



POLICIES
FOR
FUNERALS
AND
MEMORIAL SERVICES

“The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians’ attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.” --from the Directory for Worship, Presbyterian Church USA

Funerals or memorial services ordinarily should be held in the sanctuary or chapel. As soon as possible following the occurrence of death, one of the pastors should be contacted so care and support may be provided in the planning of the funeral or memorial service. Such services should not be scheduled until after consultation with one of the pastors. The order of service, the participants in the service, and the music and other material to be included in the service will be under the guidance of the officiating pastor.

Committal services at cemeteries or in the Selwyn Columbarium may be held prior to or following the funeral or memorial service.

Burial, cremation, and donating mortal remains to medical research are all appropriate in our tradition. Information regarding the Columbarium at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church is available in the church office.

The funeral or memorial service is designed to give thanksgiving to God for the gift of life of the person, and to proclaim the resurrection of Christ in which death is swallowed up in victory. In order that the attention of the service be directed to God, when a casket is present it is closed. The church has a funeral pall which is available for use.

Livestreaming is available at the request of the family.

Two floral arrangements are allowed in the sanctuary or chapel. All other flowers are to be placed in the narthex or fellowship hall. The church encourages memorial gifts in lieu of flowers as they provide ongoing ministry in thanksgiving for the Christian witness of the deceased person.

All music is to be appropriate to a service of reverent worship. Only live sacred or classical music will be used. All music is subject to approval by the officiating pastor. Pre-recorded music will not be allowed. The church organist and/or music director may be consulted to help facilitate musical selections and secure additional musicians.

The church provides a reception and time of visitation for Selwyn members and family members. This may be prior to or following a service. Although less common, visitation may also be held at the church on the evening before a funeral or memorial service.

There is no charge to members or family members for the use of the church facilities. Pastors consider leading funerals or memorial services part of their call to ministry and therefore do not accept honoraria for such assistance. Suggested honoraria or reimbursements related to the funeral or memorial service are as follows:

Organist--\$325

Soloist--\$200

Preparation of bulletin--\$75

Cleanup --\$125

Sometimes it is difficult under emotional stress to plan with clarity. Members are encouraged to discuss and plan the necessary arrangements preferred at time of death in advance. The pastors and staff members are available for consultation. The attached form is provided for your use. In addition to your personal copy a copy should be shared with the person who will be responsible for making arrangements. Also, a copy will be kept in a secure and confidential file at the church for use by the pastors.