

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

*“If we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
So then, whether we live or whether we die,
we are the Lord’s.” Romans 14:8*

*“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4*



300 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
260-426-7421 - firstpres-fw.org

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold funerals, memorial services, and committal services for members and immediate family of our faith community. We desire to come alongside you with warmth, comfort, and hope as you grieve the death of your loved one. A funeral or memorial worship service provides an opportunity for the faith community to remember the good news of the resurrection, to give thanks for and celebrate the life of one who has died, and to envelop with love those who mourn.

We believe that as God's beloved children, there is space for anything and everything we feel in this time of brokenness and loss. Our prayer is that you will find refreshed strength to face the darkness as God's Spirit of love and the community of faith surround to support you.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Christians understand death to be a natural part of life. Because it is challenging to plan or act wisely in a time of grief, we encourage our members to make a calm assessment of your intents and desires concerning an end-of-life service and final resting place before death is imminent. The pastors at First Presbyterian Church are available to discuss your wishes and help with planning. The church can maintain a record of your preferences, as well as any other documents related to end-of-life planning, so that you or your family and friends can reference them when needed. An end-of-life service planning form is included as an insert in this handbook.

DECISION MAKING WHEN DEATH COMES

The death of a spouse, family member, or close friend can be accompanied by emotions that seem overwhelming. Yet loved ones may be called upon to make very practical, urgent decisions. In addition to pastoral care, the following outline is intended to assist in decision-making when death comes.

IN THE DEATH OF A CHILD OR INFANT

With the death of an adult, we mourn memories, but with the death of a child, we mourn dreams. We recognize that losing a child brings confusion, distress, and deep, deep pain. We at First Presbyterian Church want to accommodate you in the planning of a service that offers space for both intense grief and gentle healing.

The pastoral staff is also more than willing to hold a special time of blessing and prayer for a family experiencing miscarriage or stillbirth. Such a service can be held in the hospital, at the family's home, or in another location desired by the family. Recognizing miscarriage in this way can release some of the pressure and pain in a sudden season of loss.

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IN THE EVENT OF SUICIDE

Losing a loved one to suicide has a pain all its own. We at First Presbyterian Church want to embrace and help families facing this unique loss. The pastoral staff will tenderly guide families in planning a service of integrity, celebrating the loved one while upholding the mixture of strong emotions in suicide's aftermath. No matter how death occurs, we cling to the promise of a God who is always, always with us, in life and in death (Romans 8:38-39). In the fall of 2013, First Presbyterian will begin its new Suicide Bereavement Support Group – a ministry for members who have lost a loved one to suicide.

ACTIONS UPON DEATH

If death occurs at home, contact the appropriate authorities (such as 911 or the attending home hospice organization).

Call the church (260-426-7421). In the ensuing days the pastoral staff will be sharing the experience and responsibility with loved ones in many ways. Pastoral guidance can be most helpful in easing the burden, assisting in decisions, and honoring this holy time.

Call the funeral director. Funeral directors will handle many of the arrangements and preparations needed at this time. If possible, before the occasion arises, it is wise to carefully select a funeral director and make an appointment to discuss preferences.

Some suggestions:

Klaehn, Fahl, Melton Funeral Homes (260) 424-1525

D. O. McComb & Sons Funeral Homes (260) 426-9494

DECISIONS CONCERNING THE BODY

In our tradition, Christians may consider a number of options for the physical body of the one who has died. Decisions about handling the body should be shared with the pastor and the funeral director. Some of these options are:

Burial—the funeral director will provide choices for casket and plot.

Cremation—the remains are placed in an urn, scattered at sites, or interred. Spaces are available for members in the First Presbyterian Church Columbarium

Donation—prior to death, arrangements may be made to donate the body to medical use or research.

VIEWING THE BODY

Whether or not to have a “viewing” is largely a matter of personal choice. Private viewing can sometimes be an important factor in longer term healing. The church service focuses on worshipping God, consoling the living, and remembering the life of the deceased person. If the body is present at the church for the service, the casket normally remains closed for the service and is placed in the Narthex.

