**"What to expect at funerals" Handout**

For those of you who have not attended a visitation or a funeral, here are some helpful points of what to expect/suggestions:

***Visitation***

* You can attend for just a couple of minutes or stay and chat for the entire length. (Do not feel the need to stay for the full length)
* This is the time to extend your condolences to the family. Simply saying, “You have my condolences” and shaking hands is sufficient if you have no other words.
  + You can share a brief story/anecdote/memory of a positive attribute of the lost loved one.
  + If you feel compelled to help the grieving family, you can offer to bring a meal, do an errand or chore, sit & listen, etc.
* Opportunity to bring a card (Not required)
* Casual clothing is acceptable.
* Take time to sign the guest book.
* Sometimes visitations will have an open casket viewing to allow everyone time to pay their respects and see the person for the last time.
* View pictures and be together

***Funeral***

* Arrive Early; it’s important to not walk in while the service is in session.
* Find your group and sit together. There is often reserved seating for family or other groups. Please be mindful of that.
* Formal Dress for this occasion.
* No expectation to attend the burial ceremony after the service.
* The service should take approximately 1 hour.