



# Planning for a Christian Funeral/Memorial Service at The United Church in Meadowood

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*Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)*

*Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away... See, I am making all things new."*

*– Revelation 21:5*

The death of a loved one is a time to recall the miracle of life, to give thanks for the life of the deceased and to mourn the loss. We acknowledge the pain of death, console the bereaved, celebrate the life of the deceased, and offer thanks to God. As a resurrection people, we also declare the promise of hope from the United Church creed: "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone."

The funeral or memorial service is meant to be primarily a celebration of life. God's word is read and proclaimed, prayers are offered. The sacrament of Holy Communion may be shared when desired. A eulogy, often prepared and presented by a family member or friend is common. Music is frequently an important and enriching aspect of the gathering. The funeral is also a time for strengthening each other through community and a time of refreshments and socializing enables that well.

The service can take the form of a funeral with the casket present, or a memorial service with or without the ashes, and/or a committal service at the grave site, which may be held either before or after the main service. The service can be in the sanctuary at UCIM or at a funeral home, or only at the graveside.

## **Space**

The Sanctuary has seating for up to 200 people (larger funerals are possible with adaptations to seating that can be discussed). There is a grand piano, sound system, hearing assist headphones, digital projection and screens and a room with speakers for families with children. The church is accessible. There is a large parking lot.

## **Reception**

A reception in the Fellowship Hall can be arranged. 200 people can be accommodated for a stand up reception with a few tables and chairs to accommodate the family and guests requiring them. Our women's group (UCW) cater funerals held in the church. A menu detailing options is available.

## **Flowers**

Flowers can be placed in the church for the funeral. Pictures of your loved one as well as other photographs or meaningful symbols associated with the person's life which may be displayed in the sanctuary, the foyer or at the reception.

## Bulletins and Recordings

Our office can produce a digital presentation for hymns and prayers and if desired bulletins (programs) can be created. An audio recording of the service can be provided. We are unable to provide livestreaming/video recording. The family may make their own arrangements for video recording/livestreaming.

## Service

Our minister presides at all funeral services. Participation by others (laity or ministry) can be accommodated at the minister's discretion. The minister meets with the family in advance to discuss the wishes of the family and plan for the service. Services can include secular readings and readings from other traditions in addition to Christian scriptures. Memorial rituals of an organization in which your loved one was a member (for example, Eastern Star, Military) may be integrated into the funeral. A slideshow of pictures of the deceased can be shown as part of the service.

The church works cooperatively with the Funeral Home if they are present at the service. Ushers are recommended, especially for larger funerals.

## Music

Our pianist plays for services (or arranges for an alternate). We can arrange for a soloist. Other musicians may be included and should be discussed with the minister when the service is being arranged. Pre-recorded music is also a possibility.

## In Memoriam

UCiM has a Memorial Fund and families are encouraged to consider a donation to that fund or to the general fund of the church as a tribute. We also have a Memorial Book and families may enter their family in the book. Once a year, those associated with the congregation who have died are remembered in Sunday worship.

## Fees

Custodial and Administration	\$175.00
Minister	A donation to UCiM is requested
Audio Technician	\$75.00
Pianist	\$150.00
Soloist (optional)	\$150.00
Event Assistant	\$100.00
Fellowship Hall	\$175.00 (waived if UCW is catering)
Bulletins	\$40 per 100
Reception	from \$3 to \$9 per person depending on option chosen
Video Recording	Responsibility of the Family to arrange



## The United Church in Meadowood

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