

## **HOMER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

28 South Main Street  
Homer, NY 13077  
607-749-2604

### **FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICE POLICY AND FEES**

#### **WORSHIP, THANKSGIVING, AND MEMORY**

The Christian funeral or memorial service is a service of worship in which we thank God for the gifts of life and for this special person who lived among us and who now, even in death, continues in God's love and care, and lives on in our memory. We encourage you to consider having the funeral or memorial service at the church. In doing so we are both commending the deceased to God and affirming our own faith.

#### **FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A *Funeral* is one in which the body of the deceased is present in a casket. The casket is closed throughout the service; the service may be held in a church, funeral home, or cemetery chapel. A *Memorial* service is similar to a funeral, but without the body of the deceased present. It may be held at any time after the day of death, but is usually held within a week or so following the death. Cremation or burial may precede or follow the service.

#### **VISITATION AND RECEPTION ARRANGEMENTS**

Homer Congregational Church can offer the sanctuary or the Russell Fellowship Room for visitation prior to the service or following; both spaces provide a warm and familiar setting. The family may choose to provide refreshments following the service.

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

It is appropriate for the family to invite friends to donate memorial gifts of money to the church, especially for a person who has been active in the church during his or her life. You may discuss the use of memorial funds given to the church with the Memorials Committee or pastor.

#### **FLOWERS**

The flower is a symbol of the resurrection and appropriate for a funeral or memorial service, as for every worship event in the church. Typically, the family and friends will furnish the arrangement of flowers for the service.

#### **PLANNING THE SERVICE**

The pastor will contact you to arrange a visit to talk with you about the service, the choices of readings, and to offer consultation with the organist about the selection of hymns and service music. If any fraternal, civic, or military rites take place, these rites shall be conducted apart from the service and place of worship. We will offer to have a printed order of service which may be similar to this sample order.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Scriptures are a rich source to which Christians and Jews alike have turned for comfort and assurance in times of grief. The pastor will guide the selection of scripture passages, and would welcome suggestions of those with particular meaning for the family or the deceased. Some suggested passages have been provided:

## BULLETINS

Information for the bulletin including, order of service, names of participants, music titles, scripture readings can be created in consultation with the pastor and printed in the church office free of charge.

## FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CHURCH

If a family wishes to have a funeral or memorial service at the church they should speak with the pastor to set the date and time. The following is a list of the various fees for room usage and the professional services of church staff.

<u>Room Usage</u>	Members	Non-members
Use of Sanctuary	\$0	\$ 100
Use of Russell Fellowship Room	\$0	\$ 100
 <u>Church staff</u>		
Pastor	\$150*	\$ 150
Organist	\$125	\$ 125
<i>(additional rehearsals @\$25)</i>		
Sexton	\$ 50	\$ 50

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\*Typically there is no fee for church members; the Board of Trustees suggests an honorarium of \$150.

Individual checks should be written to the pastor, organist, sexton by name. Checks for the use of the sanctuary and reception should be made out to "Homer Congregational Church" and side-marked for "Church Use" and given to the pastor after the service, or the Church Administrator.

### **Church Staff:**

*Pastor:* Rev. Vicki Burtson  
*Sexton:* Gary Harrington  
*Organist:* James N. Shultes

### **Contact Information:**

Pastor: 607-749-2604, email: [pastor@homercc.org](mailto:pastor@homercc.org)  
Church Office: 607-749-2604, office email: [office@homercc.org](mailto:office@homercc.org)

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