

THE COLUMBARIUM

Through the years, the Christian Church has provided care and guidance concerning burial of its members. As cremation has increasingly become a more popular option at the end of life, our congregation has responded by allowing the ashes of our deceased members or deceased family members to remain and be cared for at their church home in perpetuity. Burial in the church columbarium has provided for interment on sacred ground, with a visible and continuous reminder of the Church's important place in members' lives and their deaths.

The Columbarium is an arrangement of 72 permanent niches for the interment of cremated remains – a resting place for ashes of the deceased. The setting is a tranquil and pleasant garden area, appropriate as a place of burial and fitting for prayer and meditation. Cremation is recognized as a reverent and proper means of Christian burial – dignified and theologically sound.

Each niche of the First United Methodist Columbarium can hold the cremated remains of one person. The exterior plate of each niche may be inscribed with the family name and later with the given name and the year of birth and death of the person whose remains are contained within.

Procedures

The procedures governing the use of the Columbarium have been prepared by the Columbarium Committee. Copies of these procedures are available in the church office. The Columbarium may be used by members of First United Methodist Church and their immediate families.

Reservations

Columbarium niches will be allocated on a first application basis. Persons wishing to reserve Columbarium niches should contact the church office and submit a completed application form. The Columbarium fee shall be paid when the application is made. If persons at some time, for some reason, wish to sell the rights to their niche, the Columbarium Committee will assist in transferring those rights.

Inscription

Inscription on the faceplate of each niche will be limited to family name plus given name and year of birth and death of the deceased whose remains rest in the niche. The size, type, and manner of lettering for the inscription shall be of uniform character, determined by the Columbarium Committee. The family name may be inscribed on the plate when the certificate is granted; after interment, the given name and year of death will be added.

Placement of Ashes

Actual placement of ashes in the Columbarium will take place as arranged by the family, in the presence of one of the First United Methodist Ministers. Scattering of ashes in the Columbarium or elsewhere in the memorial garden will not be permitted.

Payment

The Columbarium fee of \$1000 per niche, is payable when the niche is reserved. This fee covers the cost of inscription on the niche cover and perpetual maintenance. Columbarium fees do not include cost of cremation or any funeral services conducted by a funeral home.

Records

An original copy of the Columbarium Certificate and record of certificate grantees, designees, next of kin, and other information will be kept in a permanent Columbarium register at the church.

Inquiries

Informational packets are available at the church office for persons with a serious interest in the Columbarium. A minister of the church and/or a member of the Columbarium Committee will be glad to meet with individuals or family members interested in the First United Methodist Church Columbarium. They will discuss the theological and practical aspects of a Columbarium and the specific procedures concerning the First United Methodist Church Columbarium.



**First United
Methodist Church**

The Columbarium



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