

Funeral, Memorial Service, and Memorial Garden Policies

Funeral and Memorial Service

The minister of West Parish Congregational Church will be the primary officiant at all funerals and memorial services held in the church. Other friends and family members may participate.

There may be a viewing held at the church prior to the funeral. During the service itself the casket is closed.

The family may prepare a written program, if they wish to have one.

Music will be appropriate for a service of worship.

Memorial Garden

Members of West Parish Congregational Church may choose to have their ashes interred in the Memorial Garden behind the church. Ashes are buried in a square plot 2' x 2', marked on the diagram of the garden.

Placement of Ashes

Within the chosen square, ashes may be buried in an urn or box, or simply poured into the hole in the ground, but not scattered on the ground. Placement will be noted on the garden diagram, making it possible to locate where the individual ashes are.

There will be no individual grave markers and no flowers, live or artificial, placed on the plots. Mourners may leave a small bouquet of live flowers at the time of the interment.

Memorial Garden Procedures

Plot selection and costs

A member of the church will be available to help the family choose a place and carry out the interment. At the time of reserving, a one-time, per person fee (see Schedule of Suggested Donation and Fee Policy) will be assessed the family to cover the costs of maintaining the garden, plaque, and memorial book.

Memorial Book and Plaque

A plaque, located on the outer church wall under the colonnade facing the garden, will contain the name and dates of birth and death of each one whose ashes are interred. People visiting the Memorial Garden are invited to read the names and sit on the benches provided.

A memorial book will be maintained on a stand inside the church building. In it, each person whose ashes are buried in the garden will be remembered on an individual page prepared by family members and friends. Location of the ashes and reserved locations will also be recorded on the garden diagram in this book. Church members buried elsewhere may also have a page in this book.