

FUNERALS

at the

First Congregational Church of River Edge

United Church of Christ



109 Continental Avenue

River Edge, NJ 07661

201-261-1712

office@fccriveredge.org

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

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We at First Congregational Church extend our sympathy to you for your loss. We pray that God's love and grace will surround you during this time. All of us are faced, at the most unexpected moments, with the realization that, in the midst of life, we also face death. Christian faith provides crucial hope in our facing of life and death issues. We offer here encouragement and a few guides in dealing with grief.

It is appropriate to contact the pastor of the church immediately following a death in the congregation. Such a call allows opportunity to draw on the resources of prayer and comfort without delay, and to make initial plans for worship and coping with grief.

Services at First Congregational Church incorporate remembering and celebrating the life of the person who has died. Scripture is read. A brief meditation/sermon is given by the pastor to speak of our faith in God's great love and grace. There is often a eulogy or remembrance by the family or friends. The pastor will give a prayer to commend the loved one to God's care.

Music can be an important help in the service. Hymns are often sung, and selected music may be played. The family is invited to make appropriate selections. As a service of worship, the music selected must be part of the praise and prayer of the event. The Minister of Music will assist in choosing hymns and additional musicians if desired.

Following worship, First Congregational Church provides facilities for a memorial **Reception** to its members. Catering and table arrangement for the reception is the responsibility of the family. Members of the congregation may be available for serving at the reception.

The First Congregational Church has a **Memorial Fund** that welcomes gifts for use by the church. Your family may ask that **Memorial Gifts** be made to this or another charity in lieu of flowers.

Although death brings us loss, it is not for us a final loss. Though we do grieve, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. We refer to our funeral service as a Witness to the Resurrection, and in it we celebrate both the resurrection of Jesus, and our own resurrection in Christ. The service is a time to be honest with God about our grief, but also to give thanks for how God's grace has been reflected in life, and to celebrate that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ in life and in death.

“For we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:38-39)

Sample Order for a Funeral Service

This Order of Service is often used for Memorial or Funeral Services at the First Congregational Church.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN OF PRAISE

CALL TO REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER FOR COMFORT AND ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MEDITATION

Pastor

REMEMBRANCES

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION ...*ending with* The Lord's Prayer

COMMENDATION

HYMN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Some Possible Scripture Lessons for Funeral Services

Psalms 20, 23, 103, 121, 130, or 139

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31

Matthew 6:25-33

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 24:1-9, 36-43

John 1:1-5, 9-14

John 14:1-6

John 14:15-20

Romans 8:18, 28, 31-39

...and others

The times of life

The strength of God

Blessed living

Jesus' power to calm a storm

Resurrection

Jesus, the Word of God

Jesus and the dwelling places of God

Promise of the Holy Spirit

The power of God's love for us

1 Corinthians 15:35-58	The mystery of resurrection
2 Corinthians 4:11-5:9	Living by Faith
I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Coming resurrection
I Peter 1:3-9	A Living Hope
Revelation 21:1-5	Vision of all things New
Revelation 22:3-5	God's Holy Light

Suggested Hymns for Funeral Services

First Congregational Church uses *The New Century Hymnal*.

These are frequently used hymns; many other hymns are suitable for use.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God	439
Abide with Me	99
In the Bulb There Is a Flower	433
Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound	547
Be Still, My Soul	488
Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine	473
Breathe on Me, Breath of God	292
O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be	385
For All the Saints	299
God of Grace and God of Glory	436
Great Is Thy Faithfulness	423
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You	4
My Life Flows on in Endless Song	476
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	43
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	25
The Church's One Foundation	386
On Eagle's Wings	

Fee Schedule

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
Church Fee:		
Use of sanctuary for funeral	no fee	\$400
Parlor/Fellowship Hall for reception	no fee	not available
Custodial presence at funeral	75	125
Minister of Music (Gloria Norton)	150	250
Minister (Rev. Dennis TeBeest)	250	300

This includes grief counsel & funeral planning.

The above contributions can be handled through individual checks payable to First Congregational Church, the Minister of Music and the Minister.

Approved by Leadership Council, June 19, 2018