

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

AT WUMC

The Memorial Garden is part of the **Williamsburg United Methodist Church campus**, which provides a place to reflect, grieve, honor, and celebrate loved ones.

The Columbarium in our Memorial Garden features 489 niches for ashes. Surrounding the Columbarium are our gardens. Highlights of the Memorial Gardens include paths, a grass cross, flowers and sitting areas.



Williamsburg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EST. 1785

EAST WALL (Church Exterior Wall)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Purpose of the Columbarium

The Williamsburg United Methodist Church established the Memorial Garden as a site for interment and inurnment of cremains for church members and their immediate families as well as clergy and staff currently employed or retired from Williamsburg United Methodist Church and their immediate families. The Memorial Garden seeks to provide a place to receive the cremains of loved ones while also providing a place to meditate and reflect in peace and tranquility. The Garden is a setting in which cremains are perpetually cared for.

Management of the Columbarium

Under the oversight of the Board of Trustees, the Memorial Garden is administered by the Memorial Garden Committee. The Memorial Garden Committee is comprised of seven (7) persons, six (6) of which are members of the congregation nominated by the Lay Leadership Committee and approved by the governing Church Conference of Williamsburg United Methodist Church. The Committee members shall be divided into three classes, one of which shall be elected each year for a three-year term. Members can serve for two consecutive terms. A chairperson is selected from the six lay members. The seventh person is an ordained minister on the Church's staff. The purpose of the Committee is to carry out the policy of the Memorial Garden. The Committee has the responsibility of overseeing the general care and development of the Garden as well as the responsibility of reviewing policy and recommending any appropriate changes in regulations governing use and maintenance.

Effective January 1, 2019, the cost of managing and maintaining the Garden will be covered by the Memorial Garden Designated Fund. All funds received for the use of the Memorial Garden for inurnments or interments, or as designated donations for the Garden will go to the Memorial Garden Designated Fund. Routine maintenance and operating expenses will be charged to the Memorial Garden Designated Fund. Repair and any other costs in excess of the Church's capital threshold will be forwarded for prior approval and determination of funding by the Board of Trustees. The remaining balance of funds will remain in the Memorial Garden Designated Fund account to provide for the perpetual care of the Memorial Garden.

Eligibility for Inurnment

The Memorial Garden of the WUMC has been created for the placement of the cremains (human ashes) of members, formerly/currently employed clergy, formerly/currently employed staff and the immediate families of these individuals. Immediate family is defined as parents, siblings, children and their spouses. Cremains of others may be accepted if approved by the Memorial Garden Committee.

Containers, Markers and Plaques

Only containers provided by WUMC will be used. The Church will provide urns for inurnment in the Columbarium and biodegradable bags for interment in the ground. All markers or plaques in the Garden area will be provided by the Church. No other markers or plaques are permitted.

Inscriptions

Memorial Plaque for Interment in the Ground

Persons who have elected to have their cremains interred in the ground will be recognized by displaying their full name and dates of birth and death on a memorial plaque along with other names of those interred. The Church is responsible for obtaining and engraving all nameplates using such styles and designs as determined within its sole discretion. The purchase price of the interment rights shall include the cost of the plaque.

Inscriptions of Columbarium Niches

Persons who have purchased a niche for inurnment of their cremains will be recognized with an inscription on the niche which shall be the uniform size and style as determined by the Committee. The inscription will contain only person's full name and date of birth and date of death. The purchase price of the inurnment rights shall include the cost of such inscription.

Columbarium Urns

The only urn that may be used for inurning cremains in the Columbarium shall be the urn provided by the Church. The name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death shall be permanently engraved on the urn. The costs of the urn and the engraving shall be included in the purchase price of the inurnment rights.

