

Memorial United Methodist Church Columbarium & Garden

*Memorial United Methodist Church
now provides a place for inurning the
cremated remains of church
members and their loved ones.*



*Inurning loved ones on the grounds of a
church where they were baptized, married,
or nurtured in faith, is an age-old tradition.*

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may be inurned in the Columbarium?

Inurnment (interment of cremation remains) in the Memorial United Methodist Church Columbarium is limited to members or past members of this Church and members of their immediate families. Immediate family include: spouse, parents, step-parents, grandparents, step-grandparents, children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and the spouses of any of the above.

Who manages the Garden and Columbarium?

Maintenance of the Columbarium is the responsibility of the church trustees and assigned to a Columbarium Committee.

How May I Purchase a Niche?

Applications are available in the Church office. Complete and submit to the office with payment in full.



An example of a memorial plaque in the Columbarium and Garden.

How much does a niche cost?

Each niche costs \$2,000 which includes inurnment, the inscription of the niche, and perpetual care. It does not include the cost of cremation or the urn. Each niche may contain one or two urns with cremated remains.

The Garden includes a wall for memorial or honorary plaques and an area where memorial or honorary pavers will be placed. Plaques cost \$400. Pavers are \$100. Application forms, that include the inscription information, are available in the church office.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I purchase a niche and later decide not to use it?

The Columbarium Committee will repurchase your niche for the same price at which you purchased it. The niche cannot be resold to anyone other than the trustees at Memorial.

What if I have made other burial Plans?

Contact the facility where your burial arrangements have been made to learn how they might be terminated.

What are the benefits of a Columbarium?

A Spiritual site for repose:

It allows church members to have their final resting place on the campus of the church which has been central to their lives.

The Columbarium and Garden is a place of beauty and dignity where loved ones can visit.

Simplicity of arrangement:

It eliminates the pressures of choosing a burial site, casket, vault, and monument. It provides a place for interment near the Sanctuary eliminating the need for dual services in the Church and at a cemetery.

Substantial financial savings:

The combined costs of a columbarium niche and cremation are much less than the cost of a casket, burial site, and gravestone.



Member inurnng a loved-one.

The United Methodist Perspective

What is the United Methodist Church's view on cremation and organ donation?

“Our doctrinal statements, then, affirm the bodily resurrection of Jesus, indeed the resurrection of the same body that entered the tomb. But for believers, many of whose bodies over the past two thousand years may have entirely decomposed, if they were not burned, lost at sea, or otherwise destroyed, our statements speak simply of the resurrection of "the dead." This is consistent not only with biology, but also with the teaching of Paul in I Corinthians 15. There, Paul insists that resurrection is real, necessary, and more than a matter of revivifying dead bodies or remains. Instead, he speaks of a spiritual body that is raised of which our perishable, corruptible bodies are at most but the seed.

For these reasons, United Methodists do not insist upon burial as the only appropriate means of committing our earthly remains to God, and so are generally open to cremation as a viable alternative. In some places burial or entombment is simply not an option, either because of costs involved or because of a lack of cemetery space. Ultimately, this is a decision that will be in the context of the individuals, families, and cultural norms involved.

While The United Methodist Church does not have a formal opinion on cremation, the Social Principles do openly encourage organ donation. Our Social Principles state: Organ transplantation and organ donation are acts of charity, agape love, and self-sacrifice. We recognize the life-giving benefits of organ and other tissue donation and encourage all people of faith to become organ and tissue donors as part of their love and ministry to others in need" (§ 162 (W)).

*-The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards Director of Worship
Resources General Board of Discipleship*

Memorial United Methodist Church
601 Centre Street
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034
904-261-5769 | mumconline.com