

(revised 2019)

The Christian Funeral

No matter where you are in your planning stages the church is here to support you! We totally and completely understand that this may be a stressful time and an emotional time.

It is helpful if planning is done in advance, but we realize that is not always possible. If you wish to make plans, the church office will be more than happy to file away paper work for you at any time. This will then be used as a directive for your loved ones. Changes and updates may always be made. Please make a copy for your own personal records and share a copy with important family members.

CHURCH FUNERAL

1. Church funerals are for members only. You should be a member in good standing with the church. The Pastor will be more than happy to meet your family's needs in the setting of a funeral home for those non-church family members. (See Funeral Home section of this pamphlet).
2. Church luncheons are for church family members only.
3. There is no charge for a church funeral or luncheon. It is always appreciated if you would stop in and say thanks to the church volunteers who help out and serve.
4. Dates and times are always selected with respect to the church office and to other activities that may be taking place. If at all possible, all other activities will be postponed or canceled. Funerals take precedence. Your family takes precedence!
5. You should consider having everything here at the church...visitation, liturgy with Eucharist and a fellowship gathering or light luncheon following. You may also consider going to the cemetery in between and then coming back to the church.
6. There is a specific liturgy of the church that is used. You of course may feel free to select hymns for congregational singing and even the lessons for the day. (See separate sheet for suggestions). You may also choose special music other than hymns (favorite songs, "our" song, and "their" song), CD's or soloist(s). A bulletin celebrating the life of the person and the liturgy for the day should be done. The liturgy and the bulletin should be reflective of the person and their tastes and likes. Family involvement is encouraged...involve many, involve the whole family, involve them all! Don't leave anyone out. The Eucharist should be celebrated! Some questions to answer:

Who will make bread and/or buy the wine?

Who will distribute?

Who will read?

What will be read?

Will anyone speak?

Will anyone read a poem or poetry?

Will there be special music?

Do you want to hire a pianist?

7. If a pianist is desired, they are paid separately. Costs vary for musicians. A pretty typical rate is around \$150.00. Please understand that this is for the musician and not the church.
8. A pall will be used...that is the liturgical paraments for either a casket or an urn. It will be draped over and it symbolizes that all people are the same before God.
9. Caskets are often open for visitation and for viewing purposes. They are closed before they are brought into the church proper.

FUNERAL HOME SETTING

1. Funerals in funeral homes are for the unchurched or for non-church family members.
2. No luncheon by the church is provided.
3. Dates and times are always selected with respect to the church office and/or pastor for availability...NOT THE FUNERAL HOME.
4. Bulletins are not normally used in funeral home settings.
5. It is not appropriate to use the liturgy of the church in a non-church setting so the liturgy is different. You may select special music (favorite songs, "our" song or "their" song), soloist(s) or CDs and lessons or readings for the day. (See separate sheet for suggestions). The liturgy should be reflective of the person and their tastes and likes. Family involvement is encouraged... involve many, involve the whole family, involve them all! Don't leave anyone out. Some questions to answer:

Who will read?

What will be read?

Will anyone speak?

Will anyone read a poem or poetry?

Will there be special music?

Do you want to hire a pianist?

6. If a pianist is desired, the funeral home will generally have a list of people that you may choose from. Costs vary for musicians. This service is independent from the church.

Bring “stuff” reflective of your loved one and their life to either the church or the funeral home. The church does not provide easels for pictures.

Memorials are always accepted. You may want to designate where those monies go. The church office will be more than happy to discuss this with you. There are several possibilities.

Cremation is a possibility to consider, versus an in ground burial or in a mausoleum. The ashes may be saved, scattered or placed in a columbarium. This is a personal choice!

If cremation is chosen, the body can either be present or the cremains may be present or it can be a memorial without either. Again, it is a personal choice.

We understand that this is no easy task. We are here to help you through every step of the process. You may have many questions and there are no stupid questions, so by all means ASK! You may contact us at anytime:

414-762-5111 Church office

414-762-6101 Pastor’s private line

414-276-2788 Pastor’s cell phone

<http://allsaintsoakcreek.org>.

pjharley@gmail.com

This information is also available on our website: www.allsaintsoakcreek.org