

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is a Columbarium?***

A columbarium is a permanent structure with niches or compartments designed to hold the urns containing the ashes of loved ones. The word “columbarium” comes from the Latin and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves or pigeons, or a “dovecote.”

The Hamburg United Methodist Church Columbarium will feature 64 niches in the initial installment and is available to its members and their families.

### ***What are the benefits of a Columbarium?***

**Spiritual Site for Final Rest** - It affords Church members and their families the opportunity to have their final resting place within the Church, which has been a central part of their lives. It is a sacred space of beauty and dignity where their loved ones can visit and meditate.

**Simplicity of Planning** - It eliminates the pressures of choosing a burial site, casket, vault and monument. Also, there is no need to plan for interment and memorial services at different locations.

**Faithful Stewardship** - The costs of cremation and a niche in the Columbarium are significantly less than the costs of a casket, burial site and marker.

### ***Who may use the Columbarium?***

Inurnment is reserved for past or present members of HUMC, and members of their immediate family, including spouse, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren.

### ***How do I purchase a niche?***

Complete [this application](#) and send it to: Hamburg United Methodist Church, Attn.: Columbarium Committee, 116 Union St., Hamburg, NY 14075. Or call the Church office at (716) 649-8080 and ask to have one mailed to you. Once the application is approved, a certificate covering inurnment ownership rights will be sent to the purchaser.

### ***What is included in the fee?***

The fee for a niche is \$1,000. This includes the urn, the plaque inscribed with name and dates of birth and death, the opening and closing of the niche for inurnment and perpetual care. Each niche is designed to hold one urn. The fee does not cover the cost of cremation.

***May I select my niche?***

Yes, niche assignments are allocated in accordance with the desires of each applicant on a first-come, first-served basis.

***What happens if I purchase a niche and decide not to use it?***

If you decide not to use the niche, the Church will repurchase the niche. However, once the niche has been used, no refund will be made. A niche can only be transferred, and with prior approval of the Columbarium Committee.