

Funeral Planning & Memorial Services at Good Shepherd

Our deepest condolences for your loss. As you mourn the death of your loved one, we are humbled that you have entrusted us to join you Together on the Journey of grief. When our church gathers to mark the end of life, we will share in your grief, give voice to sorrow, thank God for the life we share, and entrust all things to God's care; proclaiming Christ Crucified and Risen as the source of our mutual consolation and hope of healing. Our staff will work together with you and your family to provide a memorable and compassionate service.

About the Space

We hold plenty of space for you and your loved ones here. We can fit approximately 350 guests in our sanctuary, and we can easily accommodate caskets, urns, and flower and picture displays. Our large commons area is ideal for visitations where we have easels, table space, and a digital display available for however you best want to show remembrances of your loved one. Our sanctuary has a grand piano which can accommodate a variety of musical traditions. Our seating space for lunch receptions is slightly more limited to around 150 persons.

Preparations

We strive to make funeral and memorial preparations as hassle-free as possible. We are here to help you plan and implement a funeral or memorial service for a loved one. When you call our Church Office after a death, we will schedule a time for one of our pastors to meet with you and your family to share a time and space to talk about your loved one and to make choices regarding the service; at that time our staff will also meet with you to help you arrange a meal or dessert reception following the service if you so desire. We are flexible in our preparations, and we can accommodate a wide variety of wishes, songs, images, texts and traditions that your loved one may have left in preparation for their death and burial. Since we are the Church we will always emphasize Christ as central to the ceremony, but we are not opposed to other appropriate remembrances alongside this focus. If your loved one did not leave behind scripture or song choices, do not fret! We will be able to help you with suggestions.

Celebrations of Life

Our facilities are available for Celebrations of Life, or other gatherings that do not require a pastor present. Please contact the church office for more details.

The Funeral/Memorial Service

For funerals, we request a director from a funeral home or the cremation society to be present the day of the service to assist. Funerals and Memorial services can come in different shapes and sizes. Each service is individually prepared depending on the needs of the family. There are plenty of opportunities for family and loved ones to participate in the service if they desire, it is also possible for a pastor to lead the whole service or to step in for those that may have nerves or distress on the day of the service.

Many parts of the service are optional and can be discussed with the officiating pastor. A service may include: three or four songs, thanksgiving for baptism, Prayer, time for tributes, scripture, a message from the officiating pastor, the creed, Holy Communion and a commendation. Additional elements could certainly be added to this basic outline.

We are not equipped to perform rituals or rites outside of Christian Traditions such as Masonic Rituals, Military Salutes or other rituals of extra-religious or organizational belief systems in our building. If you or a loved one desire these ceremonies we do not discourage them, but we kindly ask that you host them elsewhere, such as at the graveside. We do provide pastoral presence at the graveside if the family wishes to continue Christian Rites in that setting.

Receptions

We believe it is an important part of the grieving process to eat together. Our volunteer kitchen staff here at Good Shepherd is here for you. If you desire to have a meal or dessert reception after the service, our staff will go over our menu options and cost when we meet with you to plan. Our volunteer kitchen staff must be onsite if anything is served from the kitchen. Our current Facility Usage Policy does not allow potlucks for church sponsored events such as funerals. All food we serve must either be catered or made in the church kitchen. However, it is possible for the family to furnish food through an outside catering service.

Costs

The use of Member or Non-Member pricing shall be determined solely at the discretion of Good Shepherd and its staff. Our fee schedules are set as guidelines, and may be adapted for a case-by-case basis. These costs are solely to cover the labor, building requirements, and basic resources involved; Good Shepherd does not profit from hosting funerals. As a gesture of good faith, in some cases, where membership is within a degree of separation of the family, or because of other close associations with our church body; a discount of \$100 may be applied to non-member church usage fee, with the remaining pricing set at Non-Member rates. Any such discount is also at the discretion of Good Shepherd and its staff. *(Please reference the final page of this document for our entire fee schedule.)*

Member Pricing:

- Use of church building is free.
 - This includes use of space, set up/tear down, black and white bulletin & use of TV for slide show.
- Pastor: \$300 + \$50 if burial is a different day
- Musician: \$200
- Sound Tech: \$50
- Administration: \$50
- Kitchen Fee: \$100
 - Meals provided by Good Shepherd include a sandwich, chips & dessert.
 - Fee is \$4.00 per person.
- Weekend Fee: All fees for services scheduled on weekends will increase by 20%

Non-Member Pricing:

- Use of church building: \$500
 - This includes use of space, set up/tear down, black and white bulletin & use of TV for slide show.
- Bulletin with color photo: \$50
- Pastor: \$300 + \$100 if burial is a different day
- Musician: \$200
- Sound Tech: \$50
- Administration: \$50
- Kitchen Fee: \$200
 - Meals provided by Good Shepherd include a sandwich, chips & dessert.
 - Fee is \$4.00 per person.
- Weekend Fee: All fees for services scheduled on weekends will increase by 20%