

COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

Dealing with Death



A GUIDE TO RESOURCES

Revised 2012

Original Committee Members (1989)

Elaine Schrock, chair
Dan Kauffman
Mary Liechty
Barbara Reber
Jan Yoder
John D. Yoder
Paul Yoder
James Waltner

Revision Committee Members (1998)

Willard Krabill
Pat Massanari
Jan Yoder
Nancy Kauffmann

Revision Committee Members (2012)

Anne Krabill Hershberger
Ora Troyer

Note: Legal citations in this booklet are based on Indiana law.
Laws in other states may vary.

Cover design: Dee Birkey

Dealing with Death

A guide to resources

College Mennonite Church
Community Life Commission
2012

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the following people who graciously offered information requested for this booklet:

Anne Meyer Byler, reference and instruction librarian, Good Library,
Goshen College

Sr. Nora Frost, chaplain, Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital

Rosemary Fry, College Mennonite Church librarian

Dan Liechty, director of cemeteries, City of Goshen

Rachel Schertz, social worker, Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital
Home Care and Hospice

Tim Yoder, mortician, Yoder-Culp Funeral Home, Goshen

Printed by: Duley Press

This booklet and inserted forms are available on the College Mennonite Church website at www.collegemennonite.org.

Table of contents

	Page
Dealing with Death	1
The Economics of Dying	2
Advance Directives Instructions	6
Living Will Declaration (sample with Christian testimony)	8
Information for Funeral Planning	10
Body or Organ Donation	12
Checklist of Steps to Take Following a Death	13
Resources Offered By the Congregation	15
Biographical Information	16
Suggestions for Funeral/Memorial Arrangements	18
Suggested Scriptures and Hymns	20
Resources in Church Library	23
Community Support Groups	27
Healthcare Power of Attorney	<i>inserted sheet</i>
Living Will Declaration	<i>inserted sheet</i>

Dealing with death

So many of the questions that have puzzled people for centuries have been answered in recent decades through scientific research and the explosion of new knowledge. However, death remains a mystery. Although many of us prefer to not think or talk about death, it remains a part of our lives. We will face death among our friends, within our families, and finally for ourselves. Biological life is terminal.

A biblical faith helps us to face the reality of death and embrace it with hope. The Psalms give words to our grief, fear, thankfulness, lament, and faith. The New Testament offers us the witness of Christ's resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

Although Christian faith does not resolve all of our anxieties about the mystery of death, the love of God experienced within and around us, as well as the faith community, can provide understanding and invaluable support as we face the losses death brings.

This booklet was prepared by a committee appointed by the College Mennonite Church Community Life Commission to provide information and to encourage planning as a way of preparing us to deal with death. Thoughtfully taking time now to make decisions and share those decisions with close friends and family can bring a sense of peace. This will make it much easier to finalize plans when the time of death occurs.

The economics of dying

1. **Plan to minimize your funeral costs.** Funeral directors are prepared to offer a wide range of services and products from the simple and inexpensive to the more deluxe and expensive. Traditionally, Mennonites value stewardship and have opted for a less expensive service and casket or coffin.

Visit a funeral director now and ask for a range of services and the price of each service. If it is your choice to use a casket, visit that display and with your spouse or trusted friend, select a casket style in the price range that reflects your Christian values. One also can purchase a simple coffin from local crafts people. Some families choose to make their own coffin.

Funeral directors are accustomed to working with people in pre-arranging complete funerals. By early planning, rational choices are more easily made than when grieving.

2. **Update your will.** A will has been called the “crowning act of Christian stewardship.” Do not let the state decide how your possessions should be distributed and how your loved ones should be cared for. Decide how much your children (if any) need and how much should go to charity and the work of the church. Choose a competent executor to settle your estate. Select a guardian to provide a good Christian home for minor children. Ask a lawyer to express your wishes in the necessary legal language. You might consider developing a living trust to avoid probate expenses.
3. **Let your family know where your papers are.** A carefully written will is of no value unless it can be found. Prepare a memorandum to your survivors stating the location of your will, insurance policies, tax returns, safe-deposit boxes and keys, burial lots, stock certificates, deeds, and passwords for protected computer documents. Outline funeral and burial wishes. Sign and date the memorandum and give copies to children or other family members. Review your instructions at least every three to five years or whenever there are major changes in your life.

4. **Consider the implications of joint ownership.** Most husbands and wives own property by joint tenancy, with rights of survivorship. In these cases the house or bank account, upon the death of a spouse, passes automatically to the survivor. Joint ownership is not a substitute for a will, however, and it also may have higher estate and inheritance taxes.

This word of caution: the larger your estate gets, the more you need to consider other kinds of ownership such as individual ownership, tenancy in common, or revocable trusts. Check this with a lawyer or an estate planner.

