



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



President George H. W. Bush
Houston, Texas

April 18, 2018

Dear President Bush:

On behalf of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of your beloved wife and former First Lady Barbara Bush.

We are praying that God's comforting arms will enfold you and the entire Bush family. We also pray that God's grace will provide you with the strength needed at this time and in the days ahead.

While the pain, the grief, and the feelings of helplessness can seem unbearable, it is at times such as these that we can find comfort in God's Word. Jesus knew the pain of losing someone in death: his friend Lazarus. Jesus "groaned in the spirit and became troubled." Then, as we know very well, "Jesus wept." (John 11:33, 35)

We join you in grieving Mrs. Bush's death. Yet we know that a life in Christ does not end when the earthly journey is over. So, today we ask God to shower you with immeasurable love that will sustain and comfort you as you celebrate the life of an amazing woman that transformed the lives of many and leaves a legacy that will continue to live in the hearts and minds of those who loved her most.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we continue to lift up the entire Bush family in prayers.

Grace and peace

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church