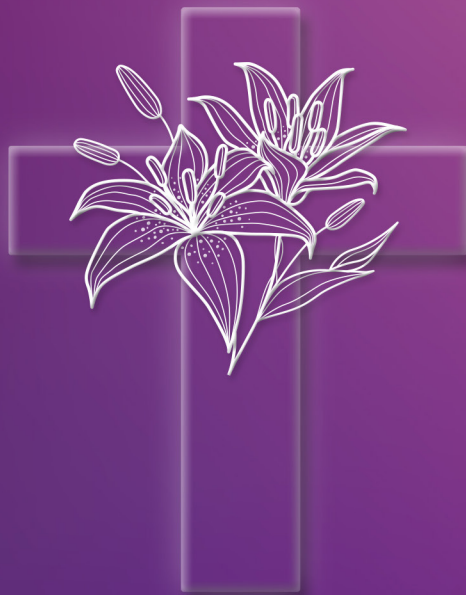
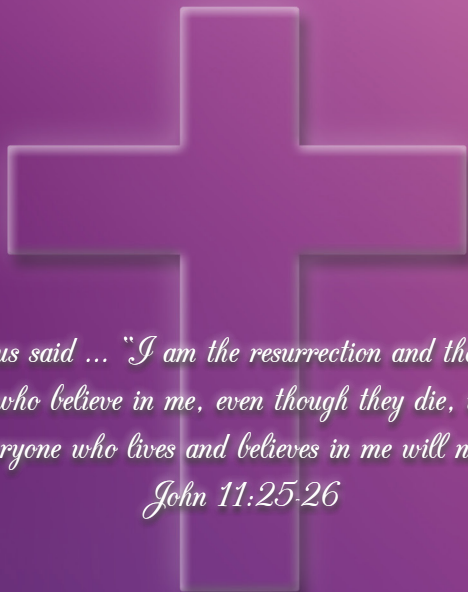


Funerals & Memorials



Sewickley Presbyterian Church



*Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
John 11:25-26*



Funerals & Memorial Services at Sewickley Presbyterian Church

One of the most tender and painful occurrences in life is saying that final, earthly farewell to those we love. This guide is intended to help plan for this inevitable journey.

The resurrection is the central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death often brings loss, sorrow and grief. In the face of death, Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve. (*Book of Order*, W-4.10001)





What is the first step in arranging a service at Sewickley Presbyterian Church?

When a death occurs, the church should be notified immediately by calling 412.741.4550. It is important to meet with a member of the pastoral staff who will guide the family through this difficult time and assist in funeral arrangements, including working with the funeral director to ensure that all plans reflect the utmost dignity and respect.

What is the purpose of the service?

The Christian funeral service is first and foremost a service of worship of the triune God that bears witness to the faith of the Church. Its purpose is to:

- proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ;
- remind the congregation of Scripture's promise of eternal life;
- comfort those who grieve; and
- give thanks to God for the life of the deceased, demonstrating how God's grace was experienced in and through the deceased's life.

While the wishes of the deceased and the family of the deceased will be taken into careful consideration, all aspects of the service will be under the direction and authority of the pastor leading the service to ensure that it glorifies God, the author of life and salvation, rather than the deceased.

What is the difference between a funeral and a memorial service?

In a funeral service, the body or ashes (cremains) of the deceased are present, either in a casket or urn. If there is no body or ashes present, it is a memorial service. Either way, the basic elements of the service will be the same.



What are the appropriate elements of the service?

Integral components include the singing of hymns, readings from Scripture, the proclamation of the gospel, and prayers of thanksgiving for the deceased and of comfort for those who grieve. Typically there are readings from both Old and New Testaments, demonstrating the continuity of God's promises throughout Scripture. All elements of the service should be consistent with the biblical affirmation of God's power over life and death.

What kind of music is allowed in the service?

All music in a funeral or memorial service should be appropriate to a service of worship and should emphasize God's grace and majesty, Christ's victory over death, and our hope of eternal life. The music should never dominate the service but should contribute to the spirit and flow of the liturgy. Most of the musical selections should be hymns sung by the congregation. If a vocal solo is desired, arrangements should be discussed with the Director of Music Ministries. Other special music, such as instrumental solos, may be performed during the prelude or postlude at the pastor's discretion. The pastor has the final approval on all musical selections.

Are eulogies allowed?

Typically, up to three people may share reflections about the deceased's life and faith. Reflections should be no longer than five minutes.

Is there also a graveside service?

A graveside service may be conducted at the final resting place. It may take place before, after, or occasionally, in lieu of the service at the church. Graveside services are generally brief and consist of readings from Scripture and prayer along with opportunities for the family to share a few words about the deceased.



Are civic organization rituals allowed during funerals and memorial services?

Fraternal or civic rites, such as the Masonic ritual, should be conducted at an alternative time at a funeral home or some other location with members of those organizations attending rather than during the Christian service of worship. Military rites may take place at the graveside. (*Book of Order*, W-4.10005)

Where are services conducted at Sewickley Presbyterian Church?

Funeral and memorial services are held either in the sanctuary or the chapel.

When are services held at Sewickley Presbyterian Church?

The date and time of the service are decided jointly by the family of the deceased and the church staff to be as mutually compatible as possible.

