Donations

Donations are welcome from anyone who wishes to remember a loved one or honor a living friend or member of the church. Donors may choose to support specific plants or garden features shown in the memorial garden design as a way of remembering someone. Again, contact the pastor for more information.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

-- Dorothy Frances Gurney
Memorial Gardens

Churches from earliest times have provided places of burial within their crypts or churchyards, helping Christians keep precious connections within the family of faith. For the growing number of people who favor cremation as the way to dispose of one’s remains, comfort may be found in burial of ashes in the earth of a church garden lovingly cared for and maintained.

A small quiet garden embraced by the walls of the church and open to the sky, our Memorial Garden is a place for the interment of ashes of members and friends of the church. In addition, the garden provides a place for reflection where we may pause to remember loved ones or find peace in the midst of a busy day. Two benches offer comfortable places to sit. While the garden is not accessible, it can be viewed on three sides from the adjoining corridor.

Memorial plaques on the wall just inside the door to garden commemorate those members and friends whose remains are interred there. There are no plat markings in the garden itself, as the remains are scattered during the committal service.

For more information about the memorial garden, contact the pastors at the church at church@firstucc.org or call 507-645-5726.

Planning

Individuals and families are encouraged to plan for the disposal of remains well before the emotional and logistical stress that death may cause. Advance planning can be an act of love and compassion by individuals and family members. Individuals may indicate their intent to have their remains buried in the garden using an intent and consent form provided by the church. Families may complete a request form after the death of a friend or member of the church. Forms are available in the church office or online at www.firstucc.org.

A suggested donation of up to $250 by individuals or family members will support the costs of the committal service, the brass plaque and the ongoing maintenance of the garden itself and its records. Contact the pastor for more information about a committal service and plaque.