Arrangements for an Interment

Arrangements for the placement of ashes in the Memorial Garden can be pre-planned at any time during life. Persons desiring interment in the Memorial Garden are encouraged to inform their family of their wishes.

To arrange interment for a deceased loved one, the family should first contact a pastor to set a date for the placement of the ashes. Contact the church office for the necessary forms and paperwork.
From earliest times, it has been customary for Christians to be buried in or near the church. At Orchard, we are continuing that tradition with our beautifully landscaped Memorial Garden. The Memorial Garden provides the opportunity to celebrate God’s gift of resurrection and to memorialize the lives of loved ones who have died.

**I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.**

**THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME, EVEN THOUGH THEY DIE, WILL LIVE, AND EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER DIE...**

*John 11:25-26 (RSV)*

**Purpose of the Memorial Garden**

Orchard’s Memorial Garden is a sacred space for contemplation and prayer where individuals can come for quiet communion with God, drawing comfort in its peaceful surroundings.

The Memorial Garden helps the church provide a lifetime of ministry and is a visible symbol of the love and care of God in our lives — from birth through death. This designated site is intended to provide a tranquil setting for the celebration of life through funerals, baptisms, weddings, devotional, private and collective moments of reflection, and a place to receive ashes of loved ones.

It is our hope that this Garden adds beauty to a world that is too often stark and unwelcoming. The Garden says “Come” to those who find their way here. May this be a place where the gift of laughter will rise above our troubles, where treasured stories will be shared to make us wiser, where the pain of loss will be embraced with arms of hope and trust.

**History and Care of the Garden**

The Memorial Garden was the generous gift of Frank Stevens and his family in loving remembrance of Catharine Stevens. It was dedicated to the Glory of God in September 2009.

Care and maintenance is administered by the Memorial Garden Committee. The Memorial Garden is supported and sustained through donations and personalized brick purchases. No funds are used from the budget of Orchard United Methodist Church to maintain the Garden.

**Guidelines for Use**

All members of Orchard United Methodist Church, their families and friends, are eligible to have their ashes interred in the Garden.

All interments will take place with the assistance of a pastor. Family members (or representatives of the church) with the pastor will place the ashes in the Memorial Garden. Ashes will be spread in designated areas of the Garden or buried. Interment location will be determined by the Memorial Garden Committee. No vessels will be allowed for interment. The Garden itself is the memorial for the person whose ashes are buried in it; no plaques will be allowed in the Garden to recognize interment or donations. A perpetual plaque in the Prayer Chapel of the Church will record all ashes interred in the Garden.

Decorations and flowers are not allowed. Families wishing to remember loved ones with flowers are encouraged to do so by providing flowers for Sunday services or through the giving of Easter flowers or a Christmas poinsettia.

Proper and respectful behavior is expected at all times within the Garden enclosure.

**Other Memorials and Gifts**

Personalized memorial bricks may be purchased for remembering loved ones who are not interred in the Garden. Forms for ordering Memorial Bricks are available in the church office. Bricks will be installed twice a year or when 10 or more orders are accumulated.

Gifts of any amount are also welcomed. They are placed in the Memorial Garden Fund and used solely to maintain and beautify the Garden. Gifts should be sent to the church office specifying that they be deposited in the Memorial Garden Fund.

All contributions are acknowledged. The Memorial Garden Book also provides an archival record of donations and special celebrations. Families are encouraged to provide information for the book concerning the recognition of loved ones.

**GOD WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES. THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH OR MOURNING OR CRYING IN PAIN.**

*Revelation 21:4*