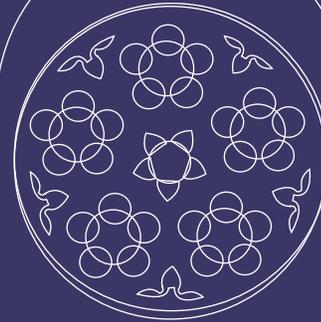




FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
Ann Arbor | Michigan



## 2021-22 Memorial Garden



### Prayer of Committal

O Lord, support us all the day long,  
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,  
and the busy world is hushed,  
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.  
Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging,  
and a holy rest and peace at the last;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)

## Introduction

For Christians, the Church is our home, both in this life and the next. Our belief in the eternal life to come and in the communion of saints witnesses to the close connection that all Christians feel between the living and the dead. Our worship and community life attest to the Gospel truth that those who have died have not ceased to exist, but are enjoying a richer and much fuller life in the presence of God, and that we look forward to sharing in that life after our own death. This brochure is intended to provide you with information about this theologically appropriate, and ecologically and economically sensitive, alternative for the interment of your remains or those of one you love.

For many centuries, it has been the practice of the Church to bury her members on its grounds, to bring them "home" at the time of their death, so that as their souls live with God, their mortal remains rest close to the ongoing life and activity of the Church. The First Presbyterian Memorial Garden honors and continues this tradition. By interring the cremated remains of those who have died, on a portion of her grounds, First Pres acknowledges the fact that life does not end with death, and that the Church is made up of all those who have been baptized into Christ, both the living and the dead. The Garden was formally dedicated on All Saints' Day, October 31, 1982.. The Garden is located beside the northwest entrance of the church.

Ashes will be interred in a gravel hole without a container. Funeral homes and cremation societies should be made aware of this decision. Plaques inscribed with the names of those whose ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden are located in the vestibule of Monteith Hall. Contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life, (734) 662-4466, ext. 390 for more information.



## Eligibility

All baptized First Pres members of Christ's church and their immediate families are eligible for interment in the Memorial Garden. Others may be interred at the discretion of the pastors.

## Maintenance

Landscaping and upkeep of the Memorial Garden are ongoing responsibilities of the Property Committee and the Memorial Garden Committee. To help defray these costs, Memorial Garden gifts may be made at any time to First Pres

and designated for this purpose. A designated fund for the Memorial Garden has been established for those wishing to contribute to the ongoing care of the garden. Questions concerning the administrative practices and policies pertaining to the Memorial Garden may be directed to the ministerial staff.

## Fee

The fee for interment and the inscription on the plaque of the decedent's name, with years of birth and death, is \$350. Inscription will be done as close as possible to the date of interment, and names will be placed in chronological order of death. This fee includes upkeep of the Garden in perpetuity.

## Service of Committal

As with all burial services, First Pres should be notified at once when a death occurs. The funeral home also should be notified so that arrangements for cremation can be made. Interment services are conducted under the direction of the pastors. A brief service of committal in the Memorial Garden for the interment of the ashes generally occurs before or after a Memorial Service in the Sanctuary or Monteith Hall.

A record is kept in the Church office identifying where individual cremains are interred. At the request of the deceased member's family, a service of committal will be conducted at the time of interment. Nameplates are displayed in the foyer of Monteith Hall. For more information, contact the Church Office at 662-4466.



Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places.

If it were not so, would I have told you  
that I go to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and will take you to myself,  
so that where I am, there you may be also.

John 14:1-4

## Memorial Garden Committee Members

Sue Cares (chair), Jim Dickinson, Michele Madden Rick Platte, Kirk Profit, Adrian Prundeanu (Facilities Manager) and Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers (ex-officio).