

January 2026

Quarterly Newsletter

Clement L.
PANTALONE FUNERAL HOME, INC.



THE CLEMENT L. PANTALONE FUNERAL HOME, INC.
CELEBRATES ITS 55TH ANNIVERSARY!



Clement L. Pantalone
1934 - 1989

Clement L. Pantalone opened the Clement L. Pantalone Funeral Home in January 1971. The youngest of 12 children, "Clem" grew up in Crabtree, Pennsylvania, and from a young age knew he wanted to be a funeral director. Before entering the profession, he worked as a waiter at Carbone's Restaurant and drove a school bus for the Greensburg School District. With the support of his wife VaLeria and their family, he realized his dream. They raised their four sons—Clem, Raphael, Frank, and Nat—and their daughter Maria above the funeral home. As the boys grew, they could be seen helping in the parking lot, opening doors, and doing whatever they could to support their father. Clem was deeply committed to his profession and focused on providing exceptional service. After his passing, his wife kept the funeral home open. For over 30 years, his son Nat and Nat's wife Melanie, along with an exceptional team, have carried on his legacy.

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NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award

We are incredibly proud to announce that our funeral home has again been awarded the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Pursuit of Excellence Award. This prestigious recognition places us among an elite group dedicated to the highest standards of ethical and professional excellence, reflecting our ongoing commitment to service, compassion, and integrity in every aspect of what we do.

This milestone marks meaningful progress for our family and team. We are honored to be the only funeral home in Westmoreland County, one of just five in PA, and one of 271 worldwide to receive the Pursuit of Excellence Award this year. Being part of this exclusive group attests to the consistent, industry-leading practices we uphold daily.

The NFDA Pursuit of Excellence Award honors funeral homes that meet rigorous criteria across ethics, professional standards, and service excellence—standards our team consistently achieves through ethical decision-making, clear family communications, ongoing professional development, and exemplary community service.

This award recognizes more than past performance; it celebrates the ongoing efforts of every team member. It reflects countless hours of training, compassionate conversations with families, attention to detail in every service, and the teamwork that helps every family feel seen, heard, and supported. We extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment, to the families who entrust us with their moments, and to the broader community for its trust and support.

Where's the Water

Join Our "Where's the Water?" Challenge!

As many of you know, we donate bottled water at several local events. With the upcoming Lenten Fish Fry's starting soon, our water will be available at several locations, and we want YOU to help us spread the word!

 Here's how it works:

Snap a photo of our bottled water

Post it publicly on your social media using the hashtag #pfhwater.

We will randomly select one lucky winner each week during Lent to receive a \$25 gift card each to a local restaurant!

Upcomming Events

- 2/18 Lunch & Learn, Wednesday 11:30
The Boulevard, Greensburg
 - 3/28 Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday 2-4
Pantalone Pavilion
 - 4/29 Dinner & Discussion, Wednesday 6 pm
The Boulevard, Greensburg
 - 6/17 Picnic & Plan, Wednesday 6 pm
Pantalone Pavilion
 - 08/15 Open House, Saturday 2 - 5 pm
Pantalone Funeral Home
 - 08/19 Picnic & Plan, Wednesday 6pm
Pantalone Pavilion
 - 10/17 Annual Fall Family Night, Saturday 2-4
Pantalone Pavilion
 - 12/2 Annual Holiday Memorial Program, Wednesday 6pm
Rizzo's Bauquet Center, Crabtree
-

Grief Corner

Oftentimes with the start of a new year, people embrace the mantra “New Year, New Me!”

For those who are grieving the death of someone they love, that started the minute your loved one died. Life the way you know it suddenly changed forever. It would be hard enough if all you had to do was grieve their death, but there are so many other things people have to deal with after a person dies that “feeling” that grief and finding the time to work through it can be challenging. But making space for your grief and taking steps to move through it can be one of the healthiest things you can do.

I became a grief advocate and educator following years of experiencing grief after the death of my son. And I have learned that one of the first steps to moving through grief is to better understand it. And here are just a few of the things that I have learned.

-Grief is not one size fits all. No one’s grief is the same, and no one type of grief is the same.

The grief my siblings felt at the loss of our dad was different from mine and each experience of grief I felt for my son, my dog, my dad, even my best friend was different.

-Grief doesn’t follow a timeline. It takes as long as it takes.

-You can heal and live, love and experience joy again. I know this, because I am living proof.

If you are struggling with grief and want to better understand it and begin to heal it. I encourage you to join the online Facebook Community [Graduating Grief-Living and Loving your Life after Loss](#) or check out [GraduatingGrief.com](#)

Sherrie Dunlevy



Clergy Corner

The Necessity of Grieving in the Christian Tradition

"Grief is only Love that's got no place to go." I recently heard these lyrics in a song by Stephen Wilson Jr., an up and coming musical artist. The song, "Grief is Only Love" is just one song of the twenty-two song album "Son of Dad." The whole album is a tribute to his late father, exploring the lessons that he learned from his father and grappling with the grief of his passing.

