

Funerals & Memorial Services

The officers, staff, and members of Davidson College Presbyterian Church extend our sympathy to families in their time of bereavement. We have prepared these notes to assist you in planning these services.

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

The Directory for Worship (Book of Order, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A).

Types of Services

Service of Committal

This simple service of farewell is ordinarily conducted in concert with the usual services at the church. It takes place at the graveside or in the case of cremation, at the place where the ashes shall be placed. A committal service may take place before or after services at the church. Or, upon occasions when brevity and simplicity are required, the committal service may stand alone.

This service includes readings from scripture, prayers, words of committal, and a blessing, reflecting the reality of death, entrusting the one who has died to the care of God and bearing witness to faith in the resurrection of the dead.

Service of Worship in the Church Sanctuary or Chapel

The service may be a funeral held with the remains of the deceased present either in a casket or urn, or it may be a memorial service with no remains present. Ordinarily, if the casket is present, it shall be closed at all times when it is in the sanctuary or chapel. The church will provide a cloth pall if desired. The pall shall be placed on the casket upon entry into the narthex and removed before the casket exits the narthex. The committal may follow or precede the service.

The service begins with scripture. It is appropriate for worshipers to sing hymns, spirituals, or spiritual songs which affirm God's power over death, a belief in the resurrection to life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Scripture shall be read; a sermon or other exposition of the Word may be proclaimed; an affirmation of faith may be made by the people. Aspects of the life of the one who has died may be recalled. Prayers shall be offered concluding with the Lord's Prayer. The service ends by commending the one who has died to the care of the eternal God and sending the people forth with a benediction.

The sanctuary seats 800 and the chapel seats 100.

General Guidelines

- 1) At the time of death, or if possible, in advance of an expected death, please notify one of the ministers or a member of the church staff so that we may offer you pastoral care, guidance, and the support of the church.
- 2) The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship, in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. Arrangements for the use of the church for services shall be made through the church office. When there are important reasons not to hold the service in the usual place of worship, it may be held in another suitable place, such as a home, a funeral home, a crematorium or at the graveside.
- 3) One of our ministers, as assigned by the Pastor/Head of Staff, will meet with the family to assist in planning and leading the service and committal arrangements. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic or military rites should be conducted separately.
- 4) The church will contact the staff musician for the family. The staff musician will work with the family in planning music for the service including any special requests. The church compensates its staff musician for the service.
- 5) The church will contact a sound technician for the family. If desired by the family, the service may be live-streamed through DCPC's Facebook and You Tube channels. Live-streamed services are automatically recorded on Facebook and You Tube.
- 6) The church will provide printed programs for the service.
- 7) A member of the church will be assigned as a funeral host to assist the family on the day of the service. The host will arrange for an adequate number of ushers to be at each service.
- 8) It is fitting that flowers used in memorial or funeral services shall be limited to the amount normally used at regular Sunday worship, with the addition of a floral casket pall, if desired. Beyond placing flowers and the casket in the sanctuary or chapel prior to a funeral, it is not necessary for funeral home personnel to be in the sanctuary, nor to give any other direction until the casket leaves the sanctuary.
- 9) The expressly Christian furnishings of the sanctuary or chapel shall not be removed, relocated or obscured during the service. These include the Communion Table and the Baptismal Font.
- 10) Up to five parking spaces will be reserved for the family along Main Street in front of the Chapel.
- 11) The minister and funeral host will meet the family in the church parlor shortly before the service is to begin. After prayer, the family will be led through the side door to the pews reserved for the family in front of the church. At the conclusion of the service, the family is welcome to greet friends in the narthex, parlor or congregation house if desired.

- 12) If the family desires to have a reception following the service, the church will provide a reception coordinator to work with the family to make the arrangements.
- 13) Davidson College Presbyterian Church maintains an onsite columbarium for members of this church community. There is a separate policy governing operation of the columbarium available from the church office or on the DCPC website.
- 14) There is no fee for members for our pastors, staff musician, sexton, or sound technician; however, an honorarium may be given. For non-members, a separate fee chart is provided below.

Non-member fees for funerals & memorial services

Sanctuary Fee.....	\$400
Chapel Fee	\$400
Clergy.....	\$200
Staff Musician.....	\$200
Soloist	\$100
Sexton	\$125
Sound Technician.....	\$ 75