



First United Church

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www.firstunitedsc.com

*"...called by the Spirit to be a caring community of faith
actively pursuing spiritual growth and compassionate outreach"*

Funeral Policy

The First United Church building and our resident minister are available for United Church funerals upon request. The sanctuary seats approximately 450 people and our chapel seats 56 people. The resident minister of First United Church may also be contacted to perform a funeral or memorial service at a location other than at First United Church.

Preparing for a funeral and dealing with the death of a loved one is a difficult time. A variety of feelings are expressed and the community of faith can be an important support in the grieving process and in planning the funeral service. A funeral or memorial service is a service of worship to give thanks for the life even as the loss is grieved.

Resident Minister

If a United Church funeral or memorial service is requested to be held at First United Church, the resident minister of First United Church will officiate at the service, if available. If the wish is for another minister, or lay person to participate in the service, please discuss this with the resident minister before making any arrangements. The resident minister may assign a portion of the service to another minister or lay person; but the liturgy, in all cases, will be shaped, lead and approved by the resident minister.

If the resident minister is unavailable, First United Church will find an authorized funeral officiant, or another United Church minister, to conduct the service. This person will have the same responsibility as the resident minister in shaping, leading and approving the liturgy.

Music

The minister will be pleased to work with the pianist and/or organist to provide music for the service and will help select music/hymns appropriate for the service.

If the wish is to bring in a musician from outside the church, the minister is to be consulted. The pipe organ and sound system in the sanctuary are handled only by personnel authorized by First United.

The First United Choir will be pleased to lead in the singing of hymns and/or provide an anthem if required.

Reception

Following the funeral service or the committal service, a reception may be helpful in terms of establishing contact with the community of support. Such a reception may be held here at First United in either Knox Hall Gym or one of the larger meeting rooms.

The United Church Caterers will be pleased to assist the family by providing a light lunch following the funeral service. Please contact the church office for menu choices and the related fees. Leftover food can be taken by the family or will be donated to a local non-profit organization.

Arrangements can be made for other groups to use our church facilities and provide a lunch if that is the wish of the family. These arrangements can also be made through our Office Manager.

Fees

The policy of First United Church is to charge a fee for all funerals conducted in the church. If this fee will cause undue hardship please let the minister know. On the recommendation of the minister, the fee may be reduced. (see attached fee schedule)

Officiant fees for funerals held at graveside or a location other than the church shall be the same as for funerals at the church. There will also be an additional fee for committal services held at a time separate from the funeral service.