

Why a Columbarium at Main Street ?

Having a memorial on church grounds can be a source of personal emotional support for members.

It provides a dignified, yet serene place to pray and meditate. The columbarium is accessible year round and it's setting is pastoral and peaceful so families can visit and be comforted.

With an increasing awareness of the benefits of cremation, MSUMC is providing through a Columbarium a dignified, aesthetically pleasing vehicle to house cremains at a significant cost savings.

As United Methodists, we believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting (Apostles Creed). The earthly body changes and cremation is just another process of change. Many people mistakenly believe that the process of cremation – reducing human remains to bone fragments – is an end in itself, but it is not.

It will be an asset to our campus and a place of beauty and comfort where family and friends can come to meditate and pray.

Memorialization of the deceased has been practiced by caring people through the centuries. As survivors, we care about and want to remember those who precede us in death. Memorialization helps us to remember and to be remembered. Cremation is preparation for memorialization just as is traditional burial.

A Columbarium provides a spiritually meaningful place where families can memorialize their loved ones when limited availability of conveniently located cemetery plots makes earthen interment difficult or impractical.

Why select a Columbarium?

Cremation is not in conflict with the beliefs or discipline of the United Methodist Church. When it is the choice of the deceased or family, the church supports their decision

It keeps family members near the church that has been the center of their spiritual lives while awaiting the resurrection of the body.

A Columbarium is a natural extension of the church's role as home for the sacraments and ceremonies that members experience at different stages of their spiritual journeys; such as baptism, confirmation, communion, weddings and funerals.

It eliminates the need to purchase a casket, vault, memorial and burial site. Cremation is less expensive than traditional in-ground burials.

Combined costs of a Columbarium niche and cremation are less than one-fourth the cost of in-ground burial.

Fees to reserve a niche –

Columbarium niches are the property of Main Street United Methodist Church and thus *cannot be purchased*. The reservation of a niche entitles you to perpetual use of the niche but **NOT** the right of ownership. (same as cemetery plots). Initially, **reserving a niche is \$1000.**

Main Street United Methodist Church Columbarium

Inside this brochure you will find information about the new MSUMC columbarium.

What is a Columbarium?

The word Columbarium is derived from the Latin term Columba, meaning "dovecote or dwelling place of a dove." In Christian tradition, the dove, of course, has long symbolized the embodiment of the Holy Spirit. It is a place of contemplation, remembrance and prayer.

A Columbarium is a permanent structure comprised of small vaults or niches to contain cremated remains (cremains). It can be an indoor or outdoor wall, an entire building, a room, a wall along a corridor or a series of special alcoves or halls in a mausoleum, chapel or other dedicated property. A niche is a recessed compartment designed to hold urns.

A Columbarium is an extension of the church where those who have worshipped and prayed together in life now await the resurrection of the body. It provides a final resting place with special meaning for church members for whom involvement in the church was an important part of life on earth. It is considered a blessing for a Christian to dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Frequently Asked Questions about a Columbarium

How many niches will the Columbarium have?

The Columbarium will have an infinite capacity for niches; 80 niches will be built initially with expansion as needed along the fence line of the cemetery.

How is the Columbarium being paid for?

NO church operating funds will be used to construct the Columbarium. Un-endowed Cemetery funds are available for the full cost. We also anticipate selling memorialization rights to raise funds. Like the cemetery plots, the Columbarium will be permanently maintained and self-perpetuating through the reserving of niches.

What is the fee to reserve a niche?

The fee to reserve a niche is initially \$1000 per niche and each niche will hold two (2) urns. This rate could be raised in the future for further expansion, however once reserved, you will not be assessed again.

What is included in the fee?

*Columbarium niches are the property of Main Street UMC and thus cannot be purchased. You are reserving the perpetual use of the niche but not the right of ownership. The niche fee includes opening and closing the niche for inurnment as well as perpetual care. Each niche will accommodate two urns. The fee **does not** cover the cost of cremation, urns and other expenses of a funeral **nor** the cost of engraving the face plate.*

How will the niches be marked?

*Each niche will be engraved with the full legal name of the inurned along with their date of birth and date of death. **They will be engraved in a uniform size on the face plate shortly after inurnment.***

Where is the Columbarium to be located?

The Columbarium will be built at the front entrance to the church cemetery. It will be an upgrade to the current entrance and will be an asset to our cemetery and church.

Why reserve a burial site?

It allows you to establish final plans for yourself.

It allows you to establish final plans for your family.

It allows you and your contributions in life to be memorialized.

It allows your loved ones a place to visit and be comforted.

How can I help with the Columbarium if my loved ones are interred elsewhere?

*To help defray costs, we are selling the following items for memorialization of loved ones interred elsewhere. Each allows a permanent memorial here at MSUMC for them: **Memorial Wall** – 8”X8” brick along the entrance for \$150; **Memorial Walk** – 4”X8” brick along the walkway for \$100; **Memorial Benches** – 2-48”X16”x19” granite benches for \$1200; **Memorial Gate** – 1-10’ wide black wrought iron entrance gate for \$1200*

May I finance the fees?

No, fees are due when application is submitted. You will not be able to select a niche or inurn anyone in the Columbarium until the fee has been paid in full.

May I select the niche location?

Those who reserve a niche prior to the completion of construction will be able to select their niche location on an ‘as available’ basis. After that, niche assignments are managed by the Columbarium Committee and are assigned on a first come-first served basis.

What if I reserve a niche and decide not to use it?

After approval from the Columbarium Committee, MSUMC will issue you a church credit for the unused niche. Once cremains are placed in a niche, no refund will be made, even if the cremains are removed by the heirs. The niche cannot be sold or used by anyone other than those listed in the original application form.

Who may use the Columbarium?

Inurnment in the Columbarium is limited to present church members and their immediate families, Ministers and former ministers (same rules as the cemetery).

What if I have already made other burial arrangements?

Should you prefer inurnment in our Columbarium, you should contact the facility with which you made arrangements to learn how those arrangements can be terminated. Some refund may be due on services paid for, but in most cases you will need to sell burial plots or mausoleum slots through a broker or the newspaper.

How do I reserve a niche?

Fill out an ‘application for certificate of right of Inurnment’ form and send to church business office along with your check or money order. Once paperwork is processed, you will receive a copy of the reservation contract, a copy of the rules and operation procedures, and a certificate indicating the niche and its location.

What if I have additional questions?

If you would like more information on the Columbarium, please contact a member of the Columbarium Committee; the Senior Pastor; Business Manager or Cemetery Chair.