

### Using the Sanctuary

St. John's United Church of Christ encourages families of our church members and friends to use the sanctuary for funeral or memorial services. This choice provides a familiar environment, in the context of worship, and the hope of our faith. Church funerals are particularly appropriate for those who have been an active part of their congregation. Funeral home charges typically are the same regardless of the location you choose for the funeral service.

Non-members may use the church building when the church's Pastor conducts the ceremony. A donation of \$125.00 is requested for non-member sanctuary use. A check made payable to *St. John's United Church of Christ* may be given to the funeral director or church representative at the time of the service.

### Viewing the body

Viewing of the body prior to the funeral service takes place in the Narthex.



It is the policy of St. John's UCC that the casket will be closed during the funeral service. Our focus during the funeral service is the hope of our promised resurrection and the celebration of the life of your loved one.

### Flowers

Family floral pieces are placed in the front of the church for the funeral or memorial service. Other floral arrangements are displayed in the narthex to facilitate their preparation for transport to the cemetery or the site of the gathering after the service.

Flowers or flags placed on the casket are removed for the service. A pall is placed on the casket while it is in the sanctuary. This large white cloth is an ancient symbol of our baptism (Galatians 3:27) and signifies the equality with which we all stand before God (Rev. 3:5). After the service the pall is removed and flowers or flag are replaced.

We welcome your gift of flowers for our Sunday service following the funeral or memorial. Please ask the funeral home to leave the floral piece you select in the Sanctuary.

### Choosing Music

Our organist, Robert Fredrick will play for all funerals in the church. If Mr. Frederick's schedule does not allow him to play, he will assist you in finding a replacement. If other musicians are desired, please contact Mr. Frederick and he will



assist you with these details. The organist's honorarium may be included in the funeral home's charges; if it is not, the typical organist honorarium falls between \$75 and \$125.

Vocalists are welcome to participate in the service. They should contact the church in advance to arrange accompaniment.

An electric piano is available. Tapes and/or CDs can also be played.

### Pastor

The Pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ, conducts all funerals or memorial services held in the church building. Your request to have other clergy participate will be honored. Pastor of St. John's UCC will contact and arrange details with guest clergy.

The Pastor's honorarium may be included in the funeral home's charges; if it is not, the typical honorarium falls between \$100 and \$150.

### Receptions & Meals

The Fellowship Hall may be used for a reception/meal before or following the service. The family is responsible for food, drinks and related costs. The St. John's UCC Young at Heart Fellowship is available to set tables, serve the food, and do cleanup afterward. Your donation to their group for these services is appreciated. Please let Pastor know if you are planning to use the Fellowship Hall for a reception.

*Whether a loved one dies suddenly or after a lengthy illness, the death of a friend or family member is difficult to bear. This is a time to rely on the support, strength and counsel of friends and family and especially of your church. The Christian faith offers a unique comfort: Jesus has overcome death and believers have the hope of eternal life. This is the time to claim our faith. This information has been provided by St. John's United Church of Christ to make the funeral service more meaningful and make your decision making easier. We pray that God comforts you as you move through the valley of the shadow of death into the light of our hope through Christ Jesus.*

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. And those who live and believe in me will never die."*

*Jesus (John 11:25-26)*

### When a death occurs

Spiritual care and comfort are always appropriate for a person facing death and for their loved ones. When a death is anticipated or has occurred, contact our Pastor Prayer, words of comfort, and practical guidance about what to do next are all part of the ministry the pastor can provide. Pastor's phone numbers are listed here; you may call any time day or night.

Spiritual care does not end at the funeral or memorial service. Pastor is available for follow-up care in the weeks and months following your loved one's death. If you would like someone with whom to talk, to pray, or to help with questions, Pastor will be available to you.



### St. John's United Church of Christ

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**St. John's  
United Church of Christ**



**Planning a  
Church Funeral**