

## DESCRIPTION OF COLUMBARIUM

The columbarium is an answer to an age-old concern of the Christian community to participate in the proper disposition and identification of the earthly remains of those who have shared the fellowship of our Church family. This is to be the place especially for those who love First United Methodist Church of Saline and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve after death. It shall be a hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those who have departed from our midst.

Our columbarium, which includes 144 granite-faced, single-front niches, is located to the north of the church building in the Prayer Garden. The columbarium was designed by Eickhof Columbaria Inc., Crookston, Minnesota. The purchase was facilitated by a generous gift from the estate of Earl and Edna Laughrey.

## FEES AND NICHE ASSIGNMENT

The fee paid upon execution of the Columbarium Agreement covers the rights of inurnment of cremated remains, opening and closing of the niche during inurnment, and perpetual care of the columbarium and prayer garden. Cremation costs, funeral home charges, cost for the urn(s), and engraving fees are not included. The fee of \$2,000 covers the cost of a niche for one or two persons.

The purchaser may select his/her niche location, based on availability. Once finalized, niche assignment cannot be changed.

## INTERESTED MEMBERS

Contact the church office at (734) 429-4730 and a Columbarium Committee member will contact you.

# The Columbarium of First United Methodist Church Of Saline



1200 North Ann Arbor Street

Saline, Michigan 48176

(734) 429-4730

## WHAT IS A COLUMBARIUM?

The word “columbarium” is derived from “Columba”, the Latin for dovecote, a compartmented house where doves, the symbol of the embodiment of the Holy Spirit, come to roost. In modern terms, a columbarium is a consecrated structure used for the inurnment of the ashes after cremation.

The columbarium serves as an appropriate place for earthly remains of any member or former member of the church. There seems to be no more fitting place for the cremains of a Christian than a columbarium at his or her church. Set in the peaceful surrounding of a Prayer Garden, it is a place for quiet meditation and prayer.

## WHAT IS CREMATION?

Theologically, cremation is not a modern concept and in no way discounts the Christian understanding of resurrection of the body and life everlasting. It simply speeds the natural process by which the body decomposes in burial. Cremation does not change God’s plan for our earthly bodies. As far as the Christian Faith is concerned, what is important is that the remains are treated with respect and dignity.

## WHY A COLUMBARIUM?

In early Christian times, preferred burial space was within the church itself where the faithful gathered for a memorial service.

The most important reason for having a columbarium is the comfort, peace, support and witness this facility provides for the members of the church family. The concept of inurnment on consecrated church property is an old one, dating from early Christianity and is sound for both theological and practical reasons.

For many, the church is a Christian’s spiritual home on earth, the place where families in Christ meet to worship God and have fellowship with each other. They become members of the Body of Christ through baptism, are confirmed, married and ultimately enter eternal life with the prayers and remembrances of their congregation. Inurnment on church property is a recognition of belief in the communion of saints, both living and dead and is a witness to faith in the resurrection to eternal life.

Church inurnment provides a permanent link between deceased and their place of worship while enabling their surviving family members, friends and fellow worshippers to pay frequent respects during regular church visits and worship. Another consideration is that cremation and inurnment in a columbarium is considerably less expensive than burial in the ground.

## SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:19 (NRSV)

“...By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Romans 14:7–9 (NRSV)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

John 11:25–26 (NRSV)

Jesus said to her, “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.”

