

Administration

Available interment sites are identified by the Memorial Garden Committee or the Committee's designee and assigned at the time of purchase. A burial site is a sacred trust incumbent upon future generations for preservation and honor. Perpetual care of the Garden will be provided under the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Because the Garden is designed with its own ornamentation and planned landscaping, no individual markers, memorials, plaques or commemorative plantings are permitted. Similarly, no fresh or artificial flowers, flags or other decorations may be placed there. Cremains may not be scattered on the surface of the ground. All funeral, memorial or interment services are under the direction of the pastor.

Remembrance



The Garden includes memorial stones listing the names and dates of birth and death of those interred or memorialized. In addition, a Book of Remembrance is maintained in the church as a permanent record. A page is provided for each person on which vital information, a photograph, an obituary or a biographical sketch may be included.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort
me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the
LORD for ever.

For More Information

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UNION CHURCH

MEMORIAL GARDEN



Union Church of Belgrade Lakes,
United Methodist Church
Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Our Memorial Garden History



From ancient times Christians have been buried in the consecrated grounds of their churchyards. There is comfort in knowing that the remains of the faithful rest in peace, committed into the hands of our loving God. Casket burials require a great deal of land. As a result, many cemeteries have been forced to move from churchyards to privately owned burial grounds far from the center of town.

Recently, cremation has become an acceptable and now customary way of attending to final remains. In our church about 80% of the services for the deceased now involve cremations and a memorial service.

A memorial garden is a sacred space for these remains and is dedicated to the memory of those we love. It is thoughtfully designed to look like a garden rather than a traditional cemetery. This is a place of tranquil beauty set aside for the interment of ashes, a site of solace for those who would visit there to remember, to meditate, to pray.

In response to requests from Union Church members, a committee was

formed in the fall of 2001 to consider the establishment of such a garden. The Church Council approved the resulting plan, and the Union Church Memorial Garden was created in the spring of 2003.

Here at Union Church

The Union Church Memorial Garden is located along the south side of the church, where cremains are interred in a designated manner. Memorial stones display names and dates of birth and death. Inviting benches and established flowering plants, shrubs and ground cover create a serene garden setting.

Our Christian faith teaches us that the soul is immortal, continuing its spiritual life after the death of the body. For many, there is comfort in having a place to honor the continuing relationship with our loved ones who have died before us. The Union Church Memorial Garden is such a place.

Manner of Interment

Cremains are buried in a provided, biodegradable linen bag or loose in the soil to become assimilated with the earth. The ground cover is lifted for the burial and then replaced, restoring the area to its natural condition.

Eligibility

Those who have a relationship with this parish are welcome to have their cremains placed in the Union Church Memorial Garden. In addition, families may memorialize a loved one in the

Garden with an inscription on a memorial stone even though the cremains are not interred there.

Costs



The cost for interment or the memorializing of a loved one with the inclusion of a memorial inscription in the Union Church Memorial Garden is \$1,000. This includes provision of the memorial stones, interment expenses, engraving, preparation of a page in the Book of Remembrance and perpetual care for the Garden. The expense may be waived or adjusted at the discretion of the pastor. Interment costs may be prepaid at any time and are required to be paid to reserve an assigned location.

Gifts and Donations

The Board of Trustees of Union Church of Belgrade Lakes, United Methodist Church is dedicated to the perpetual maintenance of the Garden and to help ensure burial of those in need. Financial gifts for the Garden are welcome at any time and may be made in honor of or as a memorial to an individual.