

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.

ARRANGEMENTS

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. Ushers shall be provided by the church. No time is set for a funeral or memorial service until the pastor shall be consulted.

MUSIC

Our music director should be asked first if she is available to play for the funeral. If for any reason our music director is not available or another organist or musician is requested by the family, this individual must be approved by the Session or the music director. Additionally, the music played by the visiting performer must be approved by the Session or music director. The church piano may also be used following the above guidelines. Our music director will coordinate with the pastor and the funeral director in all musical selections.

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 baptismal font and communion table should not be moved. Ordinarily, the other furniture may be moved but must be replaced after the service.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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.

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 _____

Clerk of Session _____