

FUNERAL GUIDELINES



First Presbyterian Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina

GUIDELINES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

When death comes, we Christians hold fast to the promise of our Savior Jesus Christ, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26).

Our Presbyterian Directory for Worship further states: “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” (Book of Order, W-4.1000).

This brochure has been prepared to offer guidance, in consultation with your pastors, for planning a funeral service for yourself or a loved one.

THE SERVICE: A Christian funeral is a service of worship meant as a witness to the resurrection and a celebration of the life of the deceased. Your ministers are ready to offer guidance regarding music, scripture, and other special readings, which will testify to the biblical affirmation of God’s power over death.

FLOWERS: A floral casket spray or one vase with the cremation urn and the two vases on the retable are the appropriate places for flowers within the sanctuary or chapel. The Flower Chairman will be happy to coordinate with a florist. If no special flowers are desired, the church has silk greenery for the vases. Following the service, the flowers can be used by the family or dispersed as requested by the family. The Chancel Guild will prepare the sanctuary or chapel for the service.

THE PALL: A funeral pall, which may be used on the casket in lieu of a floral spray, is available for use on the church premises.

USHERS: The church will provide ushers for the service. The family may designate persons if they desire.

FEES: No specific fees are charged members for use of the church for a funeral, and no honorarium is required for the ministers or staff. Ministers will discuss fees and services for non-members.

FAMILY MEAL: It is traditional to provide a meal or reception for a member’s family, which may be served at the church or home by one of the Presbyterian Women’s Circles. Catering services are allowed.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: Memorial donations may be made to the church as a lasting tribute to the deceased. The Memorials Committee maintains a list of appropriate memorials. All undesignated memorial contributions will be placed in the General Memorial Fund to be used as directed by the Session.

COLUMBARIUM: The Columbarium is available for the inurnment of “members of First Presbyterian Church and other eligible persons” as defined by the Rules and Regulations of the Columbarium. Memorial markers are available for eligible persons who are buried elsewhere or whose remains are scattered on the Columbarium premises. A current cost list for niches and markers is available upon request.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
Call to Worship
Prayer
Hymn
Old Testament Scripture
Special Music
New Testament Scripture
Meditation (Words of Comfort)
Prayers
The Lord's Prayer
Hymn
Benediction and Postlude

SUGGESTED HYMNS

Amazing Grace
A Mighty Fortress
Be Still My Soul
Eternal Father Strong to Save (Navy Hymn)
Fairest Lord Jesus
Fight the Good Fight
For All the Saints
God Moves in a Mysterious Way
Holy, Holy, Holy!
How Firm a Foundation
If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Lead On, O King Eternal
Lord, Guard and Guide the Men Who Fly (Air Force Hymn)
Now Thank We All Our God
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
The Church's One Foundation
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Lord's My Shepherd
The Strife is O'er
This Is My Father's World
Lift High the Cross
The Battle Hymn of the Republic