

Carlisle UMC

Funeral Policy

Revised December 2, 2016

Introduction

Christians recognize the inevitability of death, and the Christian gospel powerfully addresses the reality and experience of death. Christians are expected to affirm their confidence in Christ's victory over death and the grave. The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christian attitudes toward and responses to death. Belief in the resurrection does not deny the reality of death or the loss, sorrow, and grief that accompany death.

Christians do not bear bereavement alone but are sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith. The Christian community has special responsibilities to persons who are dying and those who are bereaved.

Even for Christians, the death of a loved one is a difficult experience. We grieve the loss of one who has been close, but we do not sorrow as those who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). It is our privilege to minister to the families of our congregation in their time of need. The church provides this policy to assist our families in planning and providing a Christian funeral.

The pastors at Carlisle UMC recognize funerals are a cultural event as well as a religious event. Every effort will be made to be sensitive to the customs regarding death and burial of the dead which are characteristic of particular communities, and the pastors will honor such customs whenever possible. The pastors will work closely with the family and the funeral directors toward a mutual understanding of cultural customs and the church's theological understanding and practice.

Policy

The general guidelines for funerals are contained in the rubrics of the United Methodist Church as found in the United Methodist Hymnal and the Book of Worship. Specific guidelines pertaining to Carlisle UMC are offered here. Decisions concerning areas outside the scope of this funeral policy and the rubrics of the United Methodist Church shall be decided at the discretion of the lead pastor.

The Christian funeral service is understood as a service of worship and should be approached as such. Thought should be given to the designing of the service, and it is expected that those present will participate in corporate worship. The singing of hymns, reading of scripture, preaching of the gospel, confession of sin, affirmation of faith, and celebration of the Lord's Supper are all appropriate to the Christian funeral service. The sanctuary and the chapel are both available for funeral services. Fraternal rites may not be held in the sanctuary or chapel of Carlisle UMC, but may be held in other areas of the church. The pastors are also glad to conduct services at the funeral home should the family prefer.

When a death occurs, please call the church office (717-249-1512). One of our pastors will endeavor to visit the family as soon as possible to comfort and assist you in any way possible.

The a pastor of Carlisle UMC must approve all funeral arrangements; however, any of our pastors can work with the family in helping design the funeral service, printing funeral bulletins and obituaries for the church service, choosing music, and arranging the time, space, and other aspects, such as a meal following the service. Every effort will be made to accommodate the family's desire for time and date of the funeral service, but certain appointments and scheduled

activities are difficult to change. Requests for the participation of a guest pastor to assist in the funeral service must be made to the officiating pastor; that pastor, if appropriate, will extend the invitation.

The pastor is available to lead a brief committal service at the site (locally) where the deceased is to be interred. Military honors are welcomed as part of the interment service.

Flowers and other forms of decoration are appropriate but not required. The altar candles may be lit. Other candles may be used but must be supplied by the family.

Our church staff will be happy to organize and serve a simple memorial meal at the church either following the funeral service or the graveside service. Please see the fee schedule below.

Service with Funeral Home Involved (fees charged through funeral home).

Fees:

Pastor	No fee, though an honorarium is appropriate
Organist/Pianist	\$125 organist; \$100 pianist
Other Musicians	No fee, though an honorarium is appropriate
Sound/Media technician	\$50
Meals	See Funeral Meals Letter
Custodial Services	\$100

For Funeral/Memorial Services where NO funeral home is involved:*

Honorariums:

Pastor	No honorarium expected
Organist/Pianist	Suggested honorarium is \$125 for organist, \$100 for pianist. <i>Check to: Organist/Pianist name</i>
Other Musicians	Suggested honorarium is \$50.
Sound/Media technician	<i>Suggested honorarium is \$50. Check to: Sound Tech name</i>
Meals	See Funeral Meal Letter <i>Check to: Carlisle UMC, separate check for meals please.</i>
Custodial Services	Fee is \$100 <i>Check to: Carlisle UMC</i>

*this will be communicated by the pastor in charge to the family as part of the planning for the service. Sample memo on next page.

Sample Memo to family:

Our Carlisle Church family extends itself to you during this time of loss. We consider it a privilege to minister to you and your family.

We do not charge fees for funeral services. We consider them to be part of our Christian experience and ministry here at CUMC. However you will want to express your appreciation for the time and efforts of those who will participate in the service and/or make the day possible. Below is a suggested schedule:

Pastor(s)	No honorarium. (<i>If you give us one, we will simply pass it on to the church as a memorial gift</i>)
Organist/Pianist	Suggested honorarium is \$125 for organist, \$100 for pianist Make check out to: Organist/Pianist personally
Other Musicians (<i>Soloists, etc.</i>)	Suggested honorarium is \$50 each. Make check out to: Musician personally
Media Tech (<i>if needed</i>)	Suggested honorarium is \$50. Make check out to: Media Tech personally
Custodian	Suggested honorarium is \$100. Make check out to: Carlisle UMC

We suggest you hand checks/envelopes to the people directly the day of the funeral. If you believe the honoraria may create a financial hardship, please do not hesitate to talk to the pastor caring for the funeral. We in no way wish to create that kind of scenario.

If you are having a Funeral Meal at the church, please refer to the Funeral Meals Letter for options and cost information.

If you have any questions at all, be sure to contact the pastor who is working with you for the service.