5. **Estimate your potential estate tax.** Your estate may be larger than you realize. List all of your assets on the basis of present fair market value. At death the federal government imposes an estate tax and the state imposes an inheritance tax. The larger your estate the more you may need careful estate planning to minimize these taxes. Consult a lawyer or tax accountant to help you estimate your tax liability and to get some counsel as to what you can do to keep the government from becoming the chief heir and beneficiary of your estate.
6. **Consider pre-paying your funeral.** Depending on your personal and financial circumstances, you may wish to pre-pay your funeral at a funeral home that participates in such arrangements. The money is placed in an irrevocable “funeral trust.” The interest generated adds to the trust and may be taxable to you, but your pre-selected funeral is pre-paid and the trust funds are no longer a part of your estate. The above is true for Indiana but not necessarily for other states.
7. **Be sure that your estate has adequate liquidity.** If you have everything tied up in a closely held business or real estate, your executor may not have enough cash to pay taxes and administration costs. Something may have to be sold at a distress sale, at less than fair market value. Make sure you have adequate cash in savings accounts or readily marketable investments. Life insurance is another way to provide liquidity.

8. **Project your need for life insurance.** The main question is, “Will your death create any financial hardship among your survivors?” Financial protection is the principal function of life insurance. Many people who have been living long enough to accumulate an estate do not need life insurance; but younger people with substantial family needs may need some protection. Make sure you buy only as much coverage as is needed for when you need it. Investigate the usefulness of lower-cost term insurance rather than whole life.
9. **Investigate survivors’ benefits from Social Security.** If you are covered under Social Security at your death, cash benefits may be available to your surviving spouse and children. However, there are certain qualifications. Check with a Social Security office to determine how much will be available to your survivors.
10. **Check your pension-plan death benefits.** The primary purpose of a pension plan, of course, is to provide continuing retirement benefits; but most plans include death benefits. For example, if you die before retirement, the plan usually will make payments to designated beneficiaries. Make sure you understand the provisions of your pension plan.
11. **Consider advance directives.** (See sample and inserted forms.) Advance directives are written statements that express your preferences about health care decisions when you can no longer speak for yourself due to unconsciousness or mental incompetence. In addition, it is very important to discuss your wishes with your family. There are two major types of advance directives:
 - a. A Living Will
 - b. The naming of a proxy (someone you trust who is given power of attorney for healthcare to speak on your behalf)
12. **Consider requesting a “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR) order and an “Out of Hospital DNR” order.** A DNR order is a physician’s written order that instructs other healthcare workers not to attempt resuscitation. The rapid advance of medical technology has allowed people to be kept alive biologically by artificial means well-beyond their ability to be aware, feel, or relate to others. The question is, “With what tenacity and at what cost is it right to cling to biological existence?”

When one is competent, giving written permission to withdraw artificial life-support in such circumstances is a real gift to loved ones. They want to do what you desire, but find it difficult to make such a decision on their own. In Goshen one can also place a prepared DNR request in a tube kept in one's refrigerator with a sign on the house front door indicating that it is there for Emergency Medical Technicians to see. Otherwise, they are obligated to attempt resuscitation.

13. **Transfer some things during your lifetime.** Consider giving your children some things now, when they need help the most. Or you might transfer some assets to church causes, either as outright contributions or into plans that provide lifetime income. There may be significant tax advantages. Good lifetime gifts to children and the church are cash, land, stocks, or bonds. You also might designate some of your treasured possessions to children or their heirs so that at the time of your death there is no question as to who gets what.
14. **Other places to receive counsel.** In addition to your lawyer and accountant, the Mennonite Foundation, 1110 North Main Street, Goshen, Indiana (574-533-9511) is a source of guidance and counsel. The Foundation focuses on helping Mennonites become faithful stewards of accumulated possessions. Older persons should inquire about charitable-trust arrangements or about bequests for favorite church charities. Such a gift is a marvelous way to carry out the biblical plan of jubilee—the redistribution of resources.
15. **Burial plot and grave markers.** You may purchase grave markers and burial plots in advance if you are sure where burial will occur. Burial of ashes from cremated remains requires less cemetery space, or they can be scattered. (See page 11).
16. **Memorial Funds.** Memorial funds are a way of perpetuating charitable causes you believe in deeply. Further, a memorial fund is a tangible way for friends to share your grief. Memorial fund responses may be significant enough to establish a continuing endowment or to put into place a specific piece of equipment for your favorite charity. Include your memorial instructions on the pre-arrangement sheet filed with your funeral director or in the church office.

