



Funeral Procedures

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1480 ZETTLER RD.
COLUMBUS, OH 43227
(614) 231-4568

REV. DR. F. WILLIS JOHNSON, SENIOR MINISTER

Philosophy and Purpose

At Christ Church, we understand that the loss of a loved one is profound. Our funeral and memorial services serve not only as a celebration of life, but as a time to come together in Christian hope, providing comfort, support, and sacred closure for families and the broader church community. We aim to minister compassionately, honoring the deceased while uplifting Christ's promise of resurrection.

Initial Contact & Notification

When a death occurs, the family, or a designated representative, should contact the administrative office of Christ Church-Columbus as soon as possible. This allows our pastoral staff to provide immediate spiritual support and to begin the planning process.

The Senior Minister or his designee will arrange a meeting with the family to discuss preliminary details and provide prayerful consolation.



POINT OF CONTACT

Church Office: (614) 231-4568
After-hours/Pastoral Emergency Line:
(336) 383-6815



MINISTERIAL TEAM RESPONSE

The ministerial team will reach out within 24 hours to provide care and prayer and to begin arrangements. The initial meeting may happen virtually or in person.

ARRANGEMENTS & SERVICE PLANNING

All funeral and memorial services at Christ Church-Columbus will be organized in consultation with the Senior Minister, who maintains discretion over the service's liturgy, flow, and participants. The following steps guide the planning process:



BASIC INFORMATION GATHERING



- Name of the deceased, date of birth, and date of passing
- Preferred dates and times for services
- Funeral home or crematory contact, if applicable
- Family's wishes regarding visitation/viewing, burial, or cremation

SETTING THE DATE & RESERVING SPACE

The administrative office will work with the family and funeral home to find a mutually agreeable date(s) and time(s), considering church programming, facility and ministerial availability.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

The Senior Minister (appointed elder) presides over all rites, rituals, and services unless otherwise designated. Guest clergy may participate, subject to Rev. Dr. Johnson's approval.



Roles & Logistics



At Christ Church, the appointed elder is responsible for the Word of Comfort (eulogy), prayers, scripture readings, and committal unless otherwise designated by the Senior Minister. Additional ministers, deacons, or lay leaders may assist as needed or assigned

MUSIC AND MEDIA

The church's Coordinator of Music and/or executive administrator will coordinate with the family on musical selections; musicians and soloists may be arranged by the church if desired. AV/technology needs should be communicated in advance, but are not promised.

PRINTED MATERIALS/OBITUARY

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PREScribed ORDER OF SERVICE OUTLINE

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- Prelude (Music)
- Processional (Final viewing as the casket is closed for the duration of the service)
- Opening Prayer
- Scripture Readings (Old/New Testament selections)
- Hymns/Special Music
- Obituary & Acknowledgements
- Tributes/Remembrances (no more than three people with a limit of 2 minutes or less)
- Word of Comfort/Eulogy (Senior Minister)
- Benediction
- Recessional
- Committal/Burial (if applicable)

**Order of service and content may be adapted at the discretion and approval of the Senior Minister.

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PASTORAL CARE & AFTERCARE

Christ Church's ministry does not end at the funeral.

The ministerial team will follow up with bereaved families, providing ongoing support via visits, calls, and grief resources. Support groups and counseling referrals are offered as needed.

FEES & HONORARIA

Christ Church does charge fees for use of facilities, clergy and professional services (e.g., musicians, soloists, etc.) Click

<https://www.christcolumbus.com/bereavement-form> to submit a request.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Flowers and memorial donations should be coordinated with the church office.

Photography and videography must be discreet and approved by the executive administrator. External organizations or fraternities wishing to participate should seek prior approval from the Senior Minister.

Contact Information

For questions, emergencies, or to initiate
arrangements, please contact:

Church Office: 614-231-4568

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson

Website: www.christcolumbus.com