Funerals and other burial rituals have always been necessary throughout human history, in order that grief can be directed to the right place. In modern times, grief is often suppressed, eschewed or even seen as a weakness. Yet, grief is not a weakness to be overcome, nor an inconvenience to be managed quickly.

In the Christian tradition, grieving is a sacred act—an honest encounter with death that opens the human heart to truth, love, and ultimately, hope. Scripture does not shy away from sorrow. Even our Lord Jesus Christ, standing before the tomb of His friend Lazarus, wept (Jn 11:35). The Son of God did not suppress grief or rush past it; He entered into it fully, showing us that mourning has a rightful and necessary place in the life of faith. Rather than slipping into depression and resentment, grief can be directed to God, who in the Christian Tradition is a God who has encountered terror and loss (think of the image of God the Father weeping over his crucified Son).

In modern culture, we are encouraged to "move on," "stay busy," or distract ourselves through social media, constant entertainment, or an immediate return to work. Pain is dulled rather than healed, buried rather than transformed. These outlets promise relief but frequently leave the deeper wounds untouched. When sorrow is avoided, it does not disappear—it resurfaces in isolation, anxiety, or unhealthy coping behaviors. A culture that fears silence and suffering deprives the human soul of the space needed for genuine healing.

Christian grieving, by contrast, insists on presence: presence to loss, presence to memory, and presence to God. The Church's rites surrounding death—especially the Vigil, the Funeral Mass, and the Rite of Committal—are not mere customs or formalities. They are acts of mercy for the living and profound proclamations of faith. Christian Burial honors the dignity of the deceased as a baptized child of God, whose body was once a temple of the Holy Spirit and will one day rise again. To bypass these rites or rush through them is to lose a vital moment of grace.

Taking time to reflect upon the life of the deceased is also a deeply Christian act. We remember their loves, their sacrifices, their struggles, and their virtues—not to idealize them unrealistically, but to commend them honestly to God's mercy. In doing so, we are inevitably led to reflect upon our own lives. Death confronts us with truth: our days are finite, our choices matter, and sacrificial love is what endures. Such reflection is not morbid; it is purifying. As the Psalmist prays, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart" (Ps 90:12).

Grief, however, is never the final word for Christians. We grieve, but not as those without hope (1 Thess 4:13). Every Christian funeral is oriented toward the Resurrection. The Paschal Mystery—Christ's passage through death to life—stands at the center of our mourning. Tears are real, but so is the promise that death has been conquered. By allowing ourselves to grieve fully and prayerfully, we open our hearts to the deeper consolation that only God can give.

In a culture eager to numb sorrow, the Christian tradition dares to sanctify it. Grief, embraced with faith, becomes a path not away from life, but toward eternal life. "Grief is only love that's got no place to go." Our Faith and funeral rituals help us to orient our grief to the only place where we can find rest and peace, in God Himself.

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew J. Hamilton

Real Estate Corner

“What Families and Estate Administrators Should Know”

by Barb Ciampini, Realtor / Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices The Preferred Realty

When a loved one passes away, managing their estate can feel overwhelming—especially when real estate is involved. In Pennsylvania, understanding the estate administration process, the use of a Short Certificate, and how to properly value a home can make the process smoother and help avoid costly delays or mistakes.

The Role of an Estate Administrator

An estate administrator (or executor, if named in a will) is responsible for settling the decedent's affairs. This often includes maintaining the property, paying debts, and eventually selling real estate if required by the estate or heirs. Before any property can be sold, the administrator must have legal authority to act on behalf of the estate.

What Is a Short Certificate in Pennsylvania?

In Pennsylvania, a Short Certificate is issued by the Register of Wills after an estate is opened. This document proves that the administrator or executor has the authority to act for the estate.

The Short Certificate is commonly required to:

- Access bank accounts
- Work with financial institutions
- Transfer or sell real estate
- Sign legal documents on behalf of the estate

Without it, most transactions—including listing or selling a home—cannot move forward.

Selling Real Estate From an Estate

Once authority is established, the estate administrator can proceed with selling the property, assuming the will or Pennsylvania law permits it. Estate sales often differ from traditional sales because:

- The seller may not have firsthand knowledge of the property
- Disclosures are handled differently
- Multiple heirs may need to be kept informed
- Timing may be influenced by probate and tax deadlines

Working with a real estate professional experienced in estate sales helps ensure compliance, proper documentation, and a smoother transaction for everyone involved.

Valuing the Home for the Estate

One of the most important steps in estate administration is determining the fair market value of the property as of the date of death. This value is used for:

- Pennsylvania inheritance tax purposes
- Estate accounting
- Capital gains calculations for heirs

A professional market analysis or formal appraisal is often recommended to support the valuation. An accurate value protects the estate, provides transparency to heirs, and helps prevent disputes or tax issues down the road.