Advance directives instructions

Because continuing development of medical technology keeps us alive longer, more of us will experience a period of mental incompetence as we approach the end of life. Naming a trusted loved one as your attorney-in-fact is a wise move. To assign power-of-attorney for healthcare gives that person the power to make decisions on your behalf beginning at the time you are declared incompetent and throughout the period of your incompetence. Giving power-of-attorney to conduct one's financial and business affairs is familiar to us; to give someone authority to make healthcare decisions for us is less familiar but equally important. There are three forms of advance directives:

- a. Living Will
- b. Healthcare power-of-attorney (naming a healthcare representative)
- c. Guardianship (requiring court intervention and appointment)

A sample form for a living will, including a Christian testimony, is located on page 8. Forms that can be executed for a living will and for naming a healthcare representative are inserted in the back of this booklet.

1. A living will is an instrument expressing one's wishes directly to one's caregivers in a general and philosophical way. Naming a healthcare representative designates a person to see that our wishes are implemented when we can no longer speak for ourselves. A living person is more effective than a living will in assuring that our wishes will be honored. Actually, we recommend preparing both documents. Both have a place and fill a specific need. It is very important to have discussed your wishes with your healthcare representative while you are mentally competent for that person to truly represent you.
2. In order for a living will to carry legal clout in Indiana (if legal clout is needed), it must conform to Indiana specifications: paragraphs one, two, and three on the form on page 9 must be included, including the three check-off spaces in paragraph two. After the third paragraph, you may add whatever you wish by way of further instructions (for example, organ donation), a listing of specific instructions, or, as we have illustrated in our sample, paragraph four, a statement of the Christian beliefs that undergird your instructions to your caregivers.

Furthermore:

- a. You must be at least 18 years of age to complete a living will.
 - b. Your two witnesses must be at least 18 years of age.
 - c. Your two witnesses may not be anyone who stands to gain (financially or otherwise) by your death. They may not be your parent, child or spouse.
 - d. Your two witnesses may not be financially involved in your care.
3. Executing a living will does not require the services of a lawyer, but the healthcare representative/power-of-attorney document must be notarized.* It is, however, appropriate to request legal assistance in executing these documents, especially if you anticipate dissension in your family over implementing your specific wishes.
 4. An advance directive can be revoked at any time by so stating either orally or in writing. Be sure to destroy all existing copies and distribute your new instructions to all that hold copies.
 5. Copies of your advance directives should be given to family members, the church office, your physician, and your attorney. Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital, as well as Elkhart General Hospital, will accept a copy and enter it into its computer records. At other hospitals or nursing homes you must present a copy upon admission to the facility. It is also wise to carry a wallet card indicating the existence of your advance directives in case of illness or accident in another locality.
 6. If your physician refuses to abide by the provisions of your advance directives, you should request another physician or seek legal advice.
 7. Indiana has two laws regarding healthcare representatives (IC 30-5-5-16 and 17 and IC 16-36-1-6 and 7). The attached sample form in this booklet unites the two laws into one form, designating both your attorney-in-fact and your healthcare representative. The church office will be able to refer you to members with expertise in these matters if you have questions.

* When making copies of notarized documents, shade the notary's seal with a pencil to show that it was a seal on the original document.

Living Will Declaration (sample)

Declaration made this _____ day of _____ (month, year).

I, _____, being at least eighteen (18) years of age and of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make known my desires that my dying shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, and I declare:

If at any time my attending physician certifies in writing that: (1) I have an incurable injury, disease, or illness; (2) my death will occur within a short time; and (3) the use of life-prolonging procedures would serve only to artificially prolong the dying process, I direct that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die naturally with only the performance or provision of any medical procedure or medication necessary to provide me with comfort care or to alleviate pain, and, if I have so indicated below, the provision of artificially supplied nutrition and hydration. (Indicate your choice by initialing or making your mark before signing this declaration):

_____ I wish to receive artificially supplied nutrition and hydration, even if the effort to sustain life is futile or excessively burdensome to me.

_____ I do not wish to receive artificially supplied nutrition and hydration, if the effort to sustain life is futile or excessively burdensome to me.

_____ I intentionally make no decision concerning artificially supplied nutrition and hydration, leaving the decision to my healthcare representative appointed under IC 16-36-1-7 or my attorney in fact with healthcare powers under IC 30-5-5.

In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of life-prolonging procedures, it is my intention that this declaration be honored by my family and physician as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and accept the consequences of the refusal. I understand the full import of this declaration.

I understand the full import of this declaration.

