



Funeral and Memorial Services

At First Presbyterian Church, funeral and memorial services are “witnesses to the resurrection,” affirming the hope of the Christian gospel and bringing comfort to those who grieve. These services are rooted in worship that proclaims God’s promises of eternal life and celebrates the good news of Christ’s victory over death.

Pastoral Care

When a death occurs, a church pastor should be notified as soon as possible. Our pastors are available to provide comfort and support while assisting with the practicalities of planning a service. Funeral and memorial services are led by one of our pastors. Families may also request the participation of other clergy with prior approval.

Types of Services

- **Memorial Service:** Held without the presence of the body, either before or after interment.
- **Funeral Service:** Includes the presence of a casket or urn, often concluding with a graveside committal. If a casket is present, it must remain closed to focus attention on God.
- **Graveside Service:** Conducted at the burial or interment site.

Service Locations

Services are typically held in the **Nave (Sanctuary)**, which seats up to 600, or **Monteith Hall**, which accommodates up to 100 for more intimate gatherings.

Visitation

Families may arrange to receive friends before the service in one of the church’s meeting rooms.

Order of Worship

Our worship reflects simplicity, focusing on God’s grace and the hope of resurrection. Services include:

- **Scripture:** Pastors will help select meaningful passages, incorporating family suggestions.
- **Hymns:** Hymns that affirm God’s grace and bring comfort are chosen in consultation with the pastor and Director of Music.

- **Additional Music:** Instrumental or vocal music is planned with the Director of Music and must align with the church's worship principles.
- **Flowers:** Limited to one or a few arrangements to maintain the simplicity of worship.
- **Fraternal, Civic, or Military Rites:** These should occur separately from the church service.

Receptions

The church can host simple receptions with coffee, punch, and cookies provided by the Presbyterian Women. Larger receptions should be catered off-site unless approved in advance by the pastor. Alcohol is not permitted on church property.

Memorial Garden

The church offers a Memorial Garden for interring cremains of members or their immediate family. A fee covers a bronze plaque and garden maintenance. Ashes are poured into a designated spot, with no urns or markers permitted.

Printed Order of Worship

The church office will prepare a printed program for the service. Families should provide all necessary details at least two business days in advance.

Scheduling Services

While the church strives to accommodate family preferences, availability depends on pre-scheduled activities. Weekdays, some evenings, and Saturdays are typically available, while Sundays are not due to regular worship services.

Recordings

Video recordings can be arranged with prior notice. Recordings are filmed discreetly, such as from the balcony in the Nave.

Honoraria and Fees

- Church facilities are available at no charge for members and their immediate family.
- There are no fees for the pastor or organist, but honorariums are appreciated.
- Soloist and instrumentalist fees are the family's responsibility.
- Childcare (if requested) is \$100, paid to the church, with an accurate headcount required in advance.

For more information or assistance, please contact the church office, 734-662-4466.