

Celebration of Life: Initial Funeral / Memorial Thoughts / Possibilities / Plans

- *They say such nice things about people at their funerals that it makes me sad that I'm going to miss mine by just a few days.* Garrison Keillor
- *Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours.* Yogi Berra
- *We don't do funerals in my family.* M. Helvin
- *I'm a typical Irishman in that I only get home for weddings and funerals.* Walter O'Brien
- *We have birthdays and bar mitzvahs and funerals and weddings. And these ceremonies and rituals, I believe, really help us transition from one point to another.* Suleika Jaouad

As these quotes suggest, there is a wide variety of opinions and options when it comes to funeral and memorial planning. As Garrison Keillor notes, we'll probably miss our own by a few days, but our thoughts, desires and input might well be appreciated by our loved ones left behind.

This worksheet allows you to share some of your initial thoughts about what you would like to happen at your funeral.

- What are some meaningful experiences you have had when attending funeral or memorial services of people you have known?
- What stands out to you about these experiences?
- If you died last week, and your funeral/memorial service was yesterday, what are some thoughts about how you would you have liked it to be, such as:
- What kind of setting would it have been in? Formal service and/or informal gathering? Outside/inside? Zoom/in person/both?
- Who would you want to attend?

What would your wishes be regarding:

- **Officiant(s)** who will lead the service, such as a clergy member, celebrant, friend, funeral director, etc.
- **Readings**, such as poems, prayers, religious or secular passages, and who will deliver them
- **Eulogist(s)** Who would you like to speak? What stories would you like shared?
- **Music**, what kind of music would you like? What songs would be most meaningful to you?
- **Food/beverages**, after the service, what kind of celebration would you like. (professionally catered, provided "potluck" by attendees, or other arrangement?)
- **Pallbearers**, (if the final disposition involves a graveside service)
- **Personal touches**, such as a memory board, memorial video, ppt slide show, personal memorabilia.
- **Donations** in your memory, what organizations or options would you like to offer?