

# **A Guide to Funerals and Memorial Services**



Skidaway Island Methodist Church

Savannah, Georgia

June 2025

## **A Message from the Senior Minister**

Dear Friends,

Skidaway Island Methodist Church developed this manual to assist you at a time when many people feel overwhelmed by the emotions and responsibilities that accompany the passing of a loved one. We hope that it helps you know what is to be done when someone in your family passes away and also to understand what a Christian funeral or memorial service is. In addition, we want to guide you in learning how you may plan your own service now by completing an Omega file once you have studied this guide.

While we all experience grief when a loved one departs this life, we know that death allows us to affirm God's gift of our relationship with the deceased and to testify to God's magnificent gift of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ. The United Methodist Service of Death and Resurrection comforts those in grief, provides a witness of our faith in Christ, and entrusts our loved ones to God's care. While we have prepared this manual with our church members in mind, we often conduct funerals for nonmembers and will continue to do so as we receive requests.

The ministerial staff of our church offers our assistance to you and your family in understanding our funeral practices and policies as well as in planning Services of Death and Resurrection. If you have questions regarding any of the information herein or about our ministry to those in grief, please call us at (912) 598-8460.

Sincerely,

Rev. C. Hale Bishop  
Senior Minister

*In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.*

-- A Statement of the United Church of Canada (United Methodist Hymnal, #883)

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## Introduction

This manual has several objectives. Your church staff would like you to know that they love you and will stand by you in times of sorrow. They also want you to understand the special nature and meaning of Christian funerals and memorial services. They hope that you will express your preferences about your own service by preparing an Omega File. And they want you to know that you may ask them about any of the materials in this guide.

There are various phrases used to describe a funeral or memorial service. You might think of these pages as a summary of what Methodists believe about the end of earthly life, death and resurrection, and the blend of worship and witness in each final service.

This booklet is not a handbook on grief or the process of grieving. Our ministers are able to suggest books and other materials and to recommend counseling when needed, but they are not certified counselors. They know about various grief support groups and can recommend one to you.

Throughout this manual, the terms “funeral” and “memorial service” are used in this way: a funeral is a Service of Death and Resurrection where the body of the deceased is present. In a memorial service, the body is not present. At times, for brevity, this manual uses the word “funeral” where it is clear that both types of services are discussed.

*God is our Refuge and our Strength,  
Our ever present Aid,  
And, therefore, though the earth remove,  
We will not be afraid.*  
--Psalm 46:1-2 (from the *Scottish Psalter*)

## **1 Recording One's Wishes**

*How to Express Your Wishes* Skidaway Island Methodist Church encourages members to record information concerning their wishes for final remembrance by completing an "Omega File" to be maintained in the church office. In this file (see Appendix A of this manual) one may list scripture passages, hymns and other musical selections, and other preferences for the service. You may update the file from time to time if important changes are needed. We advise you to avoid "over-planning," since families sometimes need a degree of flexibility, depending on circumstances at the time of death. Section 3 of this book will guide you in appropriate choices of music, scriptures, and speakers.

*Importance of the Omega File* The best time to complete an Omega File is now. This file will ensure that your final wishes will be known to family members and church staff as we plan your service. Without it, your loved ones may always wonder whether they made the decisions you would have wanted. In our experience, it is a great comfort for surviving family members and friends, as well as the church staff, to know that the deceased person's wishes have been fulfilled. This is one of many reasons why we encourage you to complete your Omega File. Another reason is that the Omega File, unlike the last will and testament, is immediately available to your survivors.

*Other Important Documentation* As you prepare your Omega File, it would be a special kindness to your loved ones to prepare another document for them, outlining the existence of other important legal, business, and personal documentation and where it may be found. A sample list of such documents appears in Appendix B.

*Disposition of Remains* At this time you may also wish to decide on the final disposition of your remains if you have not already done so. Be certain that your family knows your preference in this regard and where they may find documents related to ownership of a cemetery plot or a columbarium niche. Our church has available niches in our Saum Memorial Garden as described in Appendix C of this manual, and you may inquire about those by calling the church office.

