

Collingswood Presbyterian Church

Funeral and Memorial Services

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms.... I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:1ff

We are deeply sorry for your loss. This is a time where our Christian faith community can provide a great deal of help before, during, and after the funeral. Many times people feel very alone when confronted with such a loss. We want you to know that we are praying for you and ready to walk with you just as our Lord promises.

There are resources to help you.

Besides the people and leadership of this church, our church library has some excellent books to help you face some of your concerns as you deal with your grief. Remember, it is not a linear process. Grief circles around and around, surprising you when it appears long after you think (or others think) "you should be over this." There is no predictable path. There is only your path. There will be times where this loss will bring up other losses that still live in your heart.

If you have children and would like help in talking about death, please talk with our leadership or Director of Christian Education. There are some excellent books that can help your child.

Planning the funeral or memorial service

Speak with the church as soon as possible after the death. Do not assume that someone will tell the church for you. Either you or the funeral director needs to call the church. Talk with your family about favorite hymns, bible passages, pictures or readings you would like included in the service. Speak to loved ones who might want to say something during the service. Generally speaking, it is better to arrange for these people to speak ahead of time and ask them to write out their speech.

Services in the church

Sanctuary funeral services (casket) or Memorial Services (cremation) are available to all members of the Collingswood Presbyterian Church. Nonmember services are available with permission of the session. A suggested donation of \$500 from non-members is requested.

The Worship Service

The funeral service in the Christian church is a witness to the resurrection of the dead and the hope that holds before us. Since Christ rose from the dead on Easter, we can know that God will take care of us when we die and promises that we all will rise again in the

kingdom of God. It is impossible to know what form our lives will take in eternity. The Bible talks about spiritual bodies and Jesus did say to the thief on the cross next to him that, "Today you will be with me in paradise." We do not know what God has planned for us when we die, but what we do know is that, "Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord." In God's kingdom, "All the tears shall be wiped away." Know that these promises are for you and your loved one. We will be at peace with the Lord.

In the worship service we offer prayers and Bible readings to commemorate our loss and focus our attention on the hope of the resurrection. Spoken reflections by family members or friends can be included.

The sanctuary does have an internet connection for those who wish to live-stream the service.

Hymns and music

If you would like music, soloists, or hymns to be played during the worship service, we can usually arrange for most hymns to be included in the service. We can arrange for a soloist to sing or play music.

Interment

The Pastor will, if desired, accompany the family to the gravesite or columbarium for the service of committal. This, too, may be live-streamed.

Other Considerations

Flowers

We suggest that you make arrangements for flowers for the front of the church to be placed on the chancel or to the side. Any other floral arrangements that are sent to the church can be placed in the lounge, narthex, or sanctuary. You may leave them for worship or take them with you to your home or the graveside.

Use of lounge and dining room

Prior to the funeral service, the family often greets visitors in our lounge. Food may be brought in for visitors and the church will provide water and coffee service. We have easels and tables for displays of photos. We have a screen and projector for video as well. We ask that someone from the family set up the video or projection display.

If the family would like to use the dining room downstairs for a luncheon downstairs, you will need to make arrangements with our deacons. Food must be catered and cleaned up by the food service.

Honoraria

- Organist/Pianist \$200; Facilities Coordinator \$75; soloist \$75
- Pastor \$200 (if active member, no honoraria is required)

Memorial Garden and Remember the Saints Service

Our memorial garden is available for the internment of ashes in biodegradable boxes in the earth of the garden. (See attached pamphlet on policies for the garden.) Every October we hold a "Remember the Saints" worship service in the garden where we name the names of those who have died in the past year. We hope you can attend. Engraved memorial bricks are available for order through the church office. A plaque with the name of the deceased will be placed in the garden. The cost of that is \$150.00 payable to the engravers.

Donations in Memory of loved one

If you wish to direct donations to the church in memory of your loved one, we have a memorial fund that is used for permanent objects in the church. Donation cards will be available at the funeral service. The Session manages this fund and will consult with the family as to the usage of those funds for the church. We will send to the family the listing of who made donations and mail a thank you letter to those who provide an address. A memorial book with the names of the deceased and the gifts given in their memory is in the church.

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