



**Community**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*of Clarendon Hills*

# **Services of Witness to the Resurrection**

**A Christian Understanding of Death**

**Officiating Minister**

**The Service & Music**

**Receptions**

**Living Memorial Tree**

**Memorial Garden**

**Service Fees & Honoraria**

**Community Presbyterian Church** extends to you our deepest sympathies for your loss and will make every effort to ease the process of planning a service for your loved one. We hope that this overview will provide you with information that will help you plan a meaningful worship service and answer your questions.

## **A Christian Understanding of Death**

Resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians affirm with tears and joy in the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the compassion of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

We believe “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

## **Officiating Pastor**

One of the pastors of Community Presbyterian Church will help you plan a worship service that is meaningful and reflects the Christian faith we share. If you wish to have a pastor from another church assist in the service, you should discuss this first with the officiating pastor, who will extend an invitation to the assisting pastor.

## **The Service & Music**

A pastor can provide you with a sample order of worship to help you. The service begins with scriptural sentences. It is appropriate for worshippers to sing hymns or spiritual songs that affirm God's power over death, a belief in the resurrection to life everlasting, and the assurance of the communion of the saints. Scripture shall be read; a sermon or other exposition of the Word may be proclaimed; and an affirmation of faith may be made by the people. Aspects of the life of the one who has died may be recalled. Prayers shall be offered, giving thanks to God.

Whenever music is used, it is an integral part of our worship of God. As such, the music you choose serves to glorify God and express our faith. We will assist you in choosing appropriate music, including the processional and recessional, as well as any hymns or vocal music. We can also help you make arrangements for vocalists and instrumentalists if you would like.

## **Receptions**

One of the ministries of Presbyterian Women (PW) is to reach out to families in times of sorrow and serve a reception or meal following the service. PW will serve a cookie/coffee/punch reception either in the Parlor or Fellowship Hall, depending on the number of people in attendance. If the family would like a meal, we are happy to recommend some local caterers. You may place your order directly with the caterer or we are happy to place it for you. The caterer of your choice will invoice you directly for the meal. PW will greet the caterer, set tables, serve all food and beverages and clean up. In gratitude, PW accepts donations from the family that go into the perpetual fund for receptions so that others can benefit from this ministry.

## **Living Memorial Tree (Tree of Life)**

Displayed in the church narthex, the Living Memorial Tree is a memorial for those who have died. Names and dates of loved ones can be engraved on brass leaves and displayed on the Memorial Tree. To obtain a brass leaf, the church asks for a donation of at least \$750 to the church's Endowment Fund. This gift provides a lasting memorial as well as a lasting legacy to the church through the endowment fund, in which the interest is used for the mission and ministry of the church.

## **Memorial Garden**

The ashes of a loved one may be buried in the Memorial Garden. A short committal service led by the pastor will be offered. Memorial garden burials are available mid-April to mid-November dependent on ground conditions.

## Service Fees and Honoraria:

**Pastor** Honoraria (as you wish)

Additional ministers, if invited, may be compensated

**Pianist / Organist:** \$250

**Vocal Soloist:** \$150

**Instrumental Soloist:** \$150

**AV Technician:** \$125

**Candles for Candelabra:** \$45

**Custodian** (preparation of Memorial Garden plot) \$75

### Reception

Suggested donation to Presbyterian Women for providing service and reception hospitality: \$100

All honoraria and fees should be paid the day of the service. Checks for honoraria should be made out to the individuals personally or Presbyterian Women.

**Please note that smoking is not allowed in the building, and alcoholic beverages are not allowed anywhere on the property.**

## Contact Persons

**The Rev. Beth Freese Dammers**, Pastor    beth.fd@chcpc.org

**The Rev. Susan Tindall**, Transitional Associate Pastor  
susan.tindall@chcpc.org

**Shannon Nyhart**, Church Administrator

shannon.nyhart@chcpc.org Church office: 630-323-6522