Purchase and Selection of Columbarium Niches

The Columbarium consists of four types of niches:

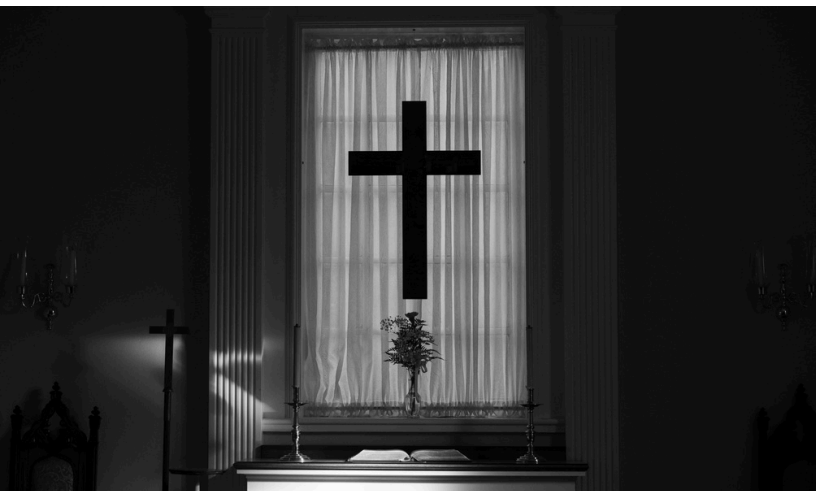
1. Single (one urn)
2. Double Side by Side (two urns)
3. Double Front and Back (two urns)
4. Two Single Side by Side (two urns)

During the procurement process, an applicant will have the right to select any niche which may be available at that time. If more than one application shall have been approved on the same date, the rights of preference shall be based on the date and time the completed applications are received. No more niches will be sold to a family than those necessary to inurn the cremains of all eligible persons in that family, allowing for one urn per single niche and two urns per double niche.

Gifting of a Niche

From Owner to Another Person(s)

With prior written approval of the Memorial Garden Committee, the owner of a niche is authorized to give all or part of their niche to another person or persons under the following conditions: (1) the recipient of the niche must meet the current eligibility criteria for purchasing a niche and (2) the recipient of the niche must execute a new Memorial Garden Purchase and Services Contract with the Church. No fee will be required.



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (CONTINUED)

Gift of Niche (Continued)

From Owner to Church

If the owner of a niche has no further need for their niche, they may gift the niche back to the church as a charitable gift. The church will acknowledge the gift but will place no value on the gift. The value of the charitable gift is a matter between the donor and the IRS. An amendment to the existing contract will be executed. No fees will be required.

Interment in the Ground

Neither the person requesting placement of cremains for a loved one nor the person whose cremains are to be placed may choose any particular location in the Memorial Garden Cross (ground). Family members may be interred in the same general area, but it is not possible to inter members side by side unless all are interred at the same time. The extraction of the sod and soil is handled by an employee of the church. Placement location will be determined by the church using a grid system to record the individual cremains placed in the area as well as the date of interment. Once an interment has been made the space may not be used again for a minimum of five years or such other period of time as may be determined by the Memorial Garden Committee.

Fees

A fee is associated with the use of the Memorial Garden for inurnment in the columbarium or interment of cremains in the ground. The fees cover all costs associated with the inurnment and/or interment in the Garden. This includes the urn, engraving and plaque as appropriate. After expenses, the balance of the fee is deposited in the Memorial Garden Designated Fund which provides funds to insure perpetual care of the Memorial Garden in the future.

Interment in the Ground

A fee of \$750 must be paid for the expenses connected with each interment of cremains in the ground.

Columbarium Niche

A fee of \$3,000 must be paid for inurnment in a Single niche, a fee of \$3,500 must be paid for the expenses connected with inurnment in a Double niche, and a fee of \$3,500 must be paid for inurnment in Two Single Side by Side niches.

These fees do not include the cost of cremation which must be arranged independently. It is suggested that individuals consult with a local funeral home, which frequently offers cremation and additional services for family members and/or the Cremation and Burial Society of Virginia to determine which crematorium best meets their needs. Applicants are reminded that the appropriate container for the cremains will be provided by Williamsburg United Methodist Church.



INTERESTED?

If you would like more information about the Memorial Garden or wish to discuss the purchase of a niche or a space in the ground, please call Rev. Meghan Roth Clayton 757 229-1771. A private tour of the Garden can also be arranged.

QUESTIONS?

Email
mailinger@williamsburgumc.org
or call 757.229.1771