Is membership at Sewickley Presbyterian Church required for a service to be held?

Ordinarily, services are performed only for members of the church. On occasion, services for non-member believers may be held at the church at the clergy's discretion.

Who performs the service?

Generally, one or more of the pastors of Sewickley Presbyterian Church will plan and lead the service. At the family's request and the pastor's discretion, other Christian clergy, family or friends may be invited by the pastor to participate in the service.



What about pallbearers?

When a casket is present, pallbearers are welcome but not necessary.

Are caskets open or closed during the service?

The casket remains closed during the service and is typically covered with a pall in order that attention is directed to God. A pall is a white cloth that symbolizes baptism, the resurrection, and that we have been clothed in Christ (*Galatians*. 3:27).

Are there guidelines about floral tributes to the deceased?

Having one or two floral arrangements in the sanctuary or chapel is generally preferred to multiple tributes so as not to distract from the focus of the worship service. Although flowers are often sent to both the funeral home and the church in acknowledgement of the deceased, they are more appropriately viewed in the Robinson Room during the reception. Many families ask that gifts to favorite charities and church be considered in lieu of flowers.

What are the expected costs associated with funerals and memorial services?

A separate form is provided to families with current recommendations and fees. Listed fees include: the officiating pastor honorarium; graveside service; music ministry charges; use of building and custodial charge; bulletins; sound personnel; optional reception costs.



Will the church provide bulletins?

The church will provide a printed order of worship for memorial or funeral services held at the church. Ordinarily, the office requires at least two business days to prepare the bulletin. Families should suggest the number of bulletins to print.

Planning one's own funeral or memorial service:

Members are encouraged to plan in advance with a pastor any preferred arrangements at the time of death as well as components for the service of worship. Decisions should also be made regarding options for burial, cremation, or donation for medical purpose.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the church office at 412.741.4550.

You may download a PDF of the PC(USA)Book of Order by visiting:
<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/constitutional-services/constitution/>



Suggested Scripture Passages

Old Testament

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Job 19:23-27 | Psalms 91 |
| Psalms 1 | Psalms 100 |
| Psalms 16 | Psalms 103 |
| Psalms 23 | Psalms 112 |
| Psalms 27 | Psalms 121 |
| Psalms 30 | Psalms 139:1-18 |
| Psalms 33 | Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 |
| Psalms 34 | Isaiah 25:6-9 |
| Psalms 43 | Isaiah 40:6-11 |
| Psalms 46 | Isaiah 40:28-31 |
| Psalms 61:1-5 | Isaiah 43:1-5 |
| Psalms 63:1-8 | |

New Testament

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| John 3:16-21 | Galatians 4:4-7 |
| John 5:24-29 | Ephesians 2:1-10 |
| John 6:35-40 | Philippians 3:7-14 |
| John 6:47-51 | Philippians 3:20-21 |
| John 11:17-27 | Colossians 2:9-15 |
| John 14:1-7 | Colossians 3:1-4 |
| Romans 6:3-11 | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| Romans 8:14-15 | Titus 3:3-7 |
| Romans 8:31-39 | Hebrews 9:23-28 |
| Romans 14:7-9 | Hebrews 11:13-16 |
| 1 Corinthians 15:20-26 | Hebrews 12:1-2 |
| 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 | 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1 | Revelation 7:9-17 |
| 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 | Revelation 21:1-5 |
| Galatians 2:15-21 | |



Suggested Hymns

These hymns may be found in
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal.

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | Holy, Holy, Holy |
| 14 | For the Beauty of the Earth |
| 35 | Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty |
| 39 | Great Is Thy Faithfulness |
| 43 | You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings) |
| 69 | I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord) |
| 177 | I Will Come to You (You Are Mine) |
| 260 | Alleluia! Sing to Jesus |
| 263 | All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name |
| 265 | Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun |
| 268 | Crown Him with Many Crowns |
| 269 | Lead On, O King Eternal! |
| 275 | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God |
| 321 | The Church's One Foundation |
| 326 | For All the Saints |
| 353 | My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less |
| 354 | Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory |
| 366 | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling |
| 370 | This Is My Father's World |
| 375 | Shall We Gather at the River |
| 442 | Just As I Am, without One Plea |



Suggested Hymns

These hymns may be found in
Glory to God, The Presbyterian Hymnal.

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 450 | Be Thou My Vision |
| 462 | I Love to Tell the Story |
| 463 | How Firm a Foundation |
| 611 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee |
| 625 | O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art) |
| 634 | To God Be the Glory |
| 643 | Now Thank We All Our God |
| 649 | Amazing Grace |
| 686 | God of Our Life |
| 687 | Our God, Our Help in Ages Past |
| 804 | Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart |
| 826 | Lift High the Cross |
| 829 | My Faith Looks Up to Thee |
| 833 | O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go |
| 834 | Precious Lord, Take My Hand |
| 835 | Just a Closer Walk with Thee |
| 836 | Abide with Me |
| 839 | Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine |
| 840 | When Peace like a River (It Is Well) |
| 846 | Fight the Good Fight |



Sewickley Presbyterian Church

L I V E • G R O W • S E R V E

414 Grant Street
Sewickley, PA 15143

412.741.4550

www.sewickleypresby.org