

Strongsville United Church of Christ
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For Christians, gathering together to mourn, celebrate a life well-lived and proclaim the hope of the Resurrection are essential practices of our beliefs. We remember the Easter story when the women went to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for the ritual of burial. In the words of poet John Donne: *No man is an island. . . . Every man's death diminishes me.* Death challenges us. We grieve together.

During the COVID pandemic, we will need to adjust our traditional rituals of funerals, graveside services and memorial services. Therefore, until the CDC lifts the restrictions on public gathering, the following policies will replace any previous ones until further notice.

- ♥ **Visitation at the Church prior to Services.** Due to current CDC guidelines limiting gathering in groups to fewer than ten people, we will not be able to provide you with an opportunity to gather at the church before a funeral or memorial service.
- ♥ **Funeral or Memorial Services** held at Strongsville United Church of Christ will be limited to the *immediate family only* and the pastor. We will practice appropriate physical distancing (separation by at least six feet). A public celebration of the life well lived may be scheduled for a later date when the pandemic is over.
- ♥ **Graveside Committal Services** will be limited to *immediate family only* while practicing appropriate physical distancing (separation by at least six feet).
- ♥ **Reception Following a Service at the Church** will no longer be provided until after the pandemic is over.

We strongly recommend that you consider either delaying a loved one's memorial service until after the pandemic is over; or hold a small, private service now and a public remembrance at a later date. The pastor, while practicing appropriate distancing, will remain available for spiritual guidance during this time.