

Memorial & Funeral Services

First Congregational UCC, Ashland, Oregon

We offer our condolences and care as you grieve the loss of a loved one. The clergy of Ashland UCC consider it part of their pastoral care to assist the families of members and friends in planning funeral and memorial services. (Community members who wish to rent space for a celebration on their own are welcome to rent space via current facilities rental forms and procedures.)

One of the UCC staff clergy will help plan and lead the memorial or funeral service. If you would like other clergy to assist in the service, please speak to your pastor prior to inviting them.

As clergy, we seek to shape each memorial service or funeral to speak a true word about the person's life in a way that is appropriate and comfortable for their family and friends. No two services are identical, and many interfaith or other accommodations can be made. It can help both clergy and family to know your preferences.

Typical Order of Service

Prelude Music

Sentences of Comfort & Greeting

Gathering Prayer

Hymn/Song

Readings: scripture, poetry

Words of Remembrance: stories shared by family & friends

Hymn/Song

Homily

Affirmation of Faith

Solo/Special Music

Prayers of Thanksgiving/Silent Prayer/ Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Hymn/Song

Benediction

Preferences

As you prepare to meet with the officiating clergy, it may be helpful to discuss among family members and close friends:

- Scriptures, readings, or poetry you'd like included
- Hymns and songs meaningful to you or your loved one
- Participants: Who might like to read scripture or share memories?
- Special Music: Are there musicians or soloists in your family who might like to offer special music during the service?

Scheduling & Planning

If you haven't already made your request to one of the pastors, please call the office to check availability for your preferred date. Families are welcome to plan a reception following the service either at the church or another location. Calling hours, reception fare, mementos, photos, flowers, etc., are all things your church family can help you plan.

Honoraria & Fees

It is common for families to give honoraria to the clergy and musicians assisting the memorial or funeral service. These staff positions are exempt positions, which are not compensated for overtime hours. Checks should be made out to those individuals. This is completely voluntary, and no family should be discouraged from seeking the care of the church at the time of death due to financial hardship.

Clergy	Rev. Christina Kukuk Rev. Paula Sohl	\$100-\$250
Pianist/Musician		\$100
Soloists		\$25-\$50

Our sexton is compensated at a non-exempt/hourly rate out of the Memorial Funds for additional custodial duties related to memorial services. Contributions to First Congregational UCC, Ashland, noted for the Memorial Fund, will be partly used for this purpose.