FUNERAL

HYMN OF PROMISE

In our end is our beginning

In our time, infinity

In our doubt, there

is believing

In our life, eternity

In our death, a resurrection

At the last, a victory

Unrevealed until its season

Something God alone can see

United Methodist Hymnal #707

INTRODUCTION

BRENTWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is a faith-filled, caring congregation. Our Christian commitment is to be present with one another, in the name of Jesus, in every phase of life's journey: from baptism, through the Christian life, and into the hope of Resurrection with Christ.

When faced with death, we come together as a community to praise God and to witness to our resurrection faith.

The central doctrine of the Christian faith is the Resurrection. Christians affirm their common faith in their attitude toward death and in their witness of faith during this time.

THIS GUIDE IS RECOMMENDED:

- For study and reference for each member of BUMC to enhance our theological understanding of (and preparedness for) death
- To aid us in the practical and personal preparations for death
- To aid in funeral or memorial service preparations
- To assist loved ones at that time

Planning a service can be a blessing to those in grief, a time to laugh and to cry, as stories are shared and retold. It is our pleasure to guide you and your family through this sacred journey.

The material is based on The United Methodist Book of Worship and outlines the specific policies of Brentwood United Methodist Church.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our pastors or a member of the Caring Ministries Staff at **615.373.3663**.

FIRST THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A SERVICE

- Choose between burial and cremation
- Funeral home
- Location and time of service (have a few options in case first choice unavailable)
- Minister(s) involved in the service
- Memorial contributions (in lieu of flowers)
- Military honors
- Piano or organ

MAKING SERVICE PLANS

In addition to meeting with the funeral home, the family will have two meetings:

1. With the BUMC Funeral Coordinator to talk through order of worship preferences, musical selections, visitation details, and more.
2. With the officiating pastor to tell stories and share important details to provide a more complete picture of the life of the deceased.

BEFORE DEATH OCCURS

Because it is often difficult to plan during times of grief and emotional stress, we encourage you to review this material, fill out the service planning forms, and discuss your preferences with your family and/or friends. A pastor and/or member of Caring Ministries will be happy to assist you in making your plans. Once completed, a permanent file will be made and your record in the church database will reflect that you have pre-planned your service.

WHEN DEATH IS IMMINENT OR WHEN DEATH OCCURS

Those who are bereaved are not called upon to face death in isolation from other Christians. They can and should be sustained and upheld by the Christian community.

In the event of a death or if death is impending, contact one of the pastors at **615.373.3663** so they can offer support and help guide the planning process. The pastors are available to walk with you during this sacred and difficult time, to help bear grief and make decisions where appropriate.

Should a death occur after work hours or on weekends, call our pastor-on-call at **615.969.3086**. Please leave a voicemail and the pastor will return your call, usually within 10-15 minutes.

If you have not already selected a funeral home to help you, we highly recommend Austin Funeral and Cremation Services (austinfuneralservice.com). You can contact them at **615.377.0775**. They are also available 24/7 at **615.609.0202** or **615.430.4817**.

FUNERAL HOME RESPONSIBILITIES

There are a few things for which you should rely on the funeral home to provide or give guidance:

- Casket or urn (unless interment at BUMC Columbarium, in which case we provide the urn)
- Cemetery choice – plot or niche space
- Flowers
- Processional to cemetery
- Visitation, if held at the funeral home
- Obituary
- Guest book
- Military honors

GENERAL SERVICE INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Celebration of Life and Resurrection is a worship service to glorify God, who promises eternal life through Jesus Christ, and should be conducted with dignity, simplicity, and reverence. Through the worship of God, we also hope to console those who grieve and to honor a person's life and witness.

TYPES OF SERVICES

FUNERAL: Traditionally understood as a Celebration of Life and Resurrection in which the body is present in a casket. (Often used interchangeably with memorial service)

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Traditionally understood as a Celebration of Life and Resurrection in which the body is not present. There may be cremated remains or no remains at all. (Often used interchangeably with funeral)

SERVICE OF COMMITTAL: Burial of the casket or interment of cremated remains may take place prior to or after the service of worship. In the event of cremation, they can be arranged for a later date.

