

First Unitarian Church, South Bend
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Memorial Garden Policy and Procedures

Purpose: To provide a place of peace and serenity for bereaved families and friends, or for anyone else seeking a quiet place. Also, to provide a final resting place for the ashes of those close to the church.

Created by: Board of Trustees

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Date Approved: 2/11/2026

Management

All physical aspects of work for the Memorial Garden, such as landscaping, outdoor furniture, and maintenance will be overseen by the Grounds Committee.

The memorial use of the Memorial Garden and permanent recordkeeping will be overseen by the Grounds Committee.

Any special events or activities proposed for this space must be consistent with the atmosphere of the Garden's peace and serenity, be approved by the Grounds Committee chair or their designee, and be posted in advance on the Church calendar.

Scattering of Ashes: Members and friends of the Church and their immediate families are eligible to have their ashes scattered in the Memorial Garden.

Process:

- Ashes may be scattered in the Garden in locations approved by the Grounds Committee chair or their designee, or in consultation with the Minister and/or family/friends of the deceased.
- Scattering of ashes must comply with state and local laws regarding the disposition of human remains. See current St Joseph County rules and regulations regarding the spreading of ashes.
- Permanent records of ashes scattered in the Garden will be kept by the Grounds Committee and stored in the Church archives.
- No permanent decorations, personal objects, or other markers may be placed in the Memorial Garden.

- To maintain the integrity of the Garden design, any plantings must be approved by the Grounds Committee.

Other: Any activities or actions related to the Memorial Garden not specified above are subject to the advance approval of the Grounds Committee.