*Estate Planning* In planning the disposition of our earthly possessions, it is important that we provide for future generations to continue to advance God's kingdom through the ministries and nurture of Skidaway Island Methodist Church. Not only may we and our families designate how friends and loved ones may direct memorial gifts at the time of our death, but we may also make a bequest to the ministries of the church in our last will and testament. The church staff and members of the finance committee are available to assist with this kind of planning if needed. Please consider a final tithe or support of the ministries of this church for the future through a gift to the endowment of the church or specific ministry areas.

*In him we have redemption through his blood,  
The forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace  
That he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.  
--Ephesians 1:7-8*

## **2 When a Loved One Dies**

*Whom to Call*            If your loved one dies in a hospital, care facility, or hospice, the professionals there will notify you if you are not already present. When a loved one dies at home, call First Response at (912) 355-6688 if he or she is on Skidaway Island or 911 if elsewhere. In either case, the professional responders will know what should be done. If you think a loved one may have died, but you are not sure, it is important to call the professional responders at one of the numbers listed above and say, "I think my \_\_\_\_\_ may have died, but I am not sure."

*Church Office*            We ask you also to call the church office at (912) 598-8460 when the death of a loved one takes place. Also please call the Senior Minister, Rev. Hale Bishop, at (912) 800-5345. The staff is available to comfort you and accompany you in your time of grief. Planning of certain aspects of the Service of Death and Resurrection, such as reserving the venue, begins at once. Here are some decisions that you will want to consider in the hours and days following the loved one's death.

*Funeral Home*            When someone is pronounced dead, one of the immediate decisions for survivors is the choice of a funeral home. (Ideally, that choice will have been made long in advance and will be reflected in documents such as the Omega File that the deceased has made available to family members.) The funeral home will transport the body of the deceased to their premises and later meet with representatives of the family to schedule the visitation (if one is desired) and funeral service (in consultation with the church) and also to make choices about a casket or urn as well as clothing. They will set up a registry for friends and family who attend the visitation and the funeral service to sign. (When no funeral home is involved, the church provides a registry at the service.) The funeral home will apply for the death certificate and ensure that several originals are delivered to the family. They will ask the family for a list of pallbearers and honorary pallbearers (if desired), and the church will reserve seating for these groups, the family, and other groups specified by the family such as clubs, service organizations, and co-workers. If the service is held at our church, we will print a worship bulletin for attendees so there is no need for the leaflet that the funeral home will offer to print. We highly recommend the involvement of a funeral home.

The representatives of the family should make available to the funeral home a legal document showing ownership of a burial site or niche if final disposition of remains involves burial or inurnment. The funeral home will also place the deceased's obituary notice in newspapers designated by the family, to be paid by you, usually through the funeral home. Be sure to check with the church staff before announcing or publishing a time and date for the Service of Death and Resurrection (see following information). If the deceased has not left instructions about the designation of memorial gifts, the family should make that decision and include the information in the obituary.

*Local Establishments*    While the church does not endorse a specific funeral director, the following are familiar with our church and have served the needs of the majority of our families:

Fox & Weeks Funeral Directors	(912) 352-7200
Baker McCullough Funeral Home	(912) 927-1999

#### *Notifying Family and Friends*

You will want to notify immediate family and close friends as soon as you can. Church staff can assist with any calls that you are not able to make at this stage of your grief. The church notifies our congregation by email only after family and friends are notified. Some social media programs such as Facebook allow the user to designate a “legacy user” who can announce the death on the deceased’s account.

#### *Setting a Date and Time for the Service of Death and Resurrection*

In our church, services are most commonly held at 11:00 AM on weekdays and Saturdays. We try to avoid Wednesdays during those times of the year when Bailey Hall will already be set up for Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners. Other dates when our facilities are not available are Sundays, Saturdays preceding Communion Sundays, or during the following: the week of Christmas, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day, Holy Week and Easter, Memorial Day weekend, July 4th weekend, Labor Day weekend, and Thanksgiving weekend. In setting the date, consider who may attend from distant locations and how long it may take them to travel.

#### *Venue*

Both our Sanctuary and Giddens Chapel are available for services. The Chapel is the more intimate setting of the two, seating 90, while the Sanctuary seats 500 comfortably. Most services for our members are held in these two locations, but some families have preferred a service at the funeral home, in our Memorial Garden, or at the graveside. We encourage you to have the service at the church because that is the location most closely associated with the worship of God. In deciding between Giddens Chapel and the Sanctuary, consider the likely attendance, and take into account how recently the deceased has been active in the church and community. Our ministers can help you with this decision.

