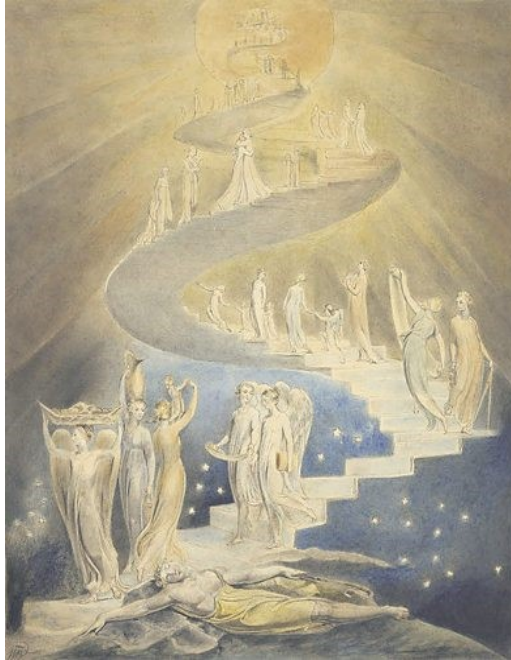


## *Kempton New Church*

### **AT THE TIME OF A DEATH**

- Some Practical Information
- Interment (Burial) Service Guidelines
- Resurrection Service Guidelines
- Cemetery Policies



*And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee  
in all places whither thou goest.*

*Genesis 28:15*

When a man dies, he simply passes from one world into another.

*Heaven and Hell 445*

The spirit of a man in the other life is seen to be in a human form precisely as in the world. There he also has the power to see, hear, speak, and feel, just as in the world; and he is fully endowed with power to think, will and act, as in the world. In a word, he is a man in every detail, except that he is not encompassed with the...body that he had in the world; that he leaves behind when he dies...It is this continuation of life that is meant by resurrection.

*Arcana Coelestia 10594-5*

Cover: *Jacob's Dream* by William Blake (1805)

And [Jacob] dreamed, and behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac...

**And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest...**for I will not leave thee...

And Jacob awoke out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place, and I knew it not... This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of the heavens!

*from Genesis 28:10-17*

## *Kempton New Church*

### **AT THE TIME OF A DEATH**

- Some Practical Information
- Interment (Burial) Service Guidelines
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- Cemetery Policies

The purpose of this booklet is to assist in arranging an interment and/or resurrection service at the Kempton New Church, and to offer some limited general information that may be helpful at the time of a death.

This document can be found at  
[www.kemptonnewchurch.org](http://www.kemptonnewchurch.org).

You are also welcome to contact the church office for a paper copy.

583 Hawk Mountain Road  
P.O. Box 140  
Kempton, PA 19529  
[society@kncs.org](mailto:society@kncs.org) ■ 610-756-6140  
[www.kemptonnewchurch.org](http://www.kemptonnewchurch.org)

July 25, 2022

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# **Preface**

## Regarding Funeral Homes

It is important to some to spend time with a deceased family member—whether for hours or even some days. KNC shares the following simply to say there may be somewhat more flexibility around this subject than might be expected.

If a person passes away under natural circumstances at home, it is understood that Pennsylvania law permits the body to remain in the home until the time of burial. Armed with knowing how they will handle the body and with the help of an accommodating undertaker, a family could perhaps allow themselves a delayed removal, at least, of their loved one, while leaving the eventual transport and associated paperwork (and the death certificate and such) in the hands of the undertaker.

If a family member wants to take on all the legal and practical tasks usually performed by a funeral home, this is allowed by law. Because the great majority of people do not undertake these things themselves, however, the details of how to do so are not outlined here.