Burial, cremation, or body donation are all appropriate options within the Christian tradition. A casket or urn need not be present at the service and a separate interment is appropriate.

No body or cremains may be left in the church overnight. This is the responsibility of the Funeral Home Director or the family.

MILITARY HONORS AND FRATERNAL SERVICES: Both are welcome, but neither can happen inside one of our sacred spaces. We can do them outside in the Prayer Garden or inside in the Sanctuary Narthex. These arrangements are made by the Funeral Home.

PRIVATE VIEWINGS: If the family wishes to have a private viewing, it will be held inside the worship space one hour prior to the start time of the visitation (or an hour prior to the start time of the service if there is no visitation). A funeral home representative must be present and handle the opening and closing of the casket on the agreed-upon schedule.

No photographs may be taken during worship services at Brentwood United Methodist Church.

PASTORS
615.373.3663

PASTOR-ON-CALL
615.969.3086 (After Hours or Weekends)

FUNERAL HOME
Austin Funeral and Cremation Services (austinfuneralservice.com)
615.377.0775 (office)
615.609.0202 or **615.430.4817** (cell, 24/7)

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF SERVICE

It is appropriate for the funeral to be held in the Sanctuary, Chapel, or Memorial Chapel at BUMC. The service shall be under the direction of the Caring Ministries Staff with others properly invited to participate as requested. There are a few limitations to the use of spaces at BUMC due to staffing and other ministry commitments:

- Services may be scheduled Monday through Friday during BUMC office hours.
- No services can be scheduled on holidays for which the church is closed or on holiday weekends.
  - New Year's Day
  - MLK Day
  - Holy Week
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
  - Labor Day
  - Thanksgiving
  - Christmas Eve
  - Christmas
  - Day after Christmas

FEES

FACILITY USE: There are no fees for the use of the facility for members and regular attendees of BUMC. We do not offer our facility as a funeral venue for people not connected to BUMC.

HONORARIUMS: Many families choose to provide honorariums to those leading the funeral service. This is not required but may be given at a family's discretion and can be distributed for you on the day of service by the Funeral Coordinator. Suggested honorariums are:

$200-350 for Lead Pastor or Bishop

$100-200 for Assisting Pastor, Musicians

$100-125 for Audio Engineer

OUTSIDE MUSICIANS: If outside musicians or vocalists are requested, the family will be responsible for paying those participants.

INTERMENT IN BUMC COLUMBARIUM

Interment of ashes may be held before or after the memorial service, or at a later date. The officiating pastor will lead standard liturgy and prayers.

For information about reserving a niche in the BUMC Columbarium, please contact Caring Ministries at **615.373.3663**.

VISITATION

A visitation can be held for one hour prior to the service in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Chapel Narthex.

GUESTBOOK: While we do not provide guestbooks, a family or funeral home is welcome to bring them to be available upon arrival at the service. You may choose to bring two guestbooks to avoid crowding and long lines.

CASKET OR URN: If a casket or urn is present, it may be placed at the foot of the Sanctuary Narthex stairs or in the front of the Sanctuary or Chapel during the visitation.

HOSPITALITY: Water and tissues will be provided for the family in a designated location during the visitation.

PHOTOS AND MEMORABILIA:

Photos may be displayed during the visitation.

- Tables and black table coverings can be provided to display framed photos and other meaningful items. Family members oftentimes set up a memory table with photos, albums, awards or certificates of achievement, samples from hobbies, or other personal items connected to their loved one.

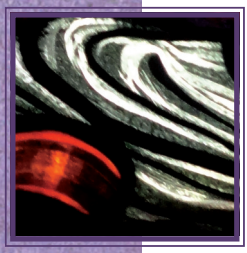
- A TV cart can be provided by the church to present a photo slideshow. Photos can be on a DVD or a thumb drive. The media should have no other files on it (only the photos to be presented at the visitation should be on the DVD or thumb drive). We recommend no more than 75 photos to ensure guests will see the full presentation.