#### *Type of Service*

Consider whether this will be a funeral (the body of the deceased is present) or a memorial service (interment or inurnment has already taken place). Within our congregation, there are many people who have located here following retirement and who have planned to be buried in other locales. In such cases, there is often a service in our church, with another service elsewhere at a later date. In other cases, the service elsewhere, along with burial or inurnment, may come first. The staff can assist you with the planning of these details.

#### *Planning the Elements of the Service*

If the deceased has completed an Omega File, many of these details will be specified there. Usually, the next-of-kin or the individual designated by the family to speak on their behalf meets with the Senior Minister and the Director of Music Ministries to plan the details. A complete discussion of the service is found in the next chapter.

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son,  
That whosoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

--John 3:16

### 3 The Christian Funeral

*Confronting Death* In the service we confront the reality of death as it pertains to the earthly body, that is, we grieve the loss of our loved one and friend. We give thanks for the life lived on this earth and for God's grace that gave this person salvation and eternal life. We remember those saints who have gone before us and their lives of faith, and, above all, we celebrate Christ's victory over death. We also acknowledge that we gather to comfort in death but to celebrate the life of our loved one and witness to their faith and hope through Jesus Christ.

*Worship and Witness* Like all worship services in our tradition, this one presents elements of worship and witness. What does this mean in terms of how the service is planned and organized? First, the focus is on God, the object of our *worship*. The service gives *witness* to Christ our Redeemer as the host. We are the guests. Through worship and witness we comfort those who mourn and affirm those present God's love in life and in death. (This is why the church discourages private burials.) As believers, we have the opportunity to proclaim confidently that those who die in the Lord will likewise rise with him. We know that Jesus has returned to his heavenly Father to prepare a place where our loved one and all believers will live with God forever. This is our hope in Christ.

*Planning the Service* Since each service is an expression of the deceased person's life in Christ, no two Services of Death and Resurrection are alike. The ministerial staff and the Director of Music Ministries will assist you in planning the order of service, the scripture lessons to be read, and the music to be sung and played. Services in our church may include a reading from the Old and New Testaments. All scripture looks to the story of Christ's death and resurrection or reflects back on it. In many cases, the Minister(s) read(s) a composite of passages appropriate to the service. (See Appendix D for a list of frequently used scriptures.) The Minister(s) will read scripture, offer prayers, summarize the life of the deceased, and give a sermon that speaks to those who are grieving and that testifies to the hope that we have as baptized Christians. At times, family members read scripture. Participation of outside clergy must be approved in advance by the Senior Minister.

*Eulogies* If the family feels strongly that there should be a eulogy beyond what is offered by the Minister, our recommendation is that there be no more than two and that they be no longer than five minutes each. Care should be taken to ensure that speakers are emotionally prepared to speak about the deceased. (In most cases, immediate family members are not ready to speak publicly about their loved one.) We also reserve the right for the officiating Minister to intervene if content unbecoming a Christian service is used or if time limits are not observed. Please be aware that this is a service of worship and that remarks in the service should be appropriate to the worship of God. The Minister will have the concluding remarks of the service.

*Music* The music will be appropriate to a service of worship (secular music is not used but may be considered for the reception following the service). The text of all vocal and choral selections will be based in scripture and will focus on praising God, giving thanks, God's attributes, his creative and redemptive work in the lives of humankind, and his provision of an eternal home for believers in Christ. There are usually two or three congregational hymns and an instrumental (organ) prelude and postlude.



Hymns are the congregation's opportunity to participate in the service. The Director of Music Ministries will locate soloists or instrumentalists as needed. Outside musicians must be approved in advance by the Director of Music Ministries. Appendix E of this manual has a list of appropriate hymns often used in our church.

