

Time and Place: To ensure that the pastor, musician(s), and church are available, it is essential that the church office be contacted as soon as possible about setting the service time. Funerals are ordinarily held on weekday mornings, but afternoon and Saturday funerals may be possible with staff approval. The church is not available for Sunday funerals. A minimum notice of two business days is necessary in scheduling a funeral.

Ordinarily, funerals are held only for church members. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Pastoral Leadership: The pastor of First Presbyterian Church is the presiding minister for all funerals. Guest ministers may assist but must be approved by the pastor before an invitation to participate is extended. Participants will be assigned parts based on the pastor's discretion. Assisting ministers will abide by all of the policies listed in this brochure.

Services at the Church: Services are held in the sanctuary and the casket shall remain closed during the service. If the family would like the casket to be open for viewing, this may be done before the service. If the deceased will be honored with military or civic rites, these should be conducted at the graveside so as not to distract from the worship of God.

Order of Service: Working with the family, the pastor will design a service of Scripture, prayer, and music which reflects the Christian faith. While the funeral represents an opportunity to grieve and honor the deceased, a Christian funeral is, first of all, a service of witness to the resurrection of our Lord. As such, the primary focus of the service is the Triune God.

Music: Musical selections shall be fitting for Christian worship and reflect the nature of the occasion. The church organist shall be the primary musician, though others may take part with his/her approval. All musical selections shall be approved by the pastor and organist.

Flowers, Decorations, and Videos: Decorations, such as flowers and photos, may be placed in the sanctuary but shall not be placed on the communion table, pulpit, organ, etc. Video tributes may be played prior to and/or after the conclusion of the worship service proper, but shall not be included as part of the service. All projection equipment, music, etc. is the responsibility of the family in coordination with the funeral home.

Meals: Arrangements can be made for a meal to be served for the family of church members only. If a meal is requested, an additional donation to help defray the costs is appreciated.

About the Christian Funeral

"I am the resurrection and the life." - John 11:25

In the Christian funeral service, we gather for three purposes. First, we come to pay tribute in friendship and love to one who was dear to us. This is not a "last" tribute, for the best and most beautiful memories will live on in our hearts. In addition, we come to offer our sympathy to loved ones who experience sorrow this day. By the power of the Holy Spirit, our caring presence can be to them a comfort in their time of grief. Finally, and most importantly, we gather to commend the life of the one we remember into God's hands in joyful trust of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ! To Him be all glory!

*Fees**

Staff (*for non-members*)

Pastor - \$250

Organist - \$150

Facilities (*for non-members*)

Sanctuary - \$150

**There are no funeral fees for active members, but staff honoraria and/or donations to help offset the cost of building usage are welcomed and appreciated.*

Suggested Scripture Passages

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27
Isaiah 40:27-31
Psalm 23
Psalm 27
Psalm 49
Psalm 90
Psalm 116

New Testament

Luke 23:32-43
John 3:16-21
John 5:19-29
John 11
John 14
Romans 5:1-11
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
1 Corinthians 15
2 Timothy 2:8-13
1 Peter 1:3-9
Revelation 7:9-17
Revelation 21:1-7, 22-25

Hymn Suggestions

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Amazing Grace
Be Thou My Vision
Blessed Assurance
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Christ the Lord is Risen Today
Fairest Lord Jesus
For All the Saints
Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken
God of Our Life
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!
How Great Thou Art
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Lift High the Cross
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
O Jesus I Have Promised
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
To God Be the Glory
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
He Leadeth Me
I Danced in the Morning
Near to the Heart of God
Abide With Me

*Guidelines for Memorial and Funeral
Services*



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