Planning Ahead Makes a Difference

Estate planning doesn't just benefit your heirs—it can greatly simplify the sale or transfer of real estate later. Keeping deeds updated, clearly stating intentions in a will, and discussing plans with trusted professionals can save families time, stress, and money.

If you are serving as an estate administrator—or planning ahead for the future—working with knowledgeable legal, tax, and real estate professionals can make all the difference.

I have 42 years of real estate experience, I enjoy working with Estate Administrators to sell the real estate of their loved ones. I know the process—and how to get results.

Legal Corner

What Happens After a Loved One Passes Away?

By Long & Long, LLC

After the loss of a loved one, families are often surprised to learn that there are important legal steps that must be addressed in addition to funeral arrangements. One of the most common questions we hear is: "What happens next?"

In Pennsylvania, most estates require some form of probate or estate administration. Probate is the court-supervised process of identifying assets, paying debts and taxes, and distributing property to heirs or beneficiaries. If your loved one had a will, the person named as Executor is responsible for carrying out those duties. If there is no will, the court will appoint an Administrator under state law. Estate administration does not begin automatically. A personal representative must open the estate with the Register of Wills, obtain legal authority to act, and identify the decedent's assets. Because strict deadlines apply—particularly for inheritance tax filings—working with an experienced estate attorney, such as Long & Long, LLC, can help ensure the process is handled correctly and without unnecessary delay.

Practical takeaways for families:

- Locate the original Will as soon as possible
- Avoid transferring or distributing assets before legal authority is granted
- Keep records of expenses paid on behalf of the estate

While the process can feel overwhelming, proper guidance can help ensure everything is handled efficiently and in accordance with the law.

The attorneys at Long & Long, LLC assist clients throughout Western Pennsylvania with estate planning, probate, estate administration, and guardianship matters, providing clear guidance and practical support when it matters most.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

In our ongoing commitment to Greensburg and surrounding communities, we're launching a volunteer program.



Our first service activity in the community to help others was with Feeding the Spirit at Otterbein United Methodist Church. It was rewarding to give back, and we're excited to continue exploring meaningful opportunities with this program and other local groups. If you know of additional group volunteer activities, please share them—we'd love your suggestions.

Creamy Tuscan Garlic Chicken



Recipe Corner

Creamy Tuscan Garlic Chicken

From the kitchen of Alyssa

Creamy Tuscan Garlic Chicken has the most amazing creamy garlic sauce with spinach and sun-dried tomatoes. This meal is a restaurant quality meal ready in 30 minutes!

Ingredients

- 1½ pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, thinly sliced
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ cup chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ cup parmesan cheese
- 1 cup spinach, chopped
- ½ cup sun dried tomatoes
- Some type of pasta

Instructions

- In a large skillet add olive oil and cook the chicken on medium high heat for 3-5 minutes on each side or until brown on each side and cooked until no longer pink in center. Remove chicken and set aside on a plate.
- Add the heavy cream, chicken broth, garlic powder, Italian seasoning, and parmesan cheese. Whisk over medium high heat until it starts to thicken. Add the spinach and sundried tomatoes and let it simmer until the spinach starts to wilt.
- Add the chicken back to the pan and serve over pasta of your choice.

Helpful Hints

- Check and test smoke detectors and CO detectors; replace batteries twice a year with Daylight Savings Time.
- Use space heaters only when at home; keep at least 3 feet from flammable materials.
- Keep flashlights and fresh batteries for power outages; avoid candles if possible.
- Keep a phone within easy reach of the bed.
- Install non-slip surfaces in showers and bathtubs (mat, decals, or non-slip mat).
- Install a sturdy grab bar in tub/shower (not a towel rack).
- Use non-skid backing on throw rugs if used.
- Use a sturdy step stool with a grab bar, not a chair.
- Ensure stairways have sturdy handrails.
- Install outside lighting at all home exits.
- Post emergency numbers near the phone and list medications and dosages.
- When cooking, keep pot/pan handles turned inward.
- Store fire extinguishers in accessible locations: under the kitchen sink, and in the garage, living room, laundry room, and each bedroom.



Are Your Ducks in a Row?

Life isn't a straight line, but planning ahead can bring real peace of mind. At Pantalone Funeral Home, Inc., our preplanning services are thoughtful, straightforward, and designed to respect your wishes—and your family.

By preplanning, you can:

- Ease the Burden: Put your preferences in writing so loved ones aren't left guessing.
- Personalize Your Service: Music, readings, and special details that celebrate your life.
- Peace of Mind: The confidence that your wishes are honored provides comfort for you and those who matter most.
- Simple, Clear Process: Guidance every step of the way, at a pace that fits you.

Why now? Proactive planning can reduce stress for families and ensure your wishes are carried out just as you envision.

Call us at 724-837-0020 or visit pantalone.com to start the conversation today.

Thank you for reading!



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