



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

A Memorial Service at First Congregational Church of Akron is a religious service. We offer the following guidelines to outline some of the details. In all ways we understand our role as one of supporting families as they prepare for this sacred event celebrating the life of a loved one and saying farewell.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

Psalm 23:6

Trusting in these words, it would be our honor
and privilege to host a Memorial Service for your loved one
and aid you in honoring their memory
and celebrating their life.

SCHEDULING YOUR SERVICE

Please contact our Administrative Assistant to schedule a visit with a minister with whom you will arrange a mutually agreeable date for the service when the facility and necessary staff will be available, and to discuss the service details. At your request, our ministers will also be present with the family to officiate a burial or interment as a part of Funeral or Memorial Service package. While we make every effort to accommodate requests for specific dates and/or times for services, extenuating circumstances may dictate the need for alternate dates and/or times.

THE CLERGY & ORDER OF WORSHIP

All services of worship at First Church are planned and led by our ministers. During a family meeting, the minister can discuss ways that others may be involved in the service.

Our ministers seek to personalize services and aid each family in fully honoring and remembering their loved one. The minister will discuss aspects of the service that are optional and allow for personal choice. The overall order of the worship service as well as its components and content are, however, at the discretion of the officiating minister.

MUSIC

Our organist plays either the organ or piano for all Funerals and Memorial Services held in the church. If our organist is unavailable or another instrument or soloist is requested, a substitute or additional musician or vocalist who is familiar with our facility and ministers will be arranged by our staff. If you would like to use a particular soloist or instrumentalist, please consult with the minister and organist before making plans.

RECEPTION

Request for a reception directly following a Funeral or Memorial Service should be made with the minister when scheduling the service to ensure the necessary rooms are available. The Food Service & Cleaning Coordinator will then coordinate details of the reception directly with the family, as necessary.

Cookies, coffee, tea and punch	<i>No Charge</i>
Light cold appetizers, coffee, tea and punch	\$12 per person
Hot and cold appetizers, coffee, tea and punch	\$15 per person

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Our Meetinghouse seats up to 550 people in arched wooden pews. Our Chapel is a contemporary worship space seating small groups of up to 40 considering physical distancing. Both worship spaces have an organ and piano.
- The church will be open one hour prior to the service for the family to gather in the library.
- If there is a reception following the service, the church will remain open for two hours after the end of the service. If there is no reception following the service, the church will remain open for a half hour after the end of the service.
- Ushers can be provided to greet before the service upon request, if the funeral home is not providing this service.
- Printed programs are provided. A portrait photo of the deceased may be furnished to the church office to be scanned and used on the program cover. Please note we reserve the right to decline to use photos that are of poor quality and will not print well. All photos supplied must be collected from the church office.
- Live streaming and a digital recording of events occurring in the Meetinghouse can be provided if requested for an additional fee.
- Furnishings, including pulpit and Communion table, cannot be moved in either the Meetinghouse or Chapel.
- The church cannot provide a Memorial Guest Book but will provide a stand if the family or funeral home provides a book.
- We are a smoke, alcohol, drug and weapon-free facility.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

Clergy	\$250.00 *
Lead Organist / Piano	\$200.00
Additional vocalist / musician	\$125.00 each
Building Staff	\$80.00 – 350.00 Dependent on the number of staff required, reception, etc.
Building Use	<i>No charge</i>
Audio/Visual Staff	\$125
Other fees as needed	

* Optional for active church members (whether they are the deceased or an immediate family member of the deceased).

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