*Other Liturgical Details* When there is a casket present, the church makes available a special cloth, or pall, to be placed over the casket. Likewise, if an urn is used, the church provides a cloth to be placed over the urn. These elements, like the paraments on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, are white, recalling our baptism into the body of Christ and our belief that in Christ we shall be clothed in glory when earthly life ends. Church staff will advise the funeral home regarding the appropriate liturgical placement of the casket or urn. The Christ Candle burns at every Service of Death and Resurrection. Appendix F outlines the policy for flowers used in the Sanctuary or Giddens Chapel, based on guidelines developed by our Flower Guild.

*Non-liturgical Elements* All observances of a secular nature, such as rites of various fraternal organizations and clubs, will be conducted at a separate time and location. Note that no photographs, secular insignias, or images are used on the casket or the altar. Such items may be displayed on the table in the Narthex or in Bailey Hall (see section 4 below). In the Methodist Church, when military rites are observed, they take place at the end of the service. Often they are conducted at the gravesite or columbarium. Military rites are performed by one of the military branches for a Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Coast Guardsman, or Airman who died in battle, a veteran, or other prominent military figure or head of state. They may feature guards of honor, the firing of volley shots as a salute, presentation of a flag, and/or bugle calls. At times the Honor Guard will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes folding and presenting a flag of the USA to the next of kin and the playing of Taps by a lone bugler or an audio recording. On those rare occasions when rites are conducted at a church or funeral chapel and volley shots are fired, this is done outside the doors of the building. At a gravesite, the guard stands at a prescribed distance so as not to deafen the attendees.

*Worship Bulletin* The church staff will prepare a printed bulletin for the service in consultation with the family. The cover of the bulletin usually consists of a photograph of the deceased alone. The inside left panel contains a scripture, hymn text, or poem that had special meaning for the deceased. The inside right panel shows the order of worship. On the back of the bulletin the obituary is often printed, or photos of the deceased with family and/or friends may be used.

*Ushers* Church ushers will oversee the seating of guests, ensure that space is reserved for the family, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, and other special guests, and distribute bulletins.

*Order of Service* Here is a common outline for the order of service. Every service is slightly different, but this outline is typical. In cases where the family wishes to hear the pre-service music, they may be escorted into the service venue before the music begins.

Pre-service Music (the Prelude)

Procession of the Family (the congregation stands as a sign of respect)

Words of Grace and Greeting  
Scripture Reading  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer  
Words of Remembrance  
Hymn or Solo  
Scripture Reading  
Sermon  
Prayer  
Closing Hymn  
Apostle's Creed  
Benediction  
Recessional and Postlude

*Participants' Arrival*                      The family and other participants in the service, such as eulogists and musicians, should arrive at the church at least 45 minutes in advance of the announced start time of the funeral. Volunteers from the church will accompany you to the church Parlor, which is available for family to assemble in privacy until the hour of service. The officiating Minister will join you there. Also during this time, the staff will advise eulogists on how to approach the chancel, where to stand, and how to use the microphone. It is always prudent to arrange for a close friend to remain in the family's home during the hour of the service and the reception. Families should also arrange for the care of a pet if there is one.

*The Lord will rescue me from all evil and take me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever.*  
--2 Timothy 4:18

*The grace of God has appeared, with salvation for all people.*  
--Titus 2:11

#### 4 Following the Service

*Reception in Bailey Hall* The church has a Memorial Reception Committee that plans and carries out receptions for family members and friends in Bailey Hall immediately following the service. The reception is a ministry of the church, and there is no charge to the family.

The family will receive an information sheet on receptions from the church office and should then contact the Chair of the Memorial Reception Team. The reception is our church's equivalent of a traditional "visitation." Persons who wish to ensure that this ministry continues may donate by writing a check to SIMC and marking it for "Memorial Receptions." The check may be sent to the Controller or to the office staff.

*Items on Display at Reception* The reception is the appropriate venue for displaying photographs, mementos, and other personal items, if families wish to do so. The church office will also assist with the projection of digital photographs on the large screens inside and outside Bailey Hall, if desired.

*Burial or Inurnment* If burial or inurnment takes place locally and has not already occurred prior to the service, the presiding Minister(s) will conduct a brief service of committal at the graveside or, when cremation has occurred, at the columbarium.