CASKET OR URN

The casket or urn will be covered with a pall (see below) and placed at the front of the worship space before the service begins. At the end of the service, it will follow the pastors out during the recessional.

The casket should be placed in a position perpendicular to the altar. Caskets will not be open during the visitation or service.

If the body has been cremated, the urn – if present – should be placed on an appropriate stand in full view of the congregation.



PALL

A pall is a large cloth covering for the casket. The pall is a symbol of the fact that we are "clothed" in grace. In Christ, we put off the old self and put on a new creation. Also, a pall – in covering the casket or urn – symbolically expresses the Christian's conviction that all persons are equal in the eyes of God. Additionally, it allows that the attention of those present may be directed toward the service.

If the casket is present, it will be covered by a white pall provided by the church. If the family chooses to use a flower pall, it will be removed when the casket enters the worship space. The church pall will then cover the casket during the service. Following the benediction, as the casket is taken from the worship space, the flower pall will again be placed on the casket.

There is also a white pall and small box in which ashes may be placed during the service.

PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal candle stands at the head of the casket or behind the cremated remains during the service. In the event that no remains are present, the Paschal candle still stands as a symbol of God's gift of grace bestowed upon us in baptism. It has been used since ancient times to remind God's people that we, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, are delivered from darkness

and into the light of God's eternal love. Death and Resurrection are the basic meanings of baptism. Physical death marks the final and complete baptism in which, by the power of God, we are delivered into God's eternal kingdom.

FLOWERS

Although not necessary, the family may want to furnish flowers for the service. In an effort to encourage simplicity and worshipfulness so that all present may focus their attention on the service, flowers should be limited to no more than two arrangements in addition to the altar arrangement. If there are more than two arrangements, they will be placed in the Narthex. Flowers will need to be delivered on the day of the service.

Sanctuary altar flowers cannot exceed:
36"h x 48"w x 18"d

Chapel flowers cannot exceed:
30"h x 36"w x 12"d

Memorial Chapel flowers cannot exceed:
16"h x 24"w x 12"d

You are welcome to work with any florist. If you would like a recommendation, we most often work with Accent Flowers on Wilson Pike Circle as they do our Sunday worship altar flowers each week. When you call Accent, you can tell them you need an altar arrangement for a funeral at Brentwood United Methodist Church, and they will be able to talk you through making selections.

FLORIST
Accent Flowers (accentinbrentwood.net)
615.373.8484

PHOTOS AND MEMORABILIA

Inside the worship space, only one photo may be displayed: a single, formal portrait, framed and placed at the front either on a small table or on an easel. The appropriate size for a photo frame or canvas is 16"x20". The church provides an easel upon request.

No photo slideshows may be shown during the service.

All other photos and memorabilia a family wishes to share will be in the Narthex (see visitation information).

SERVICE ELEMENTS

There is a standard United Methodist liturgy followed at BUMC for funerals. The service is always placed in the context of worship. While the emphasis of the service is placed on the declaration of Christian hope and resurrection, it will also celebrate the life of the deceased with thanksgiving and extend comfort and intercession for those who grieve.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER

Roughly 5-10 minutes before the service begins, the Funeral Coordinator from BUMC will begin to guide guests into the worship space to be seated. The family that is processing in will be held in the Narthex and the doors to the worship space will be closed. This allows for a moment to take care of any personal needs, receive final instructions, and have a moment of prayer with the pastors. During this time, pre-service music will be played by the pianist or organist inside the worship space.

SEATING

Seats are reserved for the family and pallbearers (active and honorary) at the front of the worship space. Facing the chancel area, the family is seated to the left of the center aisle and all pallbearers (with their guests) are seated to the right of the center aisle.

PROCESSION

The procession into the service is led by the clergy (or by a crucifer when requested) followed by the family. During the procession, a piece of instrumental music will be played.

LITURGY

The service will include standard United Methodist liturgy and prayers. A credal statement will be included among the liturgies. Creeds have served the Church for generations as a powerful means of reaffirming the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. We will also use the Lord's Prayer and other congregational readings based on Scripture.

