

Memorial Garden

Urbandale

United Church of Christ



Isaiah 58:11:

*The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.*



Purposes of the Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is a sacred space for contemplation and prayer. Memorial services and small gatherings may be held in the garden. As a visible symbol of the love and care of God in our lives and our deaths, the garden is available as a place for the interment of the cremated remains of members of the UCC family. The Memorial Garden is not a cemetery. The Memorial Garden is a living reminder and celebration of the contributions that our members, past and present, have made to our UCC community.

Care and History of the Garden

The garden's natural, informal style was created and is maintained by the UCC Memorial Garden Committee which cares for the garden and directs what is planted. Prior to interment of a person's ashes, the committee will provide direction on where ashes may be buried within the garden.

The garden was started as an Eagle Scout project by member Benjamin Sheridan with the assistance of former pastor, Sue Gallagher; original committee members Richard Boyer, Elaine Lundstrom, Debra Rebelsky, Jerry Woods, and Leslie and David Sheridan; and Boy Scout Troop 96.

Guidelines for Use

- The use of the Memorial Garden (located southwest of the west parking lot) as a place for the interment of cremated remains is intended to be limited to UCC members and their families, former members, and friends of the church. Exceptions may be made by the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Moderator and Vice-Moderator. Interment is limited to cremated human remains and may not be used for cremated pet remains, as much as we love our pets and consider them to be family members.



- The cremated remains must have been prepared by a licensed funeral establishment for interment. Weather conditions may limit when the interment can take place. Once interred, the cremated remains will decompose, becoming one with the soil of the garden. Cremated remains may not be scattered on the surface of the garden. Interment is final and interred ashes cannot be recovered from the Memorial Garden.



- Only the cremated remains may be buried, and no containers of any kind may be buried with the ashes. The garden itself is the memorial for the persons whose ashes are buried in it, and there can be no designation of the particular site of any individual's remains. Persons do not have exclusive use of any space within the garden for the burial of ashes. Markers, decorations, and flowers are not allowed. Families wishing to remember loved ones with flowers are encouraged to do so by providing flowers for Sunday services or through the giving of an Easter lily or Christmas poinsettia. Families may also wish to make a financial donation to the church or the Memorial Garden Fund in lieu of flowers.



- Information for persons wishing to arrange an interment is available from the church office. The request for placement of cremated remains in the garden may be made at the time the funeral or memorial service arrangements are made. A record of the interment will be made and kept by UUCU. Individuals who wish to have their ashes interred in the garden are encouraged to make their wishes known to their family members and loved ones.



- The location of the Memorial Garden is intended to be permanent. However, if the church decides that the garden must be moved or the church moves its location, a shovel of dirt from the garden will be moved to the new memorial garden location as a symbol of continuity.
- The church will honor and memorialize the names of persons whose ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden.
- There is no fee for the interment of cremated remains or the committal service. However, donations to the UUCU or the Memorial Garden Fund are welcome and encouraged. You may also choose to make a donation to honor a relative or friend, living or deceased, or to celebrate an important milestone in your family's life.

