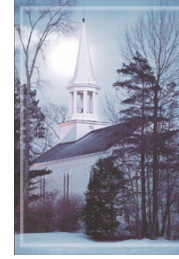


*Planning a Funeral or Memorial Service at  
West Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 23, Bethel, Maine 04217*



This brochure is intended to help ease the process of planning for a service of worship that celebrates the life of a loved one who has died. The service recognizes both the pain of separation caused by death and the hope to be found in God's promises of comfort, peace and life. We give thanks for our loved one's life and commend that life to God. The service provides a time for the community to support with their presence those who are bereaved. Above all, it affirms the steadfast love of God from which no one can be separated, not even by death.

If the coffin is present, the service is a funeral; otherwise the words "memorial service" are customarily used. You may choose to hold a viewing before the service, either at a funeral home or at the church; during the service itself, the coffin is closed.

While family members and friends may, if you desire, help to lead the service, the West Parish Church pastor will be the primary officiant. The pastor would like to meet with you as soon as you decide to have the service here and will assist you with your planning. The church is happy to secure the services of an organist or pianist for you. If you would like to have other musicians or a soloist, please make arrangements in consultation with the pastor.

Ordinarily the church is open at least an hour before the time the service is scheduled. If access to the church is needed earlier, please contact the pastor who will make every effort to accommodate your needs or those of florists and musicians.

The church has a lovely Memorial Garden in back where the ashes of a loved one may be interred, if you wish. For more information, please ask for the brochure which explains the details.

### An Outline of a Typical Order of Service

Prelude  
Welcome  
Prayer  
Hymn, if desired  
Scripture reading  
Minister's words  
Readings or reminiscences by others, if desired  
Solo or other musical interlude  
Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Hymn, if desired  
Benediction  
Postlude

There are many possible scripture readings that are appropriate for funerals and memorial services. You may like to consider one or more of the following, another favorite passage, or leave the choice up to the pastor.

Psalms 23; 46; 90:1-4, 12-17; 121; or 139:1-18, 23-24.

Job 19:25-27;

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15;

Isaiah 25:6-9;

Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33

Matthew 5:3-10; 11:28-30

John 14: 1-3, 18-19, 25-27

Romans 8:9-11,31-39

1 Corinthians 13

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Revelation 21:1-6

Likewise, there are many hymns that are appropriate. Here are some from our church hymnal.

25 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

28 For the Beauty of the Earth

35 O Mighty God (How Great Thou Art)

43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

99 Abide with Me

195 The Old Rugged Cross

247 My Shepherd Is the Living God

299 For All the Saints

351 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

366 God of Our Life

433 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

472 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

479 God Is My Shepherd

488 Be Still, My Soul

547 Amazing Grace

596 Rock of Ages

597 Shall We Gather at the River

603 Giver of Life, Where'er They Be

There need not be large numbers of floral arrangements to beautify the sanctuary, although you or others may want to express your love in this manner. If you would like photos of the person who has died, it is customary to have no more than one on the altar or piano. It is wonderful to have other pictures on display at the reception site.

The church is always grateful when financial gifts are made in memory of a person. These gifts will be promptly acknowledged by our Financial Secretary. If you would like these gifts to be used to purchase some item in particular, please consult with the pastor.

Although it is not necessary, you may wish to prepare a program for the service. This will often have, in addition to the order of service, a photograph and a passage of scripture or a favorite poem. The church does not have a color photo-copier; local printers who can make copies for you:

Citizen Graphic: 824-2444

The Maine Press 364-8889  
Park Street Press 743-7702

You may have family members and friends supply food or contact area caterers:

Good Food Store 824-3754  
Rooster's Roadhouse 824-0309  
Gourmet in a Pinch 824-6000  
DiCocoa's 824-5282

Local florists:

Designs (seasonal) 824-0888  
Pooh Corner Farm 836-3276

Suggested contributions:

\$150 for the pastor's services

\$100 for the organist

\$200 for the use of the church when the family are not members

\$100 for the use of the chapel or dining room for a reception