Signature

Date

City, County, and State of Residence

The declarant has been personally known to me, and I believe (him/her) to be of sound mind. I did not sign the declarant's signature above for or at the direction of the declarant. I am not a parent, spouse, or child of the declarant. I am not entitled to any part of the declarant's estate or directly financially responsible for the declarant's medical care. I am competent and at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Examples of other instructions or statements that may be added:

- *It is my wish that, at the time of my death, any of my body organs that are usable (and desired by organ donation facilities) be made available for donation.*
- *As a Christian, I believe that “whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s (Romans 14:8). My faith affirms that life is a gift of God and that physical death is a part of our eternal journey. My faith assures me that even in death there is hope, sustaining grace and love of God. Because of my Christian faith and belief I am making this declaration as a testament of my wishes.*
- *As a Christian, I am not afraid to die for I believe death is as much a reality as life itself. As a follower of Jesus in life, I am confident that he will be with me throughout my journey. Therefore, I make this declaration of my wishes.*
- Notes for your statement of faith: _____

Therefore, I make this declaration of my wishes.

Information for funeral planning

Role of the funeral director

1. Clients can choose the services they desire from the funeral director. Costs for various services are itemized.
2. Pre-arrangement of funeral-home services is possible, either selected services or complete funeral arrangements.

Viable options for body disposal

1. Burial
2. Cremation
3. Donating the body for medical research

Timing of disposition of the body

1. If death is natural and the family chooses burial, it can be arranged after proper filing of the death certificate, having secured a physician's signature and a burial permit.
2. If death is accidental or a homicide, the coroner will be involved and the investigation may delay the process.

Embalming

1. It is not required in Indiana in most circumstances if there is no viewing.
2. If the body is transported interstate, embalming is required.
3. If the body needs to be held over 48 hours for any reason, either embalming or refrigeration is needed.

Burial plots

1. Plots can be pre-arranged and paid for, or they can be purchased at the time of death by the funeral director or family.
2. Goshen has three city cemeteries: Violet, West Goshen, and Oak Ridge. Elkhart Prairie Cemetery is township owned, but it has the same requirements as the city cemeteries.
 - a. The cost of a plot includes perpetual care of the plot.
 - b. Most cemeteries require a vault.
3. Some rural burial grounds do not require a vault, but they usually require a fee for eventual ground fill.
4. An interment (burial) fee is also charged at the time of the burial.

Cremation

1. Crematories are present in Goshen, Elkhart, and South Bend.
2. The body must be held 48 hours before cremation in Indiana (to avoid destroying evidence of foul play).
3. Embalming is not required if there is no public viewing.
4. A casket is not necessary, but some type of container is required. The crematory or funeral home has inexpensive containers. One can rent a casket from a funeral home for viewing prior to a cremation.
5. The funeral director takes care of the documents required for cremation:
 - a. death certificate
 - b. authorization permits
6. The funeral director can make all arrangements.
7. The funeral director or family and friends can transport the body to the crematory.
8. Cremation is less expensive than the usual viewing and earth-burial practices, although it depends on one's choices regarding viewing, embalming, use of rented casket, and mortician services.
9. Ashes
 - a. Return to the family in a container. Urns are also available.
 - b. Bury at a cemetery in a metal box purchased from the crematory. The cemetery may require a small vault.
 - c. Scattering is permitted in Indiana.
 - If scattering on private property, the property owner must grant permission. No permit is needed if scattered on your property.
 - College Mennonite Church has established a memorial garden, a spot of natural beauty next to the church building, where ashes of deceased members may be scattered. Plaques are mounted on the garden wall to memorialize the deceased.

Death Certificate

1. A physician and the funeral director sign the death certificate. It is filed with the County Health Department.
2. Death certificates are available from the funeral director. Families should purchase as many as they may need.

Body or organ donation

Donating the body to medical education and research

If you plan to donate your body for medical research, you should make arrangements in advance with a medical school. (Your funeral director can give you necessary information.) The school will provide the necessary forms and the criteria for donation. A copy of the forms will be kept in the school's files and a copy will be given to you. The criteria for donation of a body include:

- Maximum of six feet in length, maximum of 200 pounds in weight and at least 18 years of age
- Within Indiana
- Free of infectious conditions

The funeral director will make the arrangements at the time of your death. After the research is completed, the body is cremated. The medical school will bury or return the ashes, as you prefer. If you donate your body for research, the school will retrieve the body within hours of death at no cost to the family. If you want the body present for services, the funeral director needs to embalm it and deliver it to the school at the family's expense.

Donating organs for transplantation

It is best to document one's desire to donate acceptable organs before death. In Indiana the driver's license has a place to indicate your desire to donate organs. Since suitable circumstances for major organ donation (heart, lung, liver, and kidney) arise from the sudden, traumatic deaths of otherwise healthy people, discussions between medical personnel and families may have to occur rapidly.

Prior signed statements from the deceased are not mandatory, if family members are unified in their desire to give someone else life out of their own tragedy. While major organ donation may require a decision before brain death is certified, other organs, such as skin, bone, and eyes, can be donated within the hours after death. Gifts of body parts can be a source of hope and comfort to families in otherwise tragic circumstances.

