

Wydown United Church Funeral & Memorial Service Guidelines

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

We at Wydown United Church extend our sympathy to you for your loss and we pray that God’s love and grace surround you during this time. The death of a loved one breaks our hearts, and we discover that not only do we need to grieve and cry, but also to plan the service and the reception, while dealing with legal issues and other additional details. We know you may feel overwhelmed, particularly in regard to the many decisions that must be made in planning a funeral or memorial service. Whether gathered in the sanctuary, a funeral home, or at the graveside, we seek to support one another, celebrate the love of the deceased, give thanks for their life, and commend them to God.

Worship in such a time offers consolation to the bereaved by acknowledging their pain and sorrow and providing the Christian community and others with an opportunity to support the bereaved with their presence. Its purpose is to affirm once more the powerful, steadfast love of God from which people cannot be separated, even by death.

Our Senior Minister conducts all funeral and memorial services held at Wydown United Church. Any requests for another pastor or lay person to officiate or assist in the service must be approved by the Senior Minister.

If you wish to hold a funeral at Wydown United Church, please contact the church office and our Senior Minister to arrange the date. It is also possible to hold a reception after the service, which can be scheduled with the church office.

The Senior Minister will meet with you to plan the service. Our Minister of Music coordinates all music for our services. Additional musicians or vocalists must be discussed with our Minister of Music. For church members, the church office will provide a simple bulletin for the service.

The Memorial Garden on our church grounds is available and affords members, families, and friends:

- The privilege of the interment of remains
- The opportunity to memorialize a loved one
- The perfect setting for quiet meditation and prayer

Wydown United Church members and their immediate family may be interred at no cost and/or an engraved memorial brick purchased for \$300. The cost of interment for non-members is \$500, plus \$300 for the memorial brick. Cremation must be arranged with a

funeral home or crematorium. Planning for the interment should be made through the Senior Minister.

Flowers, pictures and other mementos can be displayed in the Sanctuary, Narthex, Tower Room, or other reception area. No tacks, nails, tape, or other injurious materials are allowed.

Florists may deliver flowers during normal office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9 AM-4:30 PM), or up to two hours before the service time.

Reception space is available at the church. The church can provide the set-up of tables and chairs. Kitchen space is available for staging purposes for caterers. You may bring in a caterer of your choice.

Fees: Please see the separate Rental Fee Schedule.