INCLUDING OUR CHILDREN

It is healthy to include children in the family's sorrow, including a viewing. The family may wish to encourage, but not require, children's participation at a viewing, funeral, or memorial service.

Reactions to death will vary with the age of the child. There will be questions that should be answered honestly and factually. To some questions, "I don't know" is the best we can do. Answers stating what we believe will give children confidence in the future and in God who can be trusted.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY AND THE OBITUARY

Often people request that in lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy be directed to a memorial fund or a specific charity or organization. These wishes are included in the obituary.

TYPE OF SERVICE

We desire to be present with you throughout this time of loss and will help arrange the service. It is important to provide the name of the funeral director to the pastor so that the church can coordinate the day and time of the service. There are several forms of services:

Funeral—usually conducted within days of death. It is generally held at the church although it can be held at a funeral home. The closed casket or urn may be present.

Memorial—conducted at the church and can take place days or weeks after death. A longer timeline can allow more opportunity for friends and family to receive notice and make arrangements to attend. The casket or urn is not present.

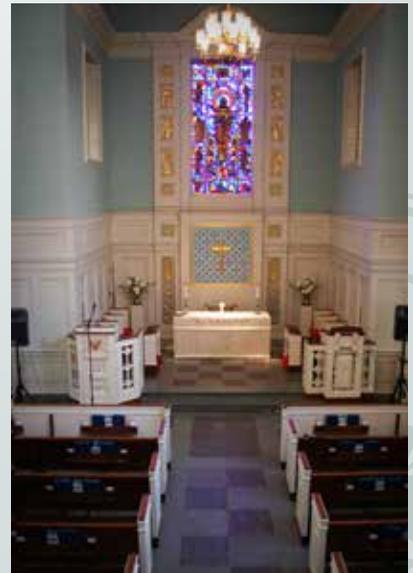
Committal—a short service at the grave side or columbarium that specifically ministers to the needs of loved ones. It consists of brief scripture readings and prayers. The committal may accompany a funeral or memorial service and be held either before or after the service. The service can be a small gathering for close relatives of the deceased person

WORSHIP SPACE

At First Presbyterian Church, funeral and memorial services may take place in the Sanctuary or McMillen Chapel. The sanctuary accommodates 600 people. McMillen Chapel accommodates 70 people.

SCHEDULING A SERVICE

Our pastors ordinarily work with the loved ones to set a date for the funeral or memorial service. The pastor who will be officiating helps coordinate communication with the funeral director in a timely way so that notice may be included with the obituary sent to the newspapers, with attention to publication deadlines.



ORDER OF SERVICE

The content of the funeral or memorial service is the responsibility of the officiating pastor and is guided by the Directory for Worship in the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Common Worship*.

The service has some basic components which include:

Words of Welcome

Prayer

Scripture Reading(s)

Thanksgiving for a Life

(Words of Remembrance)

Music, hymns, or solos (optional)

Commendation

Benediction

These components may vary somewhat. The officiating pastor shapes the order of service in consultation with loved ones and the previously expressed wishes of the deceased. The service is intended to be personal, while praising and thanking God that in life as in death, we are held securely in God's hands. Family and friends are invited to participate in the service when appropriate. A limited number of people may be invited to offer brief remembrances during the service, which is arranged in advance with the officiating pastor. Once the service has been planned, the family may ask First Presbyterian Church to print a bulletin.

MUSIC AT THE SERVICE

A musician for the service will be arranged through the officiating pastor. By request, a soloist or special music can be arranged.

BULLETINS

Bulletins may be prepared by the church staff at the request of the family after the pastor and family have planned the service. You may also prepare your own program in consultation with the officiating clergy.

PARTICIPATION BY OTHER MINISTERS

One of our pastors will conduct the service, but an invitation to assist in the service may be extended to clergy beyond First Pres. It is customary for the invitation to be extended through the officiating pastor.