SCRIPTURE

The Scriptures are a rich resource for the funeral service. Together, the family and pastor will select at least one scripture reading for the service. Any further readings (poems, song lyrics, etc.) that have special meaning to the family or the deceased are carefully examined to ensure that they are consistent with the Biblical affirmation of God's great love and power over death and may be included in consultation with the funeral coordinator. Suggested scriptures are included on the resource page.

MUSIC

Music is an integral part of any worship service at BUMC. So often, music can speak volumes when we are unable to speak at all. Music chosen should point the congregation to God, celebrate the life of the deceased, and offer consolation to those who grieve. Because we believe that worship is our authentic offering to God, the church uses only live musicians for music offered in worship, Therefore, recorded music and accompaniment tracks are not permitted in any of our worship services. As an expression of our common faith, it is appropriate that those assembled join in the singing of songs or hymns which declare belief in the life everlasting.

MUSICIANS

The church organist or pianist is available for services. The BUMC Worship and Arts Department will also provide a soloist or worship leader for the service. Other employed or guest instrumentalists may be employed or invited through the Director of Worship and Arts. The family would be expected to cover the cost of any external paid musicians enlisted to be part of the funeral service.

FAMILY AND FRIEND REMEMBRANCES

When offering a remembrance, we recommend the speaker focuses their time on the way they have been personally transformed by having known and loved the deceased. They are encouraged to speak from their unique perspective rather than list facts that are commonly known. No one will be able to say everything that needs to be said, so we recommend selecting just a couple of things that must be said. The service structure provides up to ten minutes for these reflections with no more than three speakers in that time period.

If only one speaker:	**6-8 minutes**
If two speakers:	**4-5 minutes each**
If three speakers:	**3-4 minutes each**

If more people than we allow are desiring to be included in the service, please ask about a template for a collaborative “Litany of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.”

HOMILY

A brief homily, praising God for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of Resurrection for all Christians, will be included in the service. The homily will also offer words of thanksgiving for the particular life, gifts, and experiences of the deceased.

RECESSIONAL

There will be a recessional at the conclusion of the service. It is led by the pastors, followed by the casket or urn, pallbearers, and immediate family members.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Below is the typical order of worship for a service at BUMC. The average length of service is 45 minutes, but they will be shorter or longer based on the selections a family makes. We can make slight adjustments based on preferences, but the service will stay very close to the following:

Suggestions for songs, statements of faith, and scripture can be found on pages 16 & 17.

1. **GATHERING (PRE-SERVICE) MUSIC:** Instrumental music, beginning up to 20 minutes before the service begins. This will include requested hymns or a selection of the musician's choice
2. **PROCESSIONAL (FAMILY ENTRANCE):** Instrumental, family can select song
3. **WORDS OF GRACE AND GREETING:** Spoken by the officiating (lead) pastor
4. **MUSIC:** Can be a congregational hymn, lyrical solo, or instrumental solo
5. **STATEMENT OF FAITH:** A congregational credal statement said in unison (Psalm 23 and the Apostles' Creed are popular)
6. **FAMILY AND FRIEND REMEMBRANCES:** Up to 3 speakers, no more than 10 minutes total
7. **MUSIC:** Can be a congregational hymn, lyrical solo, or instrumental solo
8. **SCRIPTURE READING:** Read by one of the pastors or a person selected by the family
9. **HOMILY:** Done by officiating pastor
10. **PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER:** Pastor offers a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession followed by the Lord's Prayer, which is prayed by the entire congregation
11. **MUSIC:** Can be a congregational hymn, lyrical solo, or instrumental solo
12. **COMMENDATION:** Final prayer offering the deceased to God's loving care
13. **BENEDICTION:** A prayer sending the congregation forth by the officiating pastor
14. **RECESSIONAL (FAMILY EXITS SANCTUARY):** Instrumental, family can select song

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH

BUMC will send an email announcing the death of a church member through our Funeral Notices email list. Our announcement will also include a link to the obituary (where applicable).