*No Charges to the Family* There is no charge to the family of the deceased for the use of facilities, the service bulletin, musicians and staff time. Families who wish to make a love offering to one of the church's funds as a sign of appreciation may do so by writing a check to SIMC, with the specific fund indicated on the memo line of the check and delivering it to the Controller or the office staff. Honorariums for the Ministers and/or the Director of Music Ministries are most commonly given to the Minister's Discretionary Fund or the Music Fund accordingly.

*God is not a God of the Dead, but of the living—for all who are in Christ are alive and enjoying his presence.*

--Luke 20:38

## 5 The Communion of Saints

*The Fellowship of All Believers* In his work on the Kingdom of Heaven, the nineteenth-century scholar Edward Burbidge defines the meaning of “the Communion of Saints” as “the Communion or fellowship which Christians enjoy with God, and therefore with one another, whether in this world or in Paradise.” The Methodist Church believes that when we worship, we are accompanied by all those believers who have gone before us and who join us in the praise and adoration of our God. Today’s readers will think of the words we speak during the liturgy for Communion: “With your people on earth and all the company of Heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”

*Preserving the Memory of Those Who Have Gone Before Us* Many writers who study death and resurrection recommend that congregations find ways in the ongoing life of the church to remember those saints who are now part of the company of heaven. Skidaway Island Methodist Church has several ways of commemorating those who have entered into eternal life.

- We conduct a Service of Comfort and Hope that recalls the departed and reaches out to those in grief.
- On All Saints Day we read the name of each church member who has died within the last year. As each name is read, a candle is lit, and a chime tolls, in remembrance of their role in our faith community.
- In the church’s courtyard near the prayer labyrinth, the All Saints Memorial Wall lists the names of all members who have entered into eternal life.
- The church has established the Saum Memorial Garden across the driveway from Giddens Chapel. The plantings and other landscape features are maintained by volunteers to highlight the beauty of God’s creation and his eternal presence in our lives. Flowers remind us of Christ’s resurrection. The garden provides a quiet place for reflection and remembrance. Church members may purchase a niche for inurnment in our columbarium located within the memorial garden, by calling the church office (see Appendix C regarding policies and costs).
- Congregants may designate gifts to memorialize family members and friends in various ways. Church staff members are available to discuss these opportunities with you. The memorial book in the Narthex of our Sanctuary lists the many generous memorial gifts that were instrumental in the building and furnishing of our facilities.
- Church members may underwrite the cost of altar flowers at Sunday services to memorialize loved ones, by calling the church office at (912) 598-8460.

*“The Saints on earth, and those above,  
But one communion make;  
Joined to their Lord in bonds of love,  
All of His grace partake.”*  
--Charles Wesley

**Appendix A**  
**Omega File**  
**Please Return to Skidaway Island Methodist Church**

Name:		
Address:		
Phone Number:	Date of Birth:	Birthplace:
Occupation:		
Status (circle one):      Single      Married      Divorced      Widowed		
Spouse's Full Name, if applicable:		Marriage Date:
Two persons you would like contacted in case of emergency (name, phone, location):		
1.		
2.		
Do you have an Advanced Healthcare Directive?		Where is it?
Funeral home preference:		
Type of funeral (circle one):      Church      Graveside      Memorial Service (cremation)		
Favorite passage or scripture reading desired:		
Special requests for your service, if any:		
Preferred hymns:		
Readings, poetry, etc.:		
List any philanthropic services performed that should be mentioned.		
List any special achievements, accomplishments or traits that would make the service more meaningful if mentioned.		
Requests in lieu of flowers? Yes   No	Is there any consideration in your will to remember the church? Yes   No	

## **Appendix B**

### **Other Important Documents**

In addition to completing the Omega File, consider making other important legal, business, and personal information available to your family or a trusted professional. This should not be considered an exhaustive list, but some examples that may apply to some individuals:

