

Bethel Presbyterian Church

Funerals and Memorial Services

In baptism each Christian shares in Christ's dying and rising, and receives the promise of eternal and abundant life in him. We understand the Christian funeral to be the completion of Baptism. In the face of death, we affirm with tears and joy the good news of the gospel and the hope of resurrection. We do not grieve in isolation, but are sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order W-4.0701

You may contact the church office or our pastor at any time to let us know of a loved one's death or in anticipation of an imminent death. Our pastor is Rev. Cathie Smith. You may call 412/835-0405 or email pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com to contact her.

After a loved one dies, you probably will be working with a funeral home. The funeral director should contact the church and consult with the pastor to confirm the date and time of the service. The process of planning the service can help put your loved one's death in perspective and begin the healing. The family should plan on meeting with the pastor to plan the service. This meeting may take place at the church, a funeral home, or your home, depending on which location is most convenient for you and your family.

The Funeral or Memorial Service

The service reflects the church's faith and hope in Christ's resurrection. It seeks to make clear that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the life and memory of the deceased. We assemble in grief, thanksgiving, and hope.

- The church is the most fitting place for the final service of one of its members who worshiped God and experienced the love of other members within her walls. A funeral home chapel is also acceptable. Sometimes, a graveside service is preferable. Talk with the pastor before making a final decision.
- The service typically includes prayers, Scripture readings, hymns, and a homily. Solos are acceptable, but congregational singing of familiar hymns is recommended. It is meaningful to include the deceased's favorite Bible passages and hymns. Our pastor will help you choose scripture, music and anything else you would like to include.
- We can produce a bulletin for the service or you are welcome to provide your own bulletin.
- A casket is always closed for a service in the church.

- Flowers, photographs and personal mementos can be arranged in the Narthex if you wish to have them present at the service.
- Fraternal and military rites are not part of the church service and these should take place at graveside or at the fraternal organization's place of meeting. There may be exceptions, on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the pastor.
- Bethel Presbyterian Church's pastor officiates at all services held in the church. Other clergy may participate at the invitation of our pastor.
- Likewise, our organist plays for all services held in the church. Other musicians may participate by invitation.

General Information

- Our pastor is Rev. Cathie Smith. Please email pastorcathie.bethelpc@gmail.com or call 412/835-0405 to contact her.
- Our organist is Cody Soska. Please send an email to cmsoska@gmail.com or call him at 412/877-9139 to discuss the music for the service.
- The funeral director normally handles all fees, including honoraria for the pastor and organist. If you are not using a funeral home's services, the pastor will advise you about any costs when you meet to discuss the service.
- If a florist is needed, we suggest Herman J. Heyl Florists (412/833-3833) or Pete Donati & Sons Florists (412/835-4420). Both have provided excellent service.
- Our Galbraith Hall, Auditorium and Kitchen may be used for receptions following the service. The Presbyterian Women of Bethel Presbyterian Church handle receptions at the church. Please contact the church secretary, Kathy Young, for additional information at 412/835-0405.
- The church is accessible to persons in wheelchairs. First-floor bathrooms are also accessible.
- Bethel Presbyterian Church maintains a tobacco-free and alcohol-free environment.

Fee Schedule for Funerals and Memorial Services

If the billing is handled by the funeral home, the minister and organist receive a check from the funeral director. In the case of a memorial service, it is the family's responsibility to pay the minister and organist directly (also a graphics person and custodian if applicable). The fees break down this way:

Service Fees

Minister	\$150
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Organist	\$150 (If other musicians will be included, their fees will be arranged separately.)
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Custodian	\$100 (If Memorial Service falls on a Saturday or other time when custodial staff is not normally scheduled.)
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Reception	Contact PW for details.
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Sanctuary	No charge.
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Galbraith Hall	No charge.
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Auditorium	No charge.
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Kitchen	No charge.
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