

## **Funeral Policy First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw, SC**

The funeral service in the Presbyterian Church is a service of worship to God and is a witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The funeral service should ordinarily be held in the sanctuary.

### **ROLE OF PASTOR AND CHURCH STAFF**

The **pastor of our church** will share the love of God in Jesus Christ and assist the family in the funeral arrangements and the worship service. No time is set for a funeral or memorial service until the pastor shall be consulted. The pastor will be the contact between the church and the funeral home. **Our church organist** will assist with music selections and will coordinate all selections with the pastor and the funeral director. The **church office administrator** will assist with contacting ushers for the service, if needed.

### **REGULATIONS**

Our sanctuary has been designed as a place of worship. All the appointments of the sanctuary have special significance and are used to visualize our faith and assist in our worship. When the funeral is held in the sanctuary, the following regulations should be observed:

1. The use of the sanctuary, Session House, or Fellowship Building for a funeral requires Session approval.
2. The baptismal font and communion table should not be moved. Ordinarily, the other furniture may be moved but must be replaced after the service.
3. The casket should remain closed in the church. If the family desires viewing, this can be done at the funeral home before the worship service.
4. The flower arrangements are limited to a fresh casket spray and four fresh flower arrangements. A pall is also available. An American flag may be draped on a veteran's casket.
5. The service shall be conducted by the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw, SC. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor, under the supervision of the Session. If civil and/or fraternal rites are to be included, they should be conducted at another time and place.
6. The funeral home shall be responsible for making sure the pastor, musician(s) and any other worship leaders are compensated. It is customary and expected for the family of the deceased to compensate the officiating pastor(s), organist and/or musicians that play

for the service. The pastor should be paid \$200 for a church service or graveside service or \$300 for both services. The organist shall be paid at least \$200 for the service. Guest soloists should receive at least \$100.

7. If a service is requested by someone who is not a member, they must pay a fee for use of the facilities during the service in the amount of \$500 Security Deposit (*will be returned to the family upon the ending of service and inspection by the appointed Session Representative*) and \$500 use of facilities fee.

### **GRAVESIDE SERVICE**

Members and friends of the family of the one who has died may gather at the graveside for a service of farewell. The service includes reading from the scripture, prayers, words of committal and a blessing.

### **BEREAVEMENT MEALS**

The pastor of our church will offer a bereavement meal for the church member's family before or after the funeral service. The bereavement meal is limited to 45 family members. The pastor or church secretary will contact the Presbyterian Women moderator to coordinate the meal.

All services conducted will reflect the guidance of the Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (USA).

This policy shall be sent annually to the funeral directors in Cheraw and Chesterfield. Copies shall also be given to families at the time of planning funerals or graveside services. Also, church members shall be encouraged to consult with the pastor well in advance of the funeral service for a loved one.

Policy approved by Session: February 19, 2026

Revised: February 17, 2026