Funeral Home Preference and Contact Information  
Last Will and Testament  
Documents related to Cemetery Plot or Columbarium Niche  
Preference about Where Memorial Gifts Should Be Directed  
Durable Power of Attorney  
Health Care Power of Attorney  
Advance Directive (Living Will)  
Do-Not-Resuscitate Order  
Registered Organ Donor?  
Biographical Information  
Designation of Guardianship of Minor Children  
Trusts (created by you or in which you are a beneficiary)  
Location of Safety Deposit Box and Key  
Mortgages  
Loans  
Credit Cards  
Equity Lines  
Tangible Personal Property  
Status as a Trustee, Conservator, Guardian, Agent, Executor for Anyone  
Birth Certificate  
Marriage License  
Adoption Documents  
Divorce Documents  
Passport  
Copyrights, Patents, Royalties  
Income Tax Records  
Insurance Policies  
Passwords and Information on Assets and Accounts (Banks, Brokerages)  
Retirement Plans (Pensions, Annuities, IRAs)  
Financial Arrangements that Are Not Memorialized (e.g., gifts, loans, etc.)  
Employer Death Benefits  
Succession Plans for Business Interests  
Pet Names and Plans for Them  
Names and Contact Information:

Attorney	Trustee(s), if any
Executor	Banking representatives
Tax professional	Insurance agent(s)
Financial Planner	Business partner(s)

## **Appendix C**

### **Saum Memorial Garden Policies and Procedures**

The purpose of the Memorial Garden is to provide an area of beauty and dignity for the caring disposition of the cremated remains of loved ones. It serves to unite the church family and offers comfort to those who wish to remain close to the church even in death. The garden provides an alternative memorial that is suited to our beliefs and is accessible to all of our members.

A Memorial Garden Committee shall be responsible for formulating policies and procedures and shall govern the operation of the garden. The committee shall also determine who qualifies for the placing of cremains in the garden. Only the clergy may actually inter the cremains in the ground or a niche.

Disposition of ashes may be of three types:

1. In a biodegradable holder buried in the ground among the plantings.
2. In a container within a niche in the memorial wall.
3. Scattered within the garden.

Only current and former members of Skidaway Island Methodist Church and their immediate families may be interred in the garden or memorial wall. Appropriate fees will be charged for names inscribed on the plaque or face of the niches (see fee structure below).

Niches in the wall may be reserved by payment of the current fee. Spaces may be selected by the buyer and the location of occupied or reserved spaces is kept in a master file in the church office.

A certificate of ownership will be issued showing the location and date purchased. If for any reason a decision is made not to use a niche already selected and paid for, it must be turned in to the Memorial Garden Committee and when resold the original purchase price will be refunded.

Receipts in excess of the amount required for the present expenses of the garden will be held in a separate fund to be administered by the Memorial Garden Committee. This will be expended only for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Memorial Garden and capital expenditures required in connection with the garden.

No form of burial site identification may be installed other than names on the common plaque or the memorial wall. To prevent future duplication, names may not be inscribed on both the common plaque and the niches.

Flowers will be permitted for a private interment service. They will be removed within one week of the service. To remember a loved one on a special occasion, a single flower in a bud vase or floral tube may be placed on the sidewalk in front of the wall. No floral arrangements, plants, artificial flowers or other mementos are permitted in the garden and nothing may be attached to the wall.

Contributions in memory of a loved one may be made to the Memorial Garden Fund for replacement of seasonal flowers or shrubs in the garden.

Only standardization of inscription on faces of niches in the Memorial Garden Wall is permitted as shown in these examples.

EXAMPLES:

SINGLE:

DOUBLE:

JANE D.  
DOE  
June 30, + Dec 12,  
1968      1994

DOE  
JOHN D.  
1900 + 1995  
JANE D.  
1899 + 1989

#### NICHE DIMENSIONS

top-to-bottom: 9 ¼"

side-to-side: 9 ½"

front-to-back: 9 ½"

#### CURRENT FEES

Brass nameplate for bronze plaque (for ashes that are buried/scattered) \$350.00

Niche in Memorial Garden Wall \$2,000.00

(Includes price of engravings of the granite niche face)

The Memorial Garden Committee reserves the right to modify or revoke these policies and procedures and to adjust fees from time to time.



**Appendix D**  
**Suggested Scripture Readings**

(Other passages may be discussed with the Senior Minister.)

