

**WELCOME TO THE
RUTHERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
251 Union Avenue
Rutherford, New Jersey 07070
(201) 438-6324
www.rccucc.com**

**PLANNING A FUNERAL/MEMORIAL SERVICE
AT
THE RUTHERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

- **SETTING THE DATE, TIME & PLACE**

When death occurs, the immediate family or friend is encouraged to notify the church as soon as possible to set the date and time of the Funeral/Memorial Service: 201-438-6324. The Service should be at an hour convenient for the immediate family, friends, the church, and the funeral home. If possible, the Service most appropriately is held in the place where the congregation regularly gathers for worship. However, sometimes family or friends may choose to hold the Service in another location. If the latter is chosen, they should consult the local Yellow Pages for an appropriate funeral home or memorial chapel.

- **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FUNERAL
AND A MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A Funeral Service is generally held within a few days of the deceased's passing when her/his remains are in a coffin. If the Funeral is held in a church, the coffin is closed for the service. If held at a funeral home, the coffin may be closed or opened, depending on the deceased's last wish or the wishes of the family or friends of the deceased. A Memorial Service can be held at any time after the deceased's passing. In most cases, the deceased has been cremated. The ashes are held by the family, friend, or funeral home until the Memorial Service or time of interment. If the family or friend desires to have the deceased's ashes interred in the Rutherford Congregational Church Memorial Garden, it can be arranged by contacting Pastor Verblauw: 201-838-4254.

- **FUNERAL/MEMORIAL PLANNING SESSION**

Pastor Ronald E. Verblauw encourages family and friends of the deceased to share fully in planning the Funeral or Memorial Service. They may also assist in leading the Service. The Service is an act of corporate worship: God's Word is read and proclaimed, hymns may be sung, vocal and instrumental music may be shared, prayers offered, and, if desired by family or friends, the Sacrament of Holy Communion may be shared by those who desire it. Family and friends are also invited to share words of remembrance.

- **ALTERNATE OR MULTIPLE CLERGY**

If you desire an alternate or multiple clergy person(s) to officiate the Funeral/Memorial Service, you must call Rev. Verblauw: 201-838-4254. He will, in turn, call and speak to the clergy person(s) you have chosen.

- **GRIEF/BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING**

Since grieving is a process that does not end with a loved one's or friend's Funeral/Memorial Service, Pastor Ronald E. Verblaauw is available for grief and bereavement counseling sessions. Should you desire prolonged grief counseling, he can refer you to trained grief counselors.

- **MUSIC & ALTERNATE MUSICIAN(S)**

Mr. Christopher Sarah, our Interim Organist, should be the first considered in the selection of music: 347-742-2225. He should be notified of any special music you wish to have, or of any soloists. He can arrange for a soloist at an extra charge. If you desire an alternate musician(s), you must call Mr. Sahar. According to his contract, Mr. Sahar is entitled to a "bench fee" of \$225.00, even if you choose an alternate musician(s) or use taped or CD music.

- **PLANNING FOR A REPAST LUNCHEON**

If you desire to have a repast luncheon at the church following the Funeral/Memorial Service, you must let the church know how many guests will be attending the repast. The repast luncheon generally includes finger sandwiches, salads, desserts, and beverages. If the church arranges for the repast, it must be reimbursed for the total cost of the food.

- **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Church:	Rutherford Congregational Church, UCC	201-438-6324
Pastor:	Rev. Ronald E. Verblaauw	201-838-4254
Director of Music:	Mr. Christopher Sarah	347-742-2225

- **DONATIONS & HONORARIUMS**

Building Use Donation for Non-Members – \$150.00 for use of the sanctuary. \$250.00 for use of both the sanctuary and the Community Room for a repast luncheon.

Director of Music's Honorarium – \$225.00.

Pastor's Honorarium – \$200.00 (includes Funeral/Memorial Planning Sessions and funeral home visitations/wakes). This is a suggested honorarium.

The Donation for Interment of Ashes in the Rutherford Congregational Church Memorial Garden – \$75.00 which is to be given directly to Fred Dammers, the church's Financial Secretary, on the day of the interment.

If you are on a limited budget, some of the donations may be adjusted or waived according to your income and your resources and in consultation with the Pastor and Director of Music.

- **ABOUT OUR INTERIM ORGANIST**

Christopher Sahar's love of music began when studying piano at 7 in Kearny, NJ. Although he started composing short piano pieces at 10, it wasn't until his late 30's the he embarked on serious study of music composition first with private teachers then at Julliard's Evening Division and culminating recently in his earning a Master's in Music from Queens College/City University of New York with a concentration in composition.

His experience as an organist and choral accompanist arose over 15 years ago when he was accompanist to adult choirs in Long Island and Manhattan from 1999 - 2007. During this period, he secured a position as music director at an Episcopal Church in Queens which prompted him to take organ instruction with Rick Erickson, former cantor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the Lincoln Center area of Manhattan and choir director of the Bach Singers. He has been a member of the American Guild of Organist since 2005 and earned a Service Playing Certificate in 2007. Since then he has been an interim organist at the Slovak Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, substitute organist at Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and Methodist congregations including Grace Methodist Church in Kearny, NJ.