In Indiana, hospitals are required to notify the Indiana Organ Procurement Organization (IOPO) of every death occurring in the hospital. Only if the IOPO determines that the body may have organs suitable for donation is the family then approached. It is possible to have a conventional viewing and funeral after the removal of body parts.

Checklist of steps to take following a death

Make phone calls to:

- _____ A pastor or church office. (The pastor will be a support and resource for you in completing the following steps.)
- _____ A funeral home to set an appointment to make arrangements for care of the body and its deposition.
- _____ All significant people to inform them of the death.

Establish logistics.

- _____ In consultation with pastor and funeral home set day, time, and location for visitation and funeral or memorial service. These typically take place three days after the death. This allows one day for the announcement to appear in the newspaper and another day for visitation. The service can be later for a number of reasons such as accommodating persons traveling from a distance. Visitation and the service can occur at the funeral home or the church.

Decide the type of service.

- _____ Funeral: The body is present in the service. A short graveside service and burial follow.
- _____ Memorial: This service is preceded with a short prayer service for family, a graveside service and burial, or scattering of ashes.

Prepare for the funeral home appointment. Take with you:

- _____ Biographical Information sheet (If one has not been completed, you may want to complete the one on pages 16-17 before going to the funeral home.)
- _____ Set of clothes
- _____ Deceased's Social Security number
- _____ Picture for newspaper if you desire
- _____ Number of death certificates needed (Copies are needed for each occasion where there will be a transfer of property such as land, home, vehicles, stocks, bonds, each bank, each company holding life or long-term care insurance policies, and any other assets.)

At the funeral home:

_____ Finalize hours of visitation and service

_____ Give biographical information

_____ Choose casket

_____ Choose memorial card

_____ Choose flowers

_____ Give instructions for burial service if you have special preferences

- Do you want to be present while casket is lowered?
- Do you want to place flowers on casket?
- Do you want to shovel dirt on casket?

_____ Plan service with pastor:

- Scriptures
- Hymns, special music, organ
- Remembrances
- Persons to be involved
- Printed order of service

_____ Number for meal following service. (Include family, close friends and persons traveling from a distance. The congregation provides this meal.)

At visitation:

_____ Arrangement of family members (receiving line or scattered in room)

_____ Display of pictures and/or other items.

_____ Do you need a meal between visitation hours for your family? (The neighborhood group, Sunday school class, or small group provides this meal. The church office will contact these groups.)

_____ Number of immediate family members.

Autopsy:

_____ Do you want an autopsy? Autopsies may be done when there is a sudden or unexplained death or the family wants a clear picture of the family medical history. You can tell either your doctor or funeral home director. If the death occurs in the hospital, the decision should be made before the body is removed from the hospital. There is no cost to the family if a doctor feels an autopsy is necessary and orders it to be done.

Resources offered by the congregation

1. Pre-planning. You are invited to share with one of the pastors your thoughts and feelings about death and your wishes regarding funeral plans for the time when death comes. These suggestions can be placed in your membership file. They can always be changed or adapted as necessary. Many persons experience a sense of relief and freedom in such prior planning.
2. When death occurs, call a pastor. The pastor is prepared to represent the faith community and help mobilize the resources of the congregation in appropriate ways. Often Sunday school classes, neighborhood groups, and small groups become significant care resources at the time of death.

When a death occurs, the church office will call the Sunday school class representative and the neighborhood coordinator. Usually, the neighborhood coordinator will take the initiative to contact the family on behalf of these care networks concerning unmet needs.
3. The church is prepared to help plan a funeral/memorial service. This service is a time for appropriate remembrance and celebration of the person's life and is an opportunity for the community to reach out to God in a service of worship. The pastor will help you plan and will arrange for contacting persons you wish to have participate.
4. Specific help and other resources offered by the church and available to families may include:
 - a. Someone to go with the family to the funeral home to help with decisions regarding casket selection and services needed.
 - b. Visitation at the church.
 - c. A simple meal for the immediate family when visitation hours are divided—often planned by the Neighborhood Group or Sunday school class.
 - d. A meal for the family and close friends on the day of the service—provided by the church.
 - e. Church library resources on dying, death, and grief. (See Resources in Church Library near the end of this booklet.)
 - f. Referral to members who have expertise in areas of particular needs.

Biographical information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Birth date: _____

Birthplace: _____ Date baptized: _____

Church membership: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Place and date of marriage: _____

Main occupations or employers: _____

Telephone: _____ Date retired: _____

Education (# of years): _____

Membership in clubs or significant organizations: _____

Highlights of one's life: _____

Children:

Name

Address

Telephone

Father's name: _____

Mother's maiden name: _____

Location of will and other important papers: _____

Persons and organizations to be contacted:

Name

Address

Telephone

Newspapers to be notified: _____

Copies of this form (and "Suggestions for funeral arrangements" on pgs. 18-19) can be shared with survivors and filed in the church office. You may access these documents in electronic format on the CMC website at www.collegemennonite.org.