## Initial Contacts to Make Upon a Death

- **It is generally advised to ask a friend, relative, or neighbor to come be with you,** at the first best opportunity, if you are alone and want support.
- **Unattended death. Call 911.** A death is “unattended” if it occurs outside a hospital or nursing home and would include that of someone who has been ill but *not* on hospice. Calling 911 will summon first responders – emergency medical services (EMS), the police, etc. These authorities will summon the coroner, who will pronounce death. If you don’t want sirens, tell them; they may be able to accommodate you.  
*Some people may be concerned about being revived against their wishes if an ambulance is called. If an out-of-hospital do-not-resuscitate order issued by the person’s doctor can be handed to the EMS providers, this should allow them to withhold CPR in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.*
- **Death following hospice at home. Call the hospice nurse.** The nurse is authorized to pronounce death and will report it to the coroner.
- **If the person has died in a hospital or nursing home,** that institution will guide you through the protocol.
- **Whole-body / organ donation. Immediately call the organization with which this was pre-arranged,** as it is time-sensitive. The funeral home chosen for transportation of the deceased will organize the death certificate. *(People with doctrinal questions about donation are welcome to talk with a minister.)*
- **Notify family and friends who need to know about the death right away,** before it appears on social media. Consider what you might want to post on social media yourself, and when.

- **Contact a minister if and as soon as you would like to, whether or not he is the one who will ultimately officiate at the service.** Once invited, he will come as soon as he can to offer comfort. A minister will also offer guidance about the next steps whenever you are ready for that (e.g., confer about the date and time of the memorial service).
- **Contact the deceased's employer if necessary.**



## Contact a Funeral Home

The funeral director will guide you through the protocols and have a variety of services to offer.

- **Some Funeral Home Options**

Robert S. Nester Funeral Home

8405 Kings Highway (Rt.143), New Tripoli, PA 18066

610-756-6006; [www.nesterfuneralhome.com](http://www.nesterfuneralhome.com)

The Nester family have long been flexible, helpful, and understanding of what have generally been New Church customs (not dictates) of no embalming or viewing. They do not have a crematory on site but can arrange a cremation.

Ludwick Funeral Homes, Inc.

333 Greenwich St., Kutztown, PA 19530; (610-683-8311)

25 E. Weis St., Topton, PA 19562; (610-682-2434)

[www.ludwickfh.com](http://www.ludwickfh.com)

For more, this site may help: [www.us-funerals.com](http://www.us-funerals.com).

- **The death certificate is assembled by the funeral home.**

Provide the information the undertaker asks for (the deceased's date and place of birth, parents' names, Social Security number, etc.).

**Ask the undertaker for as many as 15-25 certified copies** of the certificate (you can also ask the undertaker's advice on the recommended number). There is a charge for them. They are needed for many things, such as *publishing a death notice in a newspaper if wanted; closing bank accounts; and claiming insurance and veterans' burial benefits and airline bereavement refunds*. It is illegal to duplicate a death certificate yourself. You can return to the undertaker for additional copies within 90 days. To order them after 90 days, see page 18.

- **Death Notice / Obituary**

The law does not require the publishing of a death notice except in the context of settling an estate, which happens later on.\* A funeral director, however, can have one placed in a newspaper or newspapers, if the family desires.\*\* Typically, it would include the time and place of the memorial service, names of the survivors, and pertinent memorial-contribution information, etc. **Funeral homes usually have a website where this information, along with a brief biography, can also be posted.** (Giving prior thought to an obituary can help if you might someday need to write one.)

*\*A death notice can reportedly be helpful for such things as seeking refunds from an airline.*

*\*\* If the family would like to publish a notice themselves, they will need to research newspapers' prices and policies, which vary. Newspapers will require a certified death certificate.*

- **Jewelry**

Ask for jewelry the deceased may have been wearing if it was not removed previously and you would like to have it.

- **Burial Benefits Available to Veterans**

Contact the US Department of Veterans Affairs about burial benefits. (Call 800-827-1000 or visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).) If military honors are desired, the funeral director will request them on behalf of the family. A copy of the veteran's original discharge papers will be needed. To obtain a headstone through the Veterans Administration, see page 18.

- **The Social Security Administration** should be contacted within a week or so if the deceased was a S.S. beneficiary. The undertaker may offer to do this for you (or you can ask them to do it), or you can do it yourself.

