

# **FUNERAL & BURIAL INSTRUCTION**

*Please return this form to the church office, and retain a copy for your records.  
Please instruct your family as to where this form can be found upon the event of your death.*

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, the celebration of the Lord's Supper are all appropriate to the Christian funeral service.

The Liturgy for the Dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, or powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord,"

This joy, however, does not make human grief un-Christian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. *"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."* (Book of Order: W-4.10001)

When possible, it is suggested you fill out the following instructions in consultation with your clergy:

***Circumstances permitting, I wish my burial service to take place at:***

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***Celebrant:*** \_\_\_\_\_

*"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."* (Book of Order: W-4.10003)

The service shall be "A Service of Witness to the Resurrection" from the *Book of Common Worship*.

***Suggested Pall Bearers:***

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***I would like to have the following scriptures read:***

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***If possible, I would especially like the following hymns to be sung:***

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*"In order that attention in the service be directed to God, when a casket is present, it ordinarily is closed. It may be covered with a funeral pall."* (Book of Order: W-4.10005)

With regard to flowers: in lieu of flowers, many prefer to make a more lasting memorial. For example, memorial funds for the church can be arranged and designated as you wish, or left to the discretion of the Pastor and Session. If you so desire, please indicate where you would like to have such contributions made (speak with the Pastor or member of Session if you have questions):

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**I prefer to be:** Buried ☐ Cremated ☐ Before the funeral ☐ After the funeral ☐

**My wishes concerning the ashes are:**

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**First Presbyterian's Columbarium & Memorial Garden?** Yes ☐ No ☐

**I have made arrangements to have certain organs or all of my body donated to:**

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**Funeral Home to use:**

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**Coffin Specifications:**

Least expensive ☐ Mid-range ☐ Elaborate ☐ I have pre-purchased my coffin ☐

**Additional information for my survivors:**

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**Do you have any stories of your life or faith you would like to have shared at this service?**  
(Attach separate sheet of paper.)

**Is there anything else you would like people to know as they attend this service?**  
(Attach separate sheet of paper.)

**Would you like a soloist?** Yes ☐ No ☐ **Specific soloist?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preference for solo piece?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This guide was prepared to encourage thoughtful estate planning and funeral preparation. For additional copies, or for information on how to remember your church in your estate planning, you may write or phone:  
First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak 529 Hendrie Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48067 (248)541-0108 [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org)  
If you desire a **Health Care Proxy** which is recognized by statutory law (a law written by the legislature in East Lansing and signed by the Governor), or a **Living Will** which is recognized by case or judicial law (a law which sometimes comes into effect as a result of court decision), they may be obtained by going to Beaumont Hospital to any registration desk. These documents assure future health care choices. Just ask for a copy of "Advance Directives."