Psalm 23 (KJV)	The Lord Is My Shepherd.
Psalm 42 (UMH 777)	As a deer longs for flowing streams
Psalm 43 (UMH 778)	You are the God in whom I take refuge.
Psalm 46 (UMH 780)	God is our refuge and strength.
Psalm 90 (UMH 809)	From everlasting to everlasting
Psalm 91 (UMH 810)	My God in whom I trust
Psalm 103 (UMH 824)	Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Psalm 116 (UMH 837)	I will lift up the cup of salvation.
Psalm 121 (UMH 844)	I lift up my eyes to the hills.
Psalm 139 (UMH 854)	O Lord, you have searched me.
Psalm 145 (UMH 857)	The Lord is gracious and merciful.
Psalm 146 (UMH 858)	Praise the Lord, O my soul.
Isaiah 40	God's people comforted
Canticle of Hope (UMH 734)	God shall wipe away all our tears.
Canticle of Remembrance (UMH 652)	The souls of the righteous
Luke 24	Jesus at Emmaus
John 11	The raising of Lazarus
John 14	The way to the Father
Romans 8	The life-giving Spirit
1 Corinthians 13	Love, the better way
1 Corinthians 15	Resurrection essential to the Gospel
2 Corinthians 4:5-18	Glory in God
Ephesians 1:15-23; 2:1-10	Alive in Christ
1 Peter 1:3-9, 13, 21-25	Blessed by God
Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17	The multitude of the redeemed
Revelation 21	The new creation

**Appendix E**  
**Suggested Hymns from *The United Methodist Hymnal***

UMH

110	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
62	All Creatures of Our God and King
154	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
155	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
378	Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
530	Are Ye Able
534	Be Still, My Soul
451	Be Thou My Vision
364	Because He Lives
557	Blest Be the Tie that Binds
420	Breathe on Me, Breath of God
302	Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
407	Close to Thee
158	Come, Christians, Join to Sing
304	Easter People, Raise Your Voices
710	Faith of Our Fathers
711	For All the Saints
577	God of Grace and God of Glory
127	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
128	He Leadeth Me
77	How Great Thou Art
711	Hymn of Promise
103	Immortal, Invisible
314	In the Garden
469	Jesus Is All the World to Me
89	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
344	Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
384	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
733	Marching to Zion
368	My Hope Is Built
452	My Faith Looks Up to Thee
528	Nearer, My God, to Thee
57	O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
117	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
474	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
160	Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
361	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
395	Take Time to Be Holy
545	The Church's One Foundation
292	What Wondrous Love Is This

## **Appendix F**

### **Guidelines for Flowers**

*The following information has been provided by the Flower Guild of Skidaway Island Methodist Church for use in planning funerals that will take place in our Sanctuary or Giddens Chapel. Please share this information with your florist and contact the church with any questions you may have (contact information appears below).*

#### **Recommended Florists:**

Johnson's Florist & Balloon Co.  
(912) 920-4644  
johnsonsflostandballoons.com

John Davis Florist  
(912) 233-6077  
johndavisflorist.com

Madame Chrysanthemum  
(912) 238-3355  
madamechrysanthemum.com

#### **Guidelines for Your Arrangement:**

- Our practice is that only one set of flowers be used for the service and that it be an arrangement on the center of the altar table.
- We recommend that large or medium arrangements be used on the altar table. Small arrangements in vases appear out of proportion.
- Arrangements on the altar table in the Sanctuary should be no taller than the altar candles (30 inches) and no wider than the distance between them (44 inches). Under no circumstances should the altar candles be moved. The altar table is 31 inches deep.
- Dimensions for Giddens Chapel arrangements are 22 inches high, 35 inches wide, and 30 inches deep.
- The church's urns are not available for your use. Please ask your florist to plan accordingly.
- For funerals, we recommend that any small vases, wreaths, or other flowers sent to the family be placed in the Parlor or the fellowship hall.
- If flowers are used on the altar, no other items (flags, photos, memorabilia, etc.) should be placed on the table. The altar should never appear overcrowded. The church has a special pedestal designed to hold a folded flag.
- When cremains are placed on the altar, no flowers are used on the altar. The church's two wooden flower stands are available for your use. These are designed for fern-type arrangements and are normally placed inside the communion rail on each side of the chancel/altar area.

#### **Church Contact Information:**

Paul Chant  
Director of Music Ministries  
(912) 598-8460

Jane Cook  
Chair of SIMC Flower Guild  
(912) 677-0481

## Skidaway Island Methodist Church

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