

Policy for Funerals and Memorial Services

First Presbyterian Church

11 Washington Street
Cumberland, MD 21502

Phone: 301-777-3700
Email: firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com

The members of the First Presbyterian Church Family offer our condolences to you upon the loss of your loved one. We have developed these guidelines to familiarize you with the process of planning and conducting a funeral in our church. This is also a guide for our Session and staff.

1. Requests for funerals and memorial services should be directed to the church administrator as soon as possible. Our administrator will inform the pastor of the request for a funeral, check the church calendar, and give the current funeral policy to the family requesting a funeral. The church administrator will also inform the chairs of the Worship and Music Committee that a funeral has been requested. After a date is agreed upon and the availability of staff and funeral coordinator have been confirmed, the service will be placed on the church's calendar of events.
2. Our funeral coordinator and/or the pastor will make arrangements to meet with the family to plan the service. Understanding that the service takes place in the context of Divine Worship, it is structured according to the theology and liturgy of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (W-6.3006/ G-2.0905), including the music, readings and other aspects of the service. Our coordinator can provide examples from former funerals that have taken place in our church. The service shall be complete in itself. Any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately (W-4.1005). The service may include other components common to the community of faith as long as they do not detract from or diminish the Christian understanding of death and resurrection.
3. When a casket is present, it is ordinarily closed. It may be covered with a funeral pall.
4. Flowers for the service are generally limited to two arrangements placed in the chancel. Deliveries should be coordinated with the church office. Additional flower arrangements can be used for the visitation and/or reception/luncheon.
5. It is pastoral privilege for our minister to serve our members and friends in this way. Our staff fees for this service are paid by our church. If you would like to make a donation to offset these costs, we would gratefully allocate that to our Funeral Fund.

-approved by Session 08/21/25