Suggestions for funeral/memorial arrangements

For the sake of your survivors, you may wish to write your preferences for a funeral/memorial service. Copies of this form can be shared with survivors and filed in the church office.

1. I do/do not have arrangements with a funeral home.

Funeral home preference: _____

2. My preference is to be:

___ embalmed and buried in _____ cemetery.

___ cremated with ashes: ___ scattered, ___ buried, ___ or returned to the family.

3. I prefer to have visitation or calling at: ___ the church, ___ funeral home with an: ___ open casket, ___ closed casket, ___ no casket.

4. Service preference relating to place, funeral/memorial service and burial:

5. ___ I want a funeral at minimal cost.

___ I leave the financial arrangements to my survivors' discretion.

6. These scriptures and writings have been meaningful to me:

7. These hymns and songs are some of my favorites: _____

8. I would like, if possible:

a. the following persons to assist in the service:

b. the following persons as pallbearers:

c. memorial gifts to be designated for:

9. Other preferences or requests:

Name

Date

Suggested scriptures and hymns

Many scriptures and hymns may be appropriate to include in a funeral or memorial service. The ones suggested here are not exhaustive, but suggest areas of thought a family might choose.

Scriptures	
Numbers 6:24-26	“The Lord bless you and keep you”
Psalms 16:9-11	“my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure”
Psalms 23	“The Lord is my shepherd”
Psalms 46	“God is our refuge and strength”
Psalms 84	“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord”
Psalms 90	“Lord, you have been our dwelling place”
Psalms 91	“You who live in the shelter of the Most High”
Psalms 103:17	“...the steadfast love of the Lord”
Psalms 121	“I lift up my eyes to the hills”
Isaiah 40	“Comfort, O comfort, my people”
Isaiah 43:1-3	“...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you”
Matt. 11: 28-30	“Come to me, all you that are weary”
Luke 2:28-32	“...you are dismissing your servant in peace”
John 11:25	“I am the resurrection and the life”
John 14	“Do not let your hearts be troubled”
Romans 8	“There is therefore now no condemnation”
Romans 14:7-9	“We do not live to ourselves”
1 Cor. 13	“...Love never ends”
1 Cor. 15:57	“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory”
2 Cor. 5:1	“...we have a building from God”
Phil. 1:21	“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.”
1 Thess. 4:13-18	“...we will be with the Lord forever”
1 Thess. 5:1-11	“Therefore, encourage one another”
2 Tim. 4:6-8	“...I have fought the good fight”
1 Peter 1:3-7	“...an inheritance that is imperishable”
1 Peter 1:23	“You have been born anew”
1 John 3:1-3	“...that we should be called children of God”
Rev. 14:13	“Blessed are the dead who...die in the Lord”
Rev. 21:1-4	“...he will wipe every tear from their eyes”
Rev. 22:1-5	“...the Lord God will be their light”

Hymns from *Hymnal: A Worship Book*

62	“Who is so great a God”
114	“In thee is gladness”
118	“Praise God from whom”
121	“Holy God, we praise thy name”
143	“Amazing grace”
203	“Break forth, O beauteous heav’nly light”
275	“Lift your glad voices”
303	“Come, gracious Spirit”
327	“Great is thy faithfulness”
332	“Blessed assurance”
352	“Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us”
366	“God of grace and God of glory”
377	“Healer of our every ill”
412	“We shall walk through the valley”
425	“Come, come ye saints”
486	“God of our life”
491	“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling”
526	“In the rifted Rock I’m resting”
545	“Be thou my vision”
553	“I am weak and I need thy strength”
576	“If you but trust in God”
580	“My life flows on”
589	“My Shepherd will supply my need”
592	“Love divine, all loves excelling”
593	“O Power of love”
596	“And I will raise you up”
599	“He leadeth me”
606	“Oh, have you not heard”
616	“Children of the heavenly Father”

Hymns from <i>Sing the Journey</i>		
	44	“The love of God”
	45	“In the morning when I rise”
	71	“Alleluia, the Great Storm is over”
	76	“The Lord bless you and keep you”
	89	“I was there to hear your borning cry”
	93	“Wehrlos und verlassen sehnt sich”
	98	“All will be well”
	110	“Go, silent friend”
	111	“My latest sun is sinking fast”
Hymns from <i>Sing the Story</i>		
	16	“Peace before us”
	48	“Come unto me”
	99	“The Lord’s my Shepherd”
	121	“Nothing is lost on the breath of God”
Other song requests		

Resources in the church library

Buscaglia, Leo. 1982. *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: The Story of Life for All Ages*. Thorofare, NJ: C. B. Slack, Inc.

