

# **Bereavement Services**

by

## **Cork Unitarian Church**



“Bereavement is a special time when we acknowledge our loss, comfort each other, celebrate life, and seek refuge while we reflect more on meaning, purpose, reconciliation, and healing. It can be painfully difficult, but bereavement can also be transformative and gracious.”

# Spirituality & Death

Religions have always looked to help people deal with death, and with varying motivations, methods, and results.

In modern times, many bereavers approach their faith in a more personal and less traditional way. Some have parted ways with the religion of their youth. Others see themselves as *spiritual but not religious*. Still others have mixed families of different or no particular religious orientation.

For many bereavers, there is a desire or need for spiritual comfort beyond that offered by a *civil celebrant*, but the formality of denominational religious services and their membership requirements may make them unsuitable.





## Bereavement Services

Our services fall into three categories:

- **Celebrant services** - we officiate at the *wake / reposal*, and the *interment / burial / cremation*, by overseeing and delivering the ceremony. This is typically not at the church location.
- **Pastoral consultations** - Sometimes you have something to say and need someone to say it to. We are experienced at listening and can refer you to appropriate resources if your grief is becoming unmanageable.
- **Memorial and anniversary services** - These can be held to honour a deceased individual, a group of deceased people, or their survivors. They can be held at your site or our church. They can be the day of the *interment*, the month after, or on a significant anniversary - whenever you need to have a ceremony.



## How We Work

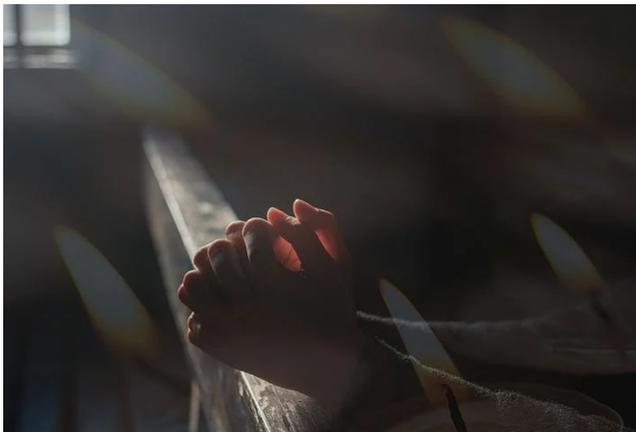
- Our services are available to the public. Church membership is not required.
- We do not proselytise the bereaved.
- We provide a set of well planned services which can be tailored to your personal needs.
- We respect other religious traditions, while we can include elements and symbols of those traditions, we will not impersonate their rituals and ceremonies.
- We follow the standards and guidelines set by the *HSE and Irish Hospice Foundation* collaboration in the *Bereavement Care Framework*.



## Out Traditions

The Unitarian Church has a long history of independent thinking and emphasis on personal choice that traces back to the beginnings of the Christian church and eventually became more formalised in eastern Europe during the Reformation. Here in Ireland, Unitarians were among the *dissenter* churches who resisted the English parliament's attempts to control religious thought and expression in Ireland. Eventually Irish Unitarian and other independent minded churches joined together in an umbrella organisation called the *Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland*.

Our building on Princes Street was opened in 1717 and is the oldest continually used church in Cork. Our chapel can accommodate 50 people and our main church hall can accommodate 80 people.



## Contact Us

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