**Family Settles on a Minister to do the Service/s**, if not already established.

**Family (or a family representative) Contacts the Pastor's Office.**

- Pastor's Office: 610-756-6140 and society@knccs.org
- Rev. Brett Buick, Pastor: brett.buick@gmail.com; 215-421-2487 (cell) and 610-756-6140; Ext. 211 (office)

The office will contact the Kempton Society via email to communicate:

- news of the death,
- date and time of a public resurrection service, and
- invitation to a public reception after the service *if there will be one, in which case the office needs to know if*  
**1) attendees are invited to bring refreshments and**  
**2) if someone has been put in charge of a reception, whom attendees may contact.**

The church office can contact the society more than once, if needed. The family might want to share news of the death right away, while plans for a service may take extra time.

# Selection and Preparation of a Cemetery Plot

## **1. To choose a plot:**

The family contacts the head of the Cemetery Committee (listed on the society phone directory). They may also contact the Pastor's Office, which can connect them with the head or another committee member. Pastor's Office: 610-756-6140 and society@knccs.org

## **2. To have the grave site prepared requires a decision by the family:**

Let a Cemetery Committee representative or the Pastor's Office know **if you want an excavator to be secured for you**, which these people will be happy to do,

OR –

let a Cemetery Committee representative or the Pastor's Office know **if you want to secure an excavator yourself** (which you are welcome to do), so these people know it's been taken care of. *Bear in mind the excavator must be approved by the committee.*

If the excavator has interment-procedure questions for the family that the Cemetery Committee representative or minister cannot answer, he may need to contact the family directly. See "Procedural Options" under "Interment (Burial)" below.

### **The excavation is the financial responsibility of the family.**

The work is not billed through the church, whether or not arranged by the church. The family should feel free to discuss cost with the excavator before the work is done.

## **Planning an Interment (Burial)**

A minister commonly officiates at an interment, but this is not required.

Interments are usually private, but they do not have to be.

An interment service is commonly held 30-60 minutes before a resurrection service, though it could happen at any time.

### **Procedural Options to Consider**

All of the following can be discussed with the minister. If no minister is officiating, the family can craft the service themselves.

- In what way might family like to take part? Would you like to sing? Place dirt in the grave? Place loose flowers (if so, when)?
- In the case of a full burial, what would you prefer? (Discuss anything applicable with the undertaker and possibly the excavator, as well as the minister.)
  1. Coffin is resting over the grave (on supports) when people arrive for the service.
  2. Coffin is lowered as part of the service – or after people have left.
  3. Coffin is in the ground when people arrive and is covered with a board (and perhaps some greens), or not covered.
- If burying cremains, how would you like to proceed?

### **Practical Details to Consider**

- Inform the undertaker of the time and place unless an undertaker is not involved, as is sometimes the case with cremains.

- If pallbearers are desired, select four to six. They should arrive at the cemetery 20 minutes before the burial, unless determined otherwise. *The funeral home can also provide pallbearers (at a cost), so inform the undertaker of your preferences.*
- Arrange transportation of visitors to the cemetery, if needed, and/or provide directions.
- Consider whether anyone will need a chair.
- Might you need some hymnals?
- Have loose flowers available for the grave, if desired. Bring them yourself and/or ask someone to obtain them for you if a volunteer does not come forward.
- Arrange for all items (flower buckets, etc.) to be gathered up after the service.

## **Planning a Resurrection Service**

**The following are decisions for the family to make.**

### **The Order of Service**

The minister will lead you in forming this (also see “Music” below.) Tell him if you would like printed copies and provide him with any picture or photograph to be included. (See page 19 for a sample order of service.)

### **Music**

The family is invited to select the hymns and any special music—preludes, interlude(s), and postludes. (Please review music selections with the pastor.) If you would like help with selecting special music, the pastor or church office can direct you to those who keep a library of recorded music for church.

### **Placing flowers on the chancel (and possibly elsewhere)**

If the family would like to have flowers, they are responsible for them, financially and otherwise. If volunteers offer to provide them or help in some way, the family and volunteers can consult.

### **Removing flowers**

The family is responsible for asking someone to remove *all* flowers after the service, and say where they should be taken.

