



First Congregational Memorial Garden

Memorial Garden uses our existing garden as a place to scatter or bury the cremains of our church folks. A Plaque and Memorial Book will be created which will have the names and dates (birth and death) of the people interred there. The Memorial Garden concept was approved by the Church Council at its December meeting and at the church Annual Meeting on February 7, 2021.

The vision of the Memorial Garden is to provide a peaceful, natural, and faithful way to ensure a caring disposition for the cremated remains of the saints of the church. The policies and procedures of the Memorial Garden are to be established by the Memorial Garden Committee. The location of the Memorial garden was chosen to be a place of beauty, meditation and gratitude.

General Guidelines for Use of the Memorial Garden

- The dignity and integrity of the Memorial Garden will be maintained by the Memorial Garden Committee.
- The Memorial Garden will be available to all former and present members of the church and their families.
- Families will inter the ashes of the deceased in the Memorial Garden at the spaces designated with no permanent containers or markers allowed.
- Families may choose from an approved list of plants and bulbs that will mark each spot.
- Families are encouraged to provide the full names, dates, obituaries and a picture of each person which will be maintained in a Memorial Book located in the church office.
- A modest fee of \$300 will be charged for each cremation that would go to help maintain the garden, create a plaque with each person's name and a Memorial Book.
- The church has a pouring urn so that families can go directly from the Memorial Service in the sanctuary to the church Memorial Garden to inter the ashes.
- In the event the church closes or moves, the church has purchased a cemetery plot at Greenwood Cemetery so we can move remains and the plaques.
- Current Memorial Committee Members include: Lu Lueck, JoAnne Friedell, Susan Walden, Pastor Chris.

FAQS

How do I go about securing my spot in the garden? Please contact the church office to schedule an interment. A pastor will then reach out to schedule the interment date and time.

Can I reserve my exact spot in the garden in advance? The short answer is no. When families are ready for interment, and after coordinating with the church office, they will be interred in the next available spot.

Can I prepay for a spot in the garden? Yes! In order to help families plan ahead, you may pre-pay for a spot. The church will maintain a record of this and when the time comes you will be interred in the garden in the next available location. Please be sure to tell your family about your intention to be interred in the Memorial Garden.

Will there be marker? Yes. A plaque with the full names and dates of each saint will be maintained in the garden. It will be updated each year on All Saints Sunday.

Can I bring my own items for the garden? The Memorial Committee and Garden Geeks are in charge of the garden and ask you to refrain from leaving additional items in the garden.

What do I need to leave with the church for the Remembrance Book? The church will maintain a page for each saint in a Remembrance Book located in the church office. Please provide a picture, obituary and or memorial card.