

First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown
Cemetery Rules and Regulations
Effective March 15, 2021

Cemetery Operations

First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown (FPCB) owns and operates the West and East Cemeteries for the benefit of members of its congregation and others. The FPCB Session is responsible for daily operation of the cemeteries through a Cemetery Point of Contact (CPOC).

The cemeteries are operated on a non-profit basis. Prices for the sale of grave sites, opening charges and other services are established with the goals of (1) maintaining affordability to those in need while (2) providing reasonable funds to perpetually operate the cemeteries so that they do not become a financial burden to FPCB.

Rules and Regulations

In order to properly maintain the cemeteries, provide for a peaceful location for visitors, and minimize the risk of personal injury or property damage, the following rules and regulations must be observed:

- The cemeteries are open for visitors every day of the year from dawn to dusk. To minimize operating expenses, during the winter the West Cemetery drive is plowed of snow and salted only when an interment is scheduled. For your safety we suggest that you avoid driving in the West Cemetery during inclement weather. Due to the speed of traffic on Route 8, please exercise caution when entering and exiting the West Cemetery in your vehicle. While not strictly one way, we suggest that you enter the drive at the north end and exit at the south end.
- To protect graves and markers, please operate a motor vehicle only on paved or gravel surfaces.
- Pets are not allowed in the Cemetery unless they are kept on a leash at all times.
- Owners shall not allow pets to relieve themselves on graves.
- Alcohol is not permitted in the Cemetery.
- No activities other than attending a funeral service, visiting a grave and paying respects, or maintenance of individual gravesites are permitted.

Burials

- A vault must be utilized for all full-size interments. A vault is not required for interment of cremains.
- Each full-size gravesite may include a maximum of three burials, including a maximum of one full-size interment and one or more interments of cremains.

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Memorials

- The term “memorial” includes monument, marker, headstone, tablet, and private mausoleum. Monuments are generally above the ground and placed at the head of the grave. Markers are generally level with the ground and placed at the head of the grave.
- We recommend that each grave be identified by some sort of permanent memorial.
- All memorials shall be constructed of natural stone. No artificial stone of any kind is permitted.
- Headstones and monuments must be placed on a footer constructed of proper materials at a depth to prevent frost damage. The footer must meet requirements of the monument dealer and must be installed by personnel contracted by the cemetery or a professional monument dealer.
- A single memorial may be installed on a single grave site. A multiple memorial spanning one or more graves may be permitted as approved by the Cemetery.
- No wire, wooden frames, decorative stones, bricks, metal posts, edging, fencing, etc. are allowed to protrude above ground level. Such structures increase maintenance costs and increase the possibility of personal injury.

Care of Gravesites

- General grounds maintenance is the responsibility of the Cemetery.
- Care of individual gravesites is the responsibility of the deed holder or family members.
- All funeral flowers and their containers must be removed by family members within 10 days after a funeral service or they will be removed by Cemetery personnel.
- No loose material such as crushed stone may be placed around a monument.
- Flowers should be planted no more than six inches from the headstone and the ground should be dug up or mulched to limit the spread of weeds.
- To minimize damage to adjoining grave sites from root growth, trees or shrubs may no longer be planted on individual grave sites. All existing shrubs or trees must be maintained at a height of no more than six feet by the deed holder or family member. Cemetery personnel may remove any plant that is not properly maintained.
- Any tree or other vegetation that does or might adversely affect a grave or marker will be removed by the Cemetery.

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- Any items left on grave sites will be removed and disposed prior to the start of grass mowing (on or about April 1). Plastic flowers and plants may be used for decorating during the winter, but must be removed by April 1 to avoid damaging mowing equipment.
- American flags may be placed only on graves of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.
- The Cemetery does not assume responsibility for stolen decorations, vandalism to headstones or plaques or for loss of personal property of any individual.

Prohibited Activities

In order to maintain the dignity of the cemeteries and minimize the risk of personal injury or property damage, the following are not permitted:

- Activities such as games, group picnics, scavenger hunts, bonfires, etc.
- Loud music which may be offensive to others.
- Breakable containers, alcoholic beverages, battery operated lights (except when used by security persons), fireworks, firearms (except for memorial services), or any other type of weapon or dangerous item.
- Do not drink water from the hand pumps in the West Cemetery. This water is not potable and is provided solely to water plants and flowers.
- Do not litter or dispose of trash in the wooded areas of the cemeteries. Please take any trash with you when you leave the Cemetery.
- Deed holders shall not erect any signs on Cemetery property.

Deeds and Ownership of Gravesites

- Deed holders must promptly notify the CPOC of changes in ownership, address, or contact information. Notification made or sent to the address on file constitutes formal notice.
- Deed holder may not assign ownership of graves. The Cemetery can transfer ownership by issuing replacement deeds.
- The Cemetery reserves the right to correct errors made in issuing deeds, including but not limited to voiding a deed and issuing a new deed for other grave(s).
- The Cemetery reserves the right to relocate a grave due to unforeseen physical conditions. The Cemetery will attempt to notify the deed holder and/or family if this occurs.

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- The Cemetery requires written authorization by the deed holder or his/her relative to bury someone in a grave who is not related to the deed holder by blood or marriage.
- The Cemetery will not repurchase graves from deed holders.