***CONTACT THE PASTOR’S OFFICE, which needs to know how the family would like the following items to be addressed.***

**Reserved Seating.** If wanted, how much? *A pew fits eight people. There are two pews in a row.*

**Pianist.** The church office will secure a pianist, unless the family would prefer to do it themselves or does not need one.

**Player of Recorded Music.** The church office will secure someone to play recorded music, if desired. This person and the family will need to confer ahead of time about the selections.

**Live-Stream Operator.** The church office will secure someone to live stream/record the service, if live streaming is desired.

**Sound-System Operator.** The church office will secure a sound-system operator.

**Parking Attendant/s.** If the family expects a large number of attendees, the church office can secure parking attendant/s.

***It would be appropriate for the family to offer payment to the people listed above, since they are not employed by the church.***

\* \* \* \* \*

### **G.C. Rite and Sacrament Report**

At some point, the minister or church office will ask for the following information, which is needed for filling out a report of the service/s to the General Church:

- Deceased's full name, and date and place of birth and death
- Full names of parents (including mother's maiden name)
- Are parents living? Is spouse living?
- Spouse's full name (Include maiden name if applicable.)



## **Planning a Reception at the Church**

The family may host a gathering after the service at the church if they would like to, and should do what suits them; a reception need not be elaborate. They can ask or hire someone to be in charge if they desire, and the church office can refer any volunteers to that person if told who it is. The family is responsible for:

- Set-up
- Choosing a master of ceremonies, if desired
- Thinking about where to place a reception line, if one is desired, and at what point family would greet guests
- Food and/or drink. *Wine may be served and consumed only by those 21 years old or older. Arrange for servers, if needed.*
- Paper goods (*plates, cups, napkins, flatware, etc.*)
- Laying out photos or arranging a slide show, if desired
- Clean-up
- **If a sound system is desired for remarks, please contact the Pastor's Office.**

## Costs / Payments

- \$300 cemetery fee for a burial (See “Plots” under “Cemetery Policies.”)
- Grave-excavation costs vary. Discuss with the excavator.
- There is no charge for use of the church or Society Room.
- A minister will not expect to be paid for conducting a service, but offering him a gratuity or gift for doing so would be a thoughtful gesture. **Note:** *If the minister does not live in Kempton, the family should cover his travel expenses.*

## **Cemetery Policies**

Please contact the head of the Cemetery Committee with any questions. The church's desire is to accommodate families' wishes as much as possible.

### **Eligibility**

In general, eligibility for burial is limited to members of the Kempton New Church (KNC) congregation. Anyone whose spouse is buried or is eligible to be buried in the cemetery may be buried there.

### **Ownership**

The cemetery is owned by KNC. Plots are not purchased. In general, plots may not be reserved, but an effort is made to provide space for families to be buried together.

### **Fee**

The fee provides for cemetery maintenance. It is \$300 per burial and applies to every burial in the same plot. Payment is due within 90 days of the church's request for it.

### **Plots**

A single plot may accommodate two burials – either one full burial and the cremated remains of a second person, or the cremated remains of two people. The cemetery fee is charged for each burial in a single plot.

If a memorial stone alone is placed on a plot (without a burial), the fee is charged for this as well.

### **Site Location**

Plots need to be chosen in accordance with the cemetery site-plan, with the help of a Cemetery Committee representative. (Plots do not all face the same direction.)

### **Site Preparation**

The family is responsible for the cost of grave excavation. Excavator must be approved by the Cemetery Committee.

**Coffins are not required**, either by the State of Pennsylvania or by Kempton New Church.

**Markers / Headstones.** *Markers are not required*, but to maintain a tranquil sphere in the cemetery, markers that *are* installed should be of simple design. Headstones need to be made of natural stone of natural color. Flat, slant, and upright (machined) stones are all fine, as are natural (found) stones.

