



The Memorial Garden

at First Presbyterian Church



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
MARIETTA

Drive down any country road and you're bound to see a church with a "churchyard" adjacent to it. These cemeteries have been around for over a thousand years. Ancient people typically buried their dead outside the city. In fact, our word "necropolis" (meaning city of the dead) derives from the Greek name of a large cemetery outside of Alexandria.

But in the first millennia, Christians began the practice of burying their loved ones not only in town, but right next to the sanctuary. Why? Because for Christians, graveyards were not cities of the dead, they were communities of the eternally alive. Christians claimed the promise of future resurrection through Christ and maintained that each Sunday those in the pews and those in the churchyard were gathered in worship and in God's presence. In the Westminster Catechism, we claim that in life and in death, we belong to God. Churchyards, memorial gardens, and columbaria all manifest this claim: that death cannot break the bonds of our community or of our identity in Christ Jesus.

The Memorial Garden, here on the grounds of First Presbyterian, provides a beautiful outdoor setting for the common interment of ash remains, as well as a place of remembrance, thanksgiving, prayer, and reflection. Members of the First Presbyterian Church, their spouses, minor children, clergy, past clergy and their spouses are all eligible for interment. Other requests will be at the discretion of the Pastoral Staff, Worship Council, and the Session.

Ashes will be interred in the Garden during a service of commitment performed by a Pastor of FPC. The name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death will be placed on the Memorial Plaque in the Garden. The Church will maintain a book containing the names of all those whose ashes are buried in the Garden, along with a short biography of the deceased.

There is a fee of \$1000.00 to cover the cost of the name plate and perpetual care of the Garden. A space immediately below the deceased may be reserved at that time for a spouse. The fee is an additional \$1000.00; no other fees will be incurred at the time of burial. For any questions contact the church or Laura Powell at jalapow450@yahoo.com.