What Kind of Service Do I Want?

When it comes to remembering our loved ones, there is a lot of confusing lingo out there. Is it a funeral? A memorial? A celebration of life? Here is a quick overview of all the options:

**Memorial Service**

A memorial service can happen any time after a loved one’s passing. It is a time to gather and remember your loved one’s life and the many memories your friends and family have. It is very similar to a Celebration of Life service but can have more somber tones and allows for an atmosphere of grief as well as love.

**Celebration of Life**

A celebration of life can happen any time after a loved one’s passing. It is intended to be a true *celebration.* Friends and families who choose this option have often already done some of the difficult work of grieving and want to welcome a wider community to celebrate and remember their loved one. This event can be a small scattering of ashes or a fully catered formal event or anything in between. This is a time to celebrate life and enjoy community.

**Funeral Service**

A funeral is typically held immediately following the death of a loved one. This is often because the decision has been made for green burial or an emblement and the deceased needs to be laid to rest soon after their passing. People often hold funeral services in their local church, with their priest or pastor officiating. Funeral homes also assist with funeral services for those that do not have a local church.

**Gravesite Service**

The gravesite service is typically a small gathering of close family and friends at the site of the deceased internment at a cemetery or other locale. This can be done in lieu of a large formal funeral or as an addition to a large funeral.

When it comes to choosing a type of service, the most important thing to remember is that there is no right or wrong option when it comes to marking the passing of someone you love. If you were fortunate enough to know their wishes, following them is always a great way to start. If not, book a conversation with a celebrant or a trusted friend to brainstorm what kind of event they may have wanted for themselves and for their loved ones. Aspen Roots can help you tailor any type of memorial event to suit your unique vision.