

# Funerals & Memorials

WILLOW CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

It's our honor to serve you and your family in your time of loss. Below are some answers to commonly asked questions about planning a funeral or memorial through Willow Creek. Your Willow Creek funeral host or officiant can answer further questions as they arise.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**COST** | How much does Willow Creek charge to host a funeral or memorial service at the church?

Willow Creek charges \$250, which partially covers our expenses. The balance is provided to you as a gift from us. The fee includes the use of our Chapel, a room to hold a reception (if desired), a sound technician for the service, a pastor to officiate the service, and a printed program for your guests.

For anticipated crowds of 800–1,400 guests, we hold services in a larger venue—Lakeside Auditorium—which is more costly. To learn more, consult your funeral host.

**FOOD** | If we choose to hold a reception at the church, what are our food options?

Each family is responsible for ordering and paying for their own food. In most cases, we can provide a team of volunteers who help set up the food, serve your guests, and clean up after the reception.

Here are food and beverage options that work well:

- **Catering package from Harvest Food Court.** Willow Creek's food service and caterer, located near Entrance F at our South Barrington campus, will work with you to plan a delicious food and beverage package for your reception. To learn more, email [catering@willowcreek.org](mailto:catering@willowcreek.org) and Harvest's catering coordinator will contact you to plan your menu.
- **Trays of wraps, sandwiches, or fruit & vegetable trays from Costco or a local grocery store** ([search here](#) for a Jewel-Osco, Mariano's, Whole Foods, or other grocery store near the church.)
- **Pizza from a favorite [pizza restaurant](#)** that delivers to the church
- **Potluck food or desserts with drinks ordered from Harvest Food Court.** To learn more, email [catering@willowcreek.org](mailto:catering@willowcreek.org) and Harvest's catering coordinator will contact you to plan your beverages and/or desserts.

**PASTOR** | Can a pastor friend of ours officiate this service, even though he/she is not from Willow Creek?

Yes. We often partner with pastors from different Christian traditions. If you don't have a preferred pastor, we are happy to recommend a compassionate, skilled pastor from our team, who will be honored to serve you and your family during your time of need.

**MUSIC** | Can we have music as part of the service?

Yes. We encourage you to identify two or three Christian songs or hymns that are meaningful to you or your loved one. We can then play those songs over the sound system as part of the service. If you'd like to invite guests to sing along, we can project the lyrics onto the screen above the stage. If you have a few non-religious songs that are meaningful to you or your loved one, we recommend playing them as people are entering or exiting the service.

If you would like a family member or friend to perform a song during the service, we can provide the necessary microphones and sound equipment. A grand piano in our Chapel is also available for your use at no charge. Consult your funeral host to learn more.

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEOS** | [Can we display photographs or show a video at the service?](#)

Yes. If you bring photographs arranged on picture boards, we can supply easels to display them in the Chapel lobby. A wall shelf in the lobby is ideal for displaying framed photographs and memorabilia, as well. We can project digital photographs on a screen above the stage in the Chapel. If you'd like to include a digital slide show or a video as part of the service, we suggest a length of 20 slides or less—or about a three-minute video. If you'd like to show more than 20 photos, we'd be glad to play them on a loop as people enter or exit the service, or perhaps during the visitation or reception time.

#### **GUEST BOOK** | [Can we bring a guest book?](#)

Absolutely. Willow encourages each family to supply the guest book of their choice, and we will display it for guests to sign as they enter the Chapel. Some funeral homes will supply a guest book for you, especially if a visitation is held at the funeral home.

#### **PRINTED PROGRAMS** | [Can you help us create programs for the service?](#)

Certainly. Willow Creek provides a printed program of the service at your request. During our meetings together, we'll partner with you to plan the order of the service, and then design the program for you. If you supply a digital photo of your loved one, we can add it to the front cover, or if you'd prefer, we can place artwork, a poem, or a favorite quote on the cover. (If you'd prefer to create and print your own program, that's fine, too.) We'll place the programs on a small table near the entrance to the Chapel, so guests can take one as they enter.

#### **FLOWERS** | [Do you recommend a florist? Where should flowers be delivered?](#)

Willow Creek does not make recommendations for any specific florist. Most local florists deliver to the church. You can [search for local florists here](#). Here's the delivery information a florist will need:

Willow Creek Community Church  
67 East Algonquin Road  
South Barrington, IL 60010

*Deliver to: Building B/Chapel Entrance*

Flowers are delivered to the lobby of the Chapel, and our team will take care of them from there. Flowers can be displayed at the front of the Chapel, on a table in front of the podium, or on a table in the lobby.

#### **DIRECTIONS** | [How do I provide our guests with directions to the church?](#)

Willow Creek's address is **67 E. Algonquin Rd., South Barrington, IL 60010**. The church is located on the southeast corner of Algonquin Road and Barrington Road.

- Here's the [GPS link to Willow Creek Community Church](#). You can email this link to your guests.
- Guests can also enter the church address directly into their GPS system: **67 E. Algonquin Rd., South Barrington, IL**. (Note: Some GPS systems have been known to send people too far west on Algonquin Road, so remind guests that the church is located on the southeast corner of Algonquin Road and Barrington Road.)

**PARKING** | Where should people park?

- **Most services are held in the Chapel (Building B).** Once you've pulled onto Willow Creek's campus, follow signs for Building B/Chapel. Park in Parking Lot A, B, or C, then enter through the Chapel Lobby doors (Entrance B).
- **For services held in Lakeside Auditorium (Building D),** follow signs for Main Auditorium/Entrance D. Park in Parking Lot C or D, then enter through the Main Lobby doors (Entrance D).

**HELP WITH GRIEF** | How does Willow Creek help families after the death of a loved one?

We believe grief isn't a solo journey; it's best navigated alongside others. We count it an honor to journey with you in the weeks and months to come, and we encourage you to take advantage of these next steps.

- **Talk with a Willow Creek response pastor.** Our team of trained, compassionate pastors would love to listen to your story, pray with you, and offer practical next steps or resources. Simply call the church operator and ask to speak with a response pastor. You'll be transferred to a confidential line where you can leave your call-back number, and a pastor will return your call.

847-765-5000 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

- **Get a recommendation for a licensed grief therapist.** Grief can be overwhelming. We recommend investing at least one or two sessions with a licensed therapist who specializes in grief, to help you with the complexities of this major loss in your life. Call a response pastor (see above) to get the names of recommended therapists near you.
- **Attend REBUILD, Willow Creek's grief workshop.** This multi-week workshop runs twice a year (winter/spring and fall), and offers comfort, hope, and practical tools for grieving the death of a loved one. In REBUILD, you'll experience compelling teaching from therapists, pastors, and speakers who've navigated their own losses; safe, confidential small-group conversations with leaders and other participants who've been through a loss similar to yours; and practical tools for helpful grieving. [Learn more or register for REBUILD.](#)