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial giving is a wonderful and meaningful way to remember and memorialize our loved ones. Many friends and family members will choose to give a memorial gift in lieu of flowers. In the service bulletin, we will indicate the places to which you would like memorial gifts directed. This is often included in the obituary as well.

If a family chooses, memorial gifts may be given to Brentwood United Methodist Church. Undesignated memorial gifts are contributed to the operating budget for the year, supporting ongoing missions, programs, operations, and personnel. Designated memorial gifts can be given to specific ministries, programs, or departments.

Memorial gifts may be given to the Brentwood UMC Foundation. The Foundation exists to ensure the physical and spiritual well-being and presence of Brentwood UMC in the community for future generations. It achieves this by providing financial resources, fostering partnerships, and promoting charitable initiatives aligned with the Church's mission and values. The Foundation provides support for ongoing mission and ministry of BUMC, new ministry initiatives, and for our strategic ministry partners. The Foundation also supports annual undergraduate scholarships to BUMC youth and a seminary level scholarship to qualified students. To learn more about the BUMC Foundation go to **bumc.net/foundation**.

If a family chooses to designate their loved one's memorial gifts to BUMC or to the BUMC Foundation, checks can be made out to BUMC or BUMC Foundation with "*Name* Memorial" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to **BUMC at 309 Franklin Road, Brentwood TN, 37027**. Gifts can also be handled by calling the Finance Department at **615.324.8214**.

BULLETINS

BUMC will create and print service bulletins for all guests. The bulletin has a standard format that is followed for all services. We do not include photos on the front or obituaries on the back. Funeral homes can usually provide an extra card with this information upon request. The family will be provided with a proof of the bulletin (via email) before it is printed and must approve the final bulletin no later than 24 hours before the service. No changes or updates can be guaranteed after that.

AFTER THE SERVICE

GRIEF FOLLOW UP

Your church does not want you to feel that you are alone following your loss. We will send grief books quarterly following the death of a loved one. You will receive the final book in the series of four at the first anniversary of your loved one's death. The mailing of each book also includes reminders about available BUMC resources to support you during this season.

ALL SAINTS' SERVICE

All Saints' Day (November 1) is celebrated at BUMC on the first Sunday of November. On this day, we remember and commemorate the communion of saints, known and unknown, and the cloud of witnesses to the faith with whom God has surrounded us (Hebrews 12:1).

We remember especially our beloved church family members and friends who are no longer with us and who gave their love to us, the Church, and the world. We invite you and your family to be a part of our next All Saints' service. Your loved one's name will be called, a bell will toll, and a white rose will be placed in a vase for all who have graduated to the church eternal since the last All Saints' Day. You are invited to take a rose home with you.

THE LONGEST NIGHT

For many, Advent and Christmas are traditionally seasons of light – a time of joy, celebration, and excited anticipation. But for many of us the longer nights and colder temperatures will stir up our sadness – even fear or shame. This can be an especially difficult time for those who have suffered a loss since last Christmas.

On or near the Longest Night of the year, we step into the light together to offer our pain to God and open our lives to the hope God has promised us in Jesus. Our worship space is lit with hundreds of candles, and we find comfort through music, liturgy, preaching, and prayer. Stephen Ministers are available at these services for support and prayer. Services are held a few days before Christmas each year.

CHAD WELCH MEMORIAL PRAYER GARDEN

We also invite you to visit the Chad Welch Memorial Prayer Garden. On the plaques in the Colonnade will be a name plate to memorialize each person who was a member of BUMC at the time of their death.

GRIEF SUPPORT

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastors are available to provide one-on-one pastoral care or grief support. Request a meeting by calling the church or emailing **caringministries@bumc.net**

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers are members of our church who have received extensive training and provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care for people who are dealing with any of life's difficulties. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for as long as your need persists. You can request the care of a Stephen Minister by calling their confidential hotline at **615.577.4881**, submitting a request at **bumc.net/stephen**, or by talking to one of the BUMC pastors for a referral.

