Costs

Riverbend United Church charges a fee of $825.00 for funeral or memorial services which includes honoraria for the minister, the accompanist, an audio-visual technician, and custodial services as well as use of the church. A luncheon or reception following the service can be held in the lower level hall. You may wish to choose from our list of catering companies or make your own arrangements. We can provide and set-up tables, tablecloths and chairs for the number of attendees you expect. The capacity of our lower level hall is 229 people. Please call the Church office to discuss details.

As congregational members of Riverbend United Church, we want to be helpful to you in your grief now and in the time to come. Please feel free to contact us at any time at 780.430.7275.

Riverbend United Church

14907 – 45 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5K8

Memorial Services & Funerals

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Accompanist
Sherry Steele

Introduction

This is a difficult time for you and your family as you mourn the death of a loved one and make plans for the funeral or memorial service. We share this pamphlet with you to help you in making arrangements for this service.

You have chosen Riverbend United Church as the place to honour the memory of your loved one. We want to make the service as meaningful as possible. We'll share the sacred story of Christian hope and offer an opportunity for family and friends to gather together to mourn your loved one's death and celebrate his or her life.

The Reality of Grief

Grief is a universal human emotion. When a beloved member of a family dies, there are many feelings which might include disbelief, loss, loneliness, depression, pain, and anger. Shock may be experienced if the death is sudden, or perhaps relief if there has been a prolonged illness.

One may experience a feeling of emptiness and separation when a person who was an integral part of a family is no longer present. It is important to express and share tears, doubts, fears and even anger at this time to begin working through the grief. It may take several months, or even years before the pain is gone.

A memorial service or funeral is an important step in the grieving process that leads to healing. In the midst of friends and neighbours, there is an outpouring of love and support, and the spiritual affirmation of divine compassion and caring spirit.

The Funeral or Memorial Service

As staff of Riverbend United, we seek to plan a service that is spiritual, celebrative and personal. We want to work closely with families and encourage your input and participation.

Families will be asked for their decisions on hymns and other music. Families may also want to choose scripture passages and other readings. We recommend that you find a close family friend to share personal memories to honour your loved one in a eulogy; in lieu of this, the minister will share the life story as offered by the family.

At the Church

If there is a casket present at the service, it will be placed in the Chapel. Viewings prior to the service are optional but the casket will be closed for the service. If cremation has taken place, the urn of ashes may be placed on the altar or table at the front of the Sanctuary.

Often families wish to have a picture placed along side of the urn or on the casket. Other families prefer to have a service where there is no casket or urn present. Regardless, the goal of the service is to provide the opportunity for the community of loved ones and friends to gather together to mourn a death, celebrate a life and to commit a soul into the care of God.

Commital Service

Often the committal service occurs immediately before or following the church service. This is an important time for families to bring closure. When cremation has taken place, if desired, the committal can be delayed and arrangements can be made for clergy to be present for this service at a later date.

Grief Support

There are many Edmonton organizations that offer regular and ongoing grief support groups and individual counselling. Please feel free to contact us at any time at 780.430.7275 for specific names and contact information. We want to be helpful to you in your grief now and in the time to come.