



Funerals and a Celebrations of Life...what is the difference?

While both funerals and celebrations of life acknowledge a death, funerals are typically more formal and traditional, often with religious elements, while celebrations of life are more personalized and focus on remembering the deceased's life and personality.

Here's a more detailed comparison:

Funerals:

- **Focus:** Traditional rituals, saying goodbye, and honoring religious or cultural beliefs.
- **Structure:** Typically are fairly formal and structured, often including prayers, hymns, eulogies, and a procession to the burial site.
- **Atmosphere:** Generally, more solemn and somber than a celebration of life.
- **Timing:** Often held shortly after death, or before or during burial.
- **Examples:** Traditional church services, wakes, and committal services.

Celebrations of Life:

- **Focus:** The focus is on connection and celebrating the life lived, through the sharing stories, and remembering the deceased's personality and achievements.
- **Structure:** More flexible and less structured, allowing for personalized elements like music, photos, and speeches. May include cultural, spiritual or religious elements such as blessings or prayers, depending on the wishes of the client.
- **Atmosphere:** Can range from reflective to joyful, depending on the family's preferences.
- **Timing:** Can be held anytime after the death, whether days, months or even years.
- **Examples:** Gatherings may be at a funeral home, private residence, at a favorite restaurant or pub, a park or at the beach, or any other place desired. The gathering will often include a eulogy, personal stories, favourite readings and/or music.