- Headstone can be installed once soil is settled (six months).
- A Cemetery Committee representative must be consulted about placement (plots do not all face the same direction).
- A concrete foundation is required for a headstone.
- *For a single plot* – Headstone to be no taller than 36". Width, including the foundation, should not exceed 36" (side to side). It may be quite long, as with a slab or boulder, but the height would need to be kept far lower than 36". (The required foundation might impact the decision about length, especially above a full burial.)
- *For two plots side by side (husband and wife)* – One headstone may be centered above two graves. To be no taller than 36". Width (side to side), including foundation, not to exceed 48". See above for comments about length.

**Permitted and Restricted** – Concrete vaults are not permitted. Natural mementos may be left at a grave if in keeping with the surroundings. The planting of simple, non-invasive plants (annuals and perennials) is fine if maintained

by the family, although they might unavoidably be mowed down in time. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove any plantings that become troublesome. *Not Allowed:* Railings, walls, fencing, urns, vases, potted plants, grave blankets, artificial flowers, trellises, arbors, trees, shrubs, and vines. **Note:** *Non-conforming decorations may be left at a new burial site for a month.*

**Flags** – A veteran’s grave may be marked with a single recognized national flag not to exceed 12” x 18”.

## **Acquiring a Headstone**

A monument company can create and (most often) install a headstone, if desired. (Installation requires a concrete foundation.) Some options follow, in no particular order.

- *Womer Memorials*

8588 Kings Highway, Kempton, PA 19529  
610-756-6033

- *Lehigh Valley Granite Studio*

6295 Route 309, New Tripoli, PA 18066  
610-760-6366

- *Earl Wenz Monuments, Inc.*

9038 Breinigsville Rd., Breinigsville, PA 18031  
610-395-2331

- *Elizabethville Monument Company*

Serves the Amish/Mennonite communities and general public.  
26 E. Broad St., Elizabethville, PA 17023  
717-362-1166 or [www.monumentcompany.com](http://www.monumentcompany.com)

- *Jens Langlotz*

Master stone carver at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral. (Jens made the Kempton New Church's Ten Commandments tables.) Photographs of his work are available from the Kempton New Church office. He will work with a suitable stone provided by the family. Arranging for a local person to install the marker could be a cost savings, but Jens may be willing to travel from Bryn Athyn to do an installation. 215-740-4644 or [jenslanglotz@yahoo.com](mailto:jenslanglotz@yahoo.com)

- *Richard Show*

Stone carver in Bryn Athyn, Penna. Photographs of Richard's work are available from the Kempton New Church office. Arranging for a local person to install the marker could be a cost savings, but Richard may be willing to travel from Bryn Athyn to do an installation.

P.O. Box 585, Bryn Athyn, PA 19009  
267-250-0923; [richshowba@hotmail.com](mailto:richshowba@hotmail.com);

Rich@Showgardensandcrafts.com; or Rich.show@ancss.org

- *Trevor Alden*

Can provide an engraved bronze/brass plaque which can be affixed to a stone.

Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania

267-625-4252 or trevoralden@gmail.com

- *Available to Veterans at No Cost*

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will furnish a free headstone or marker/medallion for the unmarked grave of any eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of the date of death. An application must be accompanied by a copy of the deceased's original discharge papers.

Contact the VA: 1-800-827-1000 or [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

## **Further Items**

**Contact Social Security** within a week or so after death if the deceased was a S.S. beneficiary (and if the undertaker has not already done so at your request).

### **Obtaining Additional Death Certificates**

*Before 90 days*, return to the undertaker. *After 90 days*,

contact the Bureau of Vital Records/Statistics at the Pennsylvania Dept. of Health (PDH): 844-228-3516 or 724-656-3100; [ra-dh-support@pa.gov](mailto:ra-dh-support@pa.gov); or [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov).

You can obtain an application through one of these avenues and mail it in, or you can apply online through an authorized link (to "Vitalcheck") that will appear on the PDH website.

You can also go to a PDH office in Harrisburg, Scranton, or Philadelphia to obtain them right away, or try going through your local state representative's office.

# Sample / Blank Order of Service

## RESURRECTION SERVICE

for

(Name)

(Date)

(Time)

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_

Opening of the WORD  
Sentence

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_

Readings  
*Interlude (optional)*

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_

Address

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing of the WORD

Hymn # \_\_\_\_\_