

## Mood

"We grieve," declared the apostle Paul, "but not as those who have no hope." The memorial service is a time to recognize our grief — a time to give appropriate expression to our sorrow. In the Christian context, it is a celebration of hope. God's love has triumphed over death. Both these elements should be evident in the mood of the service: the recognition of our bereavement on the one hand and the celebration of God's victory over death on the other; the appropriate expression of sorrow on the one hand and of thankfulness to God on the other.

## Structure

The memorial service shall be under the direction of the church's pastor. It shall include the reading of Scripture and prayer. It may include various offerings of music, including solos, instrumentals and congregational hymns. It may include a sermon or other exposition of God's word. It may include remembrances of the one who has died. An affirmation of faith may be made by the people. The Apostles' Creed is particularly appropriate.



Photography by Amy Wellencamp

## Fees and Honoraria

Building Fees	Member	Non-Member
Sanctuary	No charge	\$300
Reception Area	No charge	\$250
Staff Fees	Member	Non-Member
Minister	No charge	\$350
Accompanist	\$150	\$150
Soloist (each)	\$125	\$125
Sound Tech	\$125	\$125
Custodian	\$125	\$125
Memorial Coordinator	\$125	\$200
Childcare (min. of two hours)*	No charge	\$20/hour

*\*Two childcare attendants are required*

It is recommended that honoraria for worship ministers be given to them (enveloped) before or after the memorial service. Sometimes your funeral director will care for this detail as part of the funeral arrangement service. Please check with your funeral director regarding their custom in this regard.

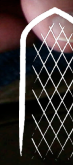
All other fees should be written in one check made out to First Presbyterian Church and given in advance to the Memorial Coordinator. The fees will be distributed by the Finance Office.



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
*San Luis Obispo*

First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo  
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## Memorial Services at First Pres



**FIRST  
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*San Luis Obispo*



*The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. 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,  
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.**

## Purpose

A memorial service is a service of worship to God and of witness to the resurrection in Jesus Christ. It is a time for reflecting on God's gifts of life and love; for re-affirming the hope of eternal life; for receiving the strength and comfort of God's Spirit. It is a time to be surrounded by the love and support of the community of faith. In this healing context, we remember the life of the one who has died, and how God has enabled that person's life to touch us.

## Planning

Contact with the pastoral staff of the church should be made as soon as possible after the event of death (805-543-5451). In this initial contact, a date, time and place for the memorial may be set. On occasion Pastors will conduct services at funeral home chapels. However, memorial services are most appropriate in the usual place of worship, the church Sanctuary. After the initial contact the officiating pastor and the Memorial Coordinator will meet with the family again to plan the details of the service. If the deceased has left behind any wishes regarding the content of the service, these should be shared with the Pastor at this time.

Following the planning meeting, the Memorial Coordinator will take care of the following:

1. Arrange for music and musicians (through the Director of Music), custodian, and worship technician;
2. Arrange for the printing of the Order of Worship;
3. Contact the Usher Coordinator;
4. If requested, arrange for a simple reception in the Fellowship Hall or Courtyard, immediately following the service;
5. Position flowers and memorabilia according to policy and family wishes;
6. Arrange for payment of services according to church policy;
7. Provide nursery attendants;
8. Order the white rose for the pulpit if the deceased is a church member;
9. Send thank you notes for memorial gifts received by the church.

If the family wishes to have a Pastor present at a committal service it may be conducted anytime prior to or following the Memorial Service.

## Additional Info

### Music in the Memorial Service

All music (instrumental and vocal) shall direct the worshipper's attention to God and provide for a celebration of God's power, providence, and care. The officiating pastor will work with the family in the selection of hymns, songs, musicians, and vocalists.

### Sanctuary Furnishings and the use of Floral Decorations

Elaborate floral displays are discouraged. Ordinarily, one or two arrangements are placed in the sanctuary on provided pedestals. Other flowers may be set in the reception area. Because of the sacramental nature of the Lord's Supper in our tradition, floral and other decorations should not be placed on the communion table. Liturgical colors, decorations and furnishings which have been set up for regular Sunday morning worship should not be moved or removed.

### Flower Delivery and Removal

Florists often call the church to inquire when and where flowers should be delivered. These calls should be referred to the Memorial Coordinator. The family should express to the Memorial Coordinator their wishes regarding what should be done with the flowers after the service. The flowers can be left for Sunday services, moved to the Reception, or removed by a family member.

### Receptions

The Memorial Coordinator can arrange for a reception in the adjacent Wilson Hall or Courtyard. The church can provide for a simple reception or the family can provide a more elaborate reception at its own expense. If caterers handle the reception, the kitchen must be thoroughly cleared and cleaned by the caterers within one hour after the reception is concluded.

**Last updated: 09/01/22**