A time-tested resource for gaining insight into the human experience of living from birth to death. It is especially helpful for elementary school-age children through the teens, but is appropriate for all ages.

Callahan, Daniel. 1993. *The Troubled Dream of Life: Living With Mortality*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

This leading philosopher and ethicist attacks the prevailing societal notion that medical progress will eventually eliminate almost every illness. We also seem to be blind to the cost (financial, social, emotional and spiritual) of attempting such an enterprise. Callahan makes a strong case for graceful acceptance of our mortality. He also argues strongly against euthanasia, calling it another form of violence, that of consenting adults killing each other.

Carr, G. Lloyd and Gwendolyn Carr. 2004. *Fierce Goodbye: Living in the Shadow of Suicide*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

This book provides a reliable and readable summary of Christian thinking about suicide.

Casarette, David, MD. 2010. *Last Acts: Discovering Possibility and Opportunity at the End of Life*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

This author draws on his experiences in helping terminally ill patients and families to make careful decisions about end-of-life care.

Donnelly, Katherine. 2001. *Recovering From the Loss of a Child*. iUniverse (Self-Publisher).

When a child dies, the pain and shock can seem unbearable; but in sharing and understanding the tragic loss, emotional recovery is possible. This book shows bereaved parents, siblings, and others how to cope with one of life's cruelest blows with inspiring first-hand accounts from others who have survived this heart-breaking experience.

Guilmartin, Nance. 2010. *Healing Conversations: What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

This book can help us find new confidence to respond better in many situations that in the past left one feeling uncomfortable in knowing what to say or do or how to just "be."

Hartzler, Rachel Nafziger. 2006. *Grief and Sexuality: Life After Losing a Spouse*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

After personal experience and interviewing many people who have lost spouses, the author presents the wide variety of experiences and responses, including sexual ramifications, reported by this group.

Hauder, Rebecca Sue Krabill. 2009. *The Nature of Grief: Photographs and Words for Reflection and Healing*. Boise, ID: Resources for Grief.

This source also has a website listing many other resources on death, dying and grief. www.resourcesforgrief.com

Hertzler, Janelle Shantz. 2010. *Seasons of Solace: A Story of Healing Through Photos and Poems*. Austin, TX: Synergy Books.

Most of these poems were created several years after the death of the author's husband. The beautiful photos of images in nature are shaped by the pain, fears, hopes, and joys that she carries with her as she walks in the world.

Hickman, Martha Whitmore. 2002. *Healing After Loss: Daily Meditations for Working Through Grief*. New York: Harper Collins.

This book includes a meaningful quote, a brief meditation and a statement of intention for every day of the year. From the back cover: "...here are strength and thoughtful words to inspire and comfort."

Huntley, Theresa M. 2002. *Helping Children Grieve: When Someone They Love Dies*. Minneapolis: Augsburg/Fortress Publishers.

There is a tendency to avoid discussing death if at all possible. Once a death occurs, however, it becomes obvious that avoidance is not possible. Children's ability to understand and cope with the loss will be influenced by the support and guidance available to them. This book offers help toward realizing this goal.

Hutchison, Joyce and Joyce Rupp. 1999. *May I Walk You Home?* Ave Maria Press.

This book offers courage and comfort for those who accompany the dying on their final journey.

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. 2001. San Francisco: Harper.

After the death of his wife, Lewis wrote this journal to defend himself against the loss of belief in God. In it he confesses his doubts, rage, and awareness of human frailty. The brief journal is an eloquent statement of rediscovered faith. It can be a profound comfort to those in grief.

Miller, James E. 1997. *One You Love Is Dying: 12 Thoughts to Guide You On the Journey*. Fort Wayne, IN: Willowgreen Publishing.

The author is a clergyman, grief counselor, writer, and photographer. He has prepared numerous books and video and audio tapes on topics related to illness, dying, loss, grief, caregiving, and spirituality. This book includes quotations and 12 short meditations for one who is walking with a dying loved one.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Website: www.nhpco.org

Information about the history, services, and frequently asked questions about hospice and palliative care can be found at this website.

Nouwen, Henry. 1982. *A Letter of Consolation*. New York: Harper and Row.

Six months after his mother's death, the author wrote this letter to his father. He writes during Easter season and reflects on the meaning of life and death in that context. The letter acknowledges the loneliness and grief but finds consolation and hope in the victory of love over death as seen in Christ's resurrection.

Rosenblatt, Roger. 2012. *Kayak Morning: Reflections on Love, Grief, and Small Boats*. New York: Harper Collins.

A poignant meditation on the stages of grief by an award-winning author who documents the period after the wrenching death of his adult daughter and describes a kayak journey he took years later that represented his journey of loss and healing.

