps. 121

___ Ps. 130

___ Ps. 139:1-12

EPISTLES

___ Rom. 8:14-23, 31-39

___ Rom. 14:7-9, 10b-12

___ 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-38,
42-44, 50, 53-58

___ 2 Corinthians 4: 16-5:1

___ 1 Thess. 4:13-18

___ 2 Tim. 2:8-13

___ Rev. 21:1-4, 22-25, 22:3-5

GOSPELS

___ Matt. 5:1-12a

___ Matt. 25:31-46

___ Mark 10:13-16

___ Luke 23:33, 39-43

___ John 11:17-27

___ John 14:1-6, 25-27

Other scripture readings: _____

Other readings or poems which I would like the minister to consider:

Do you have any family member or friends whom you would like to participate in the service? In what way?

Life experiences that have been especially meaningful:

I have been a member of Grace Presbyterian Church of Little Rock since:

Other churches of which I have been a member or in which I have participated:

PART V

Additional Death, Dying, and Grief Resources

Adults

- Tuesdays With Morrie* Mitch Albom
How We Grieve: Relearning the World Thomas Attig
Biblical Perspectives on Death Lloyd R. Bailey
Heaven Now Leslie F. Brandt
Mending the Heart John Claypool
Tracks of a Fellow Struggler John Claypool
Song for Sarah: a Young Mother's Journey Through Grief and Beyond Paula D'Arcy
When People Grieve: the Power of Love In the Midst of Pain Paula D'Arcy
Mrs. Hunter's Happy Death: Lessons on Living from People Preparing to Die John Fanestil
The Grief Recovery Handbook John W. James and Frank Cherry
The Many Faces of Grief Edgar N. Jackson
Dying Unafraid Fran Moreland Johns
Helping People Through Grief Delores Kuenning
Death: the Final Stage of Growth Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
On Children and Death Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
On Death and Dying Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
On Life After Death Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
Questions and Answers on Death and Dying Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
The Wheel of Life: a Memoir of Living and Dying Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
A Grief Observed C.S. Lewis
When Going to Pieces Holds You Together: You Can Find Healing When You Allow Yourself to Grieve William A Miller
Seven Choices: Taking the Steps To New Life After Losing Someone You Love
Elizabeth Harper Neeld
Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life Henri J.M. Nouwen
In Memoriam Henri J. M. Nouwen
Our Greatest Gift Henri J. M. Nouwen
How We Die Sherwin B. Nuland
Getting Through the Night Eugenia Price
Take the Dimness of My Soul Away: Healing After a Loved One's Suicide William A. Ritter
A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss Jerry Sittser
A Long-Shadowed Grief: Suicide and Its Aftermath Harold Ivan Smith
A Time to Grieve Carol Staudacher
Lament for a Son Nicholas Wolterstorff

Parent/Child

Talking About Death Earl A. Grollman

A Window to Heaven: When Children See Life in Death Diane M. Komp

Helping Children Cope With the Loss of a Loved One William C. Kroen

About Dying Sara Bonnett Stein

Older Children and Teens

The Fox in Winter John Branfield

I Will Remember You: What To Do When Someone You Love Dies Laura Dower

How It Feels When a Parent Dies Jill Kremenz

The Magic Moth Virginia Lee

Bridge to Terabithia Katherine Paterson

Missing May Cynthia Rylant

A Taste of Blackberries Doris Buchanan Smith

Forgive the River, Forgive the Sky Gloria Whelan

Grandad's Prayers for the Earth Douglas Wood

Children

If Nathan Were Here Mary Bahr

The Dead Bird Margaret Wise Brown

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf Leo Buscaglia

The Last Dance Carmen Agra Deedy E

Nana Upstairs & Nana Downstairs Tomie dePaola

Marianne's Grandmother Bettina Egger

Never Say Goodbye Lea Gillespie Gant

Gram's Song Karyn Henley

Remember the Butterflies Anna Grossnickle Hines

Remember the Secret Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

My Mom Is Dying: a Child's Diary Jill Westberg McNamara

Lifetimes: A Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children Bryan Melloni

Gentle Willow Joyce C. Mills

Sad Isn't Bad Michaelene Mundy

The Purple Balloon Christopher Raschka

Robert Nathaniel's Tree Ra-Ra Sartwell Schlitt

What's Heaven? Maria Shriver

Water Bugs & Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children Doris Stickney

Badger's Parting Gifts Susan Varley

The Tenth Good Thing About Barney Judith Viorst

I'll Always Love You Hans Wilhelm

Friends and Family to be Notified at the Time of My Death:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

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NOTES:

NOTES (cont.):

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

We owe thanks to Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL for allowing Grace Presbyterian Church to use their booklet, *A Guide to Funeral Planning*, as a resource for the preparation of this booklet.

Our hope in life beyond
death is a hope made
possible, not by some
general sentimental
belief in life after death,
but by our participation
in the life of Christ.

– *Stanley Hauerwas*

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