GRIEF CARE GROUP SUPPORT

One of our pastors provides Grief Care several times a year. This is a chance to gather with others who have faced loss. We name our grief and share our experiences, tell stories, and develop tools for managing our grief long-term. Most people who choose to do the Grief Care class wait until about 9 months after their loss. If you would like to be notified when the next class is scheduled, please contact **caringministries@bumc.net.**

FUNERAL HYMN SUGGESTIONS

OPENING HYMNS OF PRAISE (SUNG TO GOD)

To begin a service, also suitable at any time in service

110 ..... A Mighty Fortress is our God (all)
62 ..... All Creatures of our God and King (1, 2, 5, & 7)
154 ..... All Hail the Power of Jesus Name (1, 2, 4, & 6)
302 ..... Christ the Lord is Risen Today (1, 2, 3, & 4)
158 ..... Come, Christians Join to Sing (all)
711 ..... For all the Saints (1, 2, 5, & 6)
92 ..... For the Beauty of the Earth (1, 2, 4, & 6)
577 ..... God of Grace, and God of Glory (all)
140 ..... Great is Thy Faithfulness (all)
127 ..... Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (all)
64 ..... Holy, Holy, Holy (all)
77 ..... How Great Thou Art (1, 2, & 4)
89 ..... Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (all)
580 ..... Lead On, O King Eternal (all)
159 ..... Lift High the Cross (all)
384 ..... Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (all)
102 ..... Now Thank We all our God (all)
117 ..... O God Our Help in Ages Past (1, 2, 5, & 6)
66 ..... Praise my Soul the King of Heaven (1, 2, & 4)
139 ..... Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (1, 2, 3, & 5)
160 ..... Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (1, 3, 4, & 5)
308 ..... Thine Be the Glory (all)

HYMNS OF FAITH AND TESTIMONY (SUNG ABOUT GOD)

These hymns are suitable except as opening hymns.

378 ..... Amazing Grace (1, 2, 3, & 6)
700 ..... Abide with Me (1, 3, 4, & 5)
534 ..... Be Still My Soul (all)
451 ..... Be Thou my Vision (all)
364 ..... Because He Lives (1 & 3)
420 ..... Breathe on Me, Breath of God (all)
128 ..... He Leadeth Me (1, 2, & 4)
310 ..... He Lives (all)
707 ..... Hymn of Promise (all)
377 ..... It Is Well with My Soul (all)
469 ..... Jesus Is All the World to Me (1, 2, & 4)
452 ..... My Faith Looks Up to Thee (1, 3, & 4)
528 ..... Nearer My God to Thee (1, 3, & 5)
474 ..... Precious Lord, Take My Hand (all)
361 ..... Rock of Ages (1, 3, & 4)
328 ..... Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place (all)
545 ..... The Church's One Foundation (1, 2, 4, & 5)
303 ..... The Day of Resurrection (all)
138 ..... The King of Love My Shepherd Is (1, 2, 4, & 6)

SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Psalm 16:9, 11 ..... Therefore my heart is glad
Psalm 23..... The Lord is my shepherd
Psalm 130..... Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Isaiah 40:28-31..... Do you not know?
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15..... There is a time for everything
Matthew 5:1-12..... The Beatitudes
Matthew 18:3-4, 10, 14..... I tell you the truth
Matthew 19:14..... Let the little children come to me
Matthew 25:42-45 ..... I was hungry, I was thirsty
John 3:16 ..... God so loved the world
John 11:25 ..... I am the resurrection and the life
John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27 ..... Do not let your hearts be troubled
Romans 8:31b-32, 35-39 ..... If God is for us
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ..... If I speak in the tongues
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 ..... Listen, I tell you a mystery
Revelation 21:1-5 ..... Then I saw a new heaven

AFFIRMATIONS OF FAITH AND PRAYERS

A STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty.
maker of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Amen

AFFIRMATIONS FROM ROMANS 8:35, 37-39

LEADER:
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

PEOPLE:
No!

In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.

We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

A MODERN AFFIRMATION

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,

and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Surely goodness
and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I shall dwell
in the house of the Lord
forever.

Amen

BRENTWOOD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 Franklin Road
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
615.373.3663 • bumc.net

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