Schaefer, Daniel and Christine Lyons. 2010. *How Do We Tell the Children? A Step-by-Step Guide for Helping Children and Teens Cope When Someone Dies*, 4th ed. New York: New Market Press.

This book provides honest, age-appropriate and time-tested approaches for adults who try to assist young people to process death of a loved one.

Schwartz, Morris. *Morrie: In His Own Words*. 2008. New York: Walker and Co.

A former sociology professor suffering from an incurable progressive disease shares his thoughts on his approaching death, coming to terms with one's mortality and living life fully.

Sittser, Gerald L. 2004. *A Grace Disguised*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House.

A drunk driver on an Idaho road caused the tragic loss to Sittser of his mother, wife and young daughter. The book is more than a chronicle of the author's sorrow; it is a very moving reflection on the losses we all suffer and the amazing grace of God that can transform us.

Vaux, Kenneth and Sara Vaux. 1996. *Dying Well*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

An excellent study of the many dimensions to help us achieve the goal of a good death. The book has two parts: 1) Basic issues (medical, social, theological); and 2) Case studies and reflections from looking death squarely in the eyes—then moving through it in grace.

Verhey, Allen. 2011. *The Christian Art of Dying: Learning from Jesus*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans.

When facing a life-threatening disease, the author offers both theological sophistication and practical wisdom about how to die well in the Christian faith.

Wengerd, Sara. 2002. *A Healing Grief: Walking With Your Friend Through Loss*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.

Many of us feel awkward and hesitant when talking to a recently bereaved person. The author writes from personal experience and the book provides an antidote for this problem. At the end of each chapter is a list of practical advice and tangible suggestions for action that friends and family can do to comfort the bereaved.

Westberg, Granger. *Good Grief*. 2011. Minneapolis: Augsburg/Fortress Publ.

This small book was first copyrighted in 1962. It is now in its 50th anniversary printing, testifying to its enduring value to many thousands of persons of many faiths. Westberg, a Lutheran chaplain, is well known for his writings about the intersection of faith and health. This book fulfills its claim to be a constructive approach to the problem of loss.

Wolfelt, Alan D. 2009. *Understanding Your Suicide Grief: Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press.

The contents of this book are anchored in the foundation of hope and a belief that healing can and will occur.

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. 2001. *Lament for a Son*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans.

A father writes of his grief for his 25-year-old son who lost his life in a mountain climbing accident in Austria. He writes, “The sharply particular words of lament, so I have learned, give voice to the pain of many forms of loss.” The book was first published in 1987.

Community support groups

Our region offers a number of support groups available to serve grieving people. A telephone number is listed for each and individuals are encouraged to call the contact person to learn more about the individual programs.

Funeral Homes

Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Homes(574) 533-9547

The Compassionate Friends(574) 825-5134

The funeral home provides a place and coordination for this group whose mission is “to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child.”

Yoder-Culp Funeral Home(574) 533-3153

September through February, family and spousal support is offered in case of death of a loved one. Persons may enter and leave the group as they wish.

Agencies

Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital.....(574) 364-2715

The chaplain provides individual and family support for those who are in the hospital. Individuals are referred to area counselors and support groups once they leave the hospital.

“*Parents Sharing Hope*” (574) 642-4617 or (574) 533-6081

The hospital provides these sessions for persons grieving the death of a newborn, with opportunity in each session to talk with another bereaved parent.

Goshen Home Care and Hospice.....(574) 364-2700

Weekly support during three periods of the year is provided as “a means of coping with the loss of loved ones.”

Greencroft Communities, Goshen.....(574) 533-4673

The Widows/Widowers Support Group meets on the last Sunday of each month from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Elkhart Center for Hospice.....(574) 264-3321
Weekly and monthly programs are offered for individuals and families following the death of a significant other. A men’s group meets once a month.

Ryan’s Place (574) 535-1000 or (574) 202-1688
Its purpose is “to provide support in a safe environment where grieving children, teens and their families can share their experience as they move through the healing process.” Weekly support is offered in Goshen and Elkhart. Ryan’s place in Goshen also provides support for families of teen suicides.

Samaritan Center.....(574) 262-3597
Short-term support is provided to churches and other groups.

Oaklawn.....(574) 533-1234

Churches

Two churches in Elkhart County provide Grief Share, a nationally based program (www.griefshare.org):

River Oaks Church.....(574) 533-7919

Nappanee Missionary Church(574) 773-7773

Camp

Camp Evergreen(574) 255-1064

This annual camp is a grief camp for youth and teens who have experienced the death of a significant person in their life. It is non-sectarian, free of charge, held at Bair Lake Bible Camp in Jones, Mich., and is operated by the Center for Hospice Care.

This list of support groups was adapted from lists compiled by the PLUS Fund Committee of the First Presbyterian Church, Goshen, and Indiana University Health Goshen Hospital.