RECEPTION

Loved ones may choose to host a reception following the service that gives family and friends time to visit. First Presbyterian can provide space for a reception along with basic refreshments of coffee, tea, water and cookies; schedule permitting. If loved ones wish to provide a meal, our Deacons and Food Services Coordinator will be happy to assist in making caterer arrangements. The pastor will provide the family's contact information to the Deacons so they may assist with the reception.



SCRIPTURES AND HYMNS

The following are a selection of particularly appropriate scriptures and hymns for use in the service or for your private reflections.

Old Testament Scripture

Job 19:23–27	I know that my redeemer lives
Ecclesiastics 3:1–15	For everything there is a season
Isaiah 25:6–9	God will swallow up death forever
Isaiah 40:1–11	Comfort my people
Isaiah 40:28–31	Those who wait for the Lord
Isaiah 43:1–3a, 18–19, 25	When you pass through the waters
Isaiah 44:6–8	I am the first and I am the last
Isaiah 55:1–3, 6–13	Everyone who thirsts
Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isaiah 65:17–25	I create new heavens and a new earth
Lamentations 3:19–26	The Lord's steadfast love
Daniel 12:1–3	Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12–13, 23–24, 26–29	Return to the Lord with all your heart

The Psalms

Psalms 16:5–11	The Lord is my chosen portion
Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalms 27:1, 4–9a, 13–14	The Lord is my light and my salvation
Psalms 39:4–5, 12	Lord, let me know my end
Psalms 42:1–6a	As a deer longs for flowing streams
Psalms 43	Why are you cast down, O my soul
Psalms 46:1–5, 10–11	God is our refuge and strength
Psalms 90:1–10, 12	Lord, you have been our dwelling place
Psalms 91	You who live in the shelter of the Most High
Psalms 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalms 106:1–5	O give thanks to the Lord
Psalms 116:1–9, 15	The Lord has heard my voice
Psalms 118	Open the gates of righteousness
Psalms 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalms 130	Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord
Psalms 139:1–12	O Lord, you have searched me and known me
Psalms 145	Praise the Lord, O my soul!

New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 5:1–12a	The Beatitudes
Luke 23:33, 39–43	Remember me when you come into heaven
John 3:16–21	For God so loved the world
John 11:17–27	I know he will rise again in the resurrection
John 14	Do not let your hearts be troubled
Romans 8:14–25	All led by Spirit of God are sons and daughters
Romans 8:31–35	Nothing can separate us from the love of God

New Testament Scriptures, *continued*

Romans 14:7–9	We do not live to ourselves
1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 35–38, 42–44, 53–58.....	Where, O death, is your victory?
2 Corinthians 4:16–5:1	A house eternal in the heavens
Philippians 4:4–9	Rejoice in the Lord always
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18	God will bring with him those who have died
Revelation 21:1–4, 22–25, 22:3–5	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Hymn page numbers are from The Presbyterian Hymnal, 1990 edition

171	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
172	My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
210	Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
253	I'll Praise My Maker
280	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
281	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
302	I Danced in the Morning
339	Be Thou My Vision
383	My Faith Looks Up to Thee
399	We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
404	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
467	How Great Thou Art
526	For All the Saints
543	Abide with Me
555	Now Thank We All Our God
562	Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CUSTOMARY FEES AND HONORARIA

Worship Space: No Fee

Minister: Honorarium is at the discretion of the family (suggested honorarium is \$200)

Organist: Honorarium is at the discretion of the family (suggested honorarium is \$100)

Reception: (beverages and cookies) No fee (luncheon or dinner) Fees will depend on caterers

*First Presbyterian Church;
Transforming lives through the love
of Jesus Christ*

CONGREGATIONAL AND PASTORAL CARE

All Christians are called to care for one another in daily living, sharing joys and sorrows. The church offers care to people in the special needs and crises of their lives through prayer, visits, and other acts which express love and support for those who are sick and their households.

When death comes, the church seeks to offer the ministry of presence, of shared loss and pain, of faith and hope in the power of the resurrection, and of ordinary acts of care and love.

The church continues special pastoral care during the times of grief and adjustment.



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