

Overview: Pittsfield, MA

Pittsfield is the largest city in the Berkshire County of Massachusetts. In the early 1900’s Pittsfield became the original home to General Electric; as the company grew, so too did the population. The town has struggled a bit over the years, but there has been a renaissance. It’s consistently written up in publications such as *Forbes*, *U.S. News*, and *The Financial Times* as an ideal place to live and work.

Funeral Homes

If you plan to have a traditional funeral service with the body present (regardless of whether you choose to bury or cremate the body afterwards) you must work with a funeral home to make your arrangements.

Name	Rating	Price Level	Religion(s)
Dwyer Funeral Home	Highly recommended	Medium	All Faiths
Devanny-Condron Funeral Home	Recommended	Medium /High	All Faiths
Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Homes	Recommended	Medium /High	All Faiths
Wellington Inc. Funeral Home	Recommended	High	All Faiths

Crematories

The choices below are direct cremation companies and tend to be less expensive than working with a funeral home. Note: There is a law in Massachusetts which forces funeral homes to wait 48 hours before a cremation can take place.

Name	Typical Price
Casper Cremation	Low
Heritage Cremation Provider	Low

Cemeteries

You will work directly with the cemetery to arrange for a plot and the burial, but many of the details like buying a casket and body transportation will be coordinated by the funeral home you choose.

Name	Rating	Price	Religion(s)	Location
Pittsfield Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium	Non-Sectarian	Pittsfield MA
Saint Joseph’s Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium	Catholic	Pittsfield MA
Knesset Israel Cemetery	Recommended	Medium	Jewish	Pittsfield MA
Main Street Cemetery	Recommended	Medium	Non-Sectarian	Dalton MA

Saint Ann Cemetery	Recommended	Medium	Catholic	Lenox MA
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Funeral Homes – Complete List

Recommended Highly

Dwyer Funeral Home

776 North Street, Pittsfield MA 01201

(413) 442-5094

www.DwyerFuneral.com

This family-owned funeral home is our top choice for locations in Pittsfield. Rob is incredibly knowledgeable and also very personable; he's willing and able to cater to any of his clients' wishes. Moreover, this is one of the nicest funeral homes we have ever seen! It's spotlessly clean and decorated with both gorgeous antiques and modern amenities. Shockingly, the cost of services at this location is comparable, and at times even more reasonable, than other locations in the area.

Recommended

Devanny-Condron Funeral Home

40 Maplewood Avenue, Pittsfield MA 01201

(413) 445-5988

www.Devanny-Condron.com

While this appears to be family-run, it's the only location in Pittsfield owned by a large funeral conglomerate, Carriages Services. It's not as large as other funeral homes in the area but still has ample room. The decorations are simple and the small touches such as a large fish tank and beautiful artwork make this place feel more inviting.

Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Homes

5 Elm Street, Pittsfield MA 01201

(413) 442-1733

www.FlynnDagnoliFuneralHomes.com

This family-run funeral home has one location in Pittsfield and two in neighboring North Adams. Reno, the elder Dagnoli, is a veteran in the industry; he's very informative and kind and not aggressive. The building is on the older side but well maintained and very clean.

Wellington Inc. Funeral Home

220 East Street, Pittsfield MA 01201

(413) 445-4064

www.WellingtonFuneralHome.com

This funeral home is centrally located and beautiful from the outside. Although it has a slightly dated interior, it's spacious and the directors, Dan in particular, are patient and helpful.

Cannot Recommend Yet

Dery Funeral Home

54 Bradford Street, Pittsfield MA 01201

(413) 443-9151

www.DeryFuneralHome.com

Direct Cremation Companies

Casper Cremation

(800) 314-6942

www.caspercremation.com

The staff at this company was incredibly friendly and knowledgeable. Their fee is \$1,395 and unlike other they pride themselves in having no other charges. Families should be aware that the cremation takes place in Boston, MA. During the mandatory 48-hour waiting period, the body will be brought to Boston. When the cremation is finished, families can either pick up the cremains in Boston, or they can be mailed for \$55.

Heritage Cremation Provider

(800) 977-7060

www.heritagecremationprovider.com

The company uses three different crematories in Massachusetts and will take your loved one to the most convenient location. We spoke with AJ and Jamie who were both kind, helpful and quite blunt with facts. The cremation will cost about \$1,300.

Recommended Cemeteries

Knesset Israel Cemetery

484 Pecks Road
Pittsfield, MA 01201

(617) 244-6509

www.jcam.org

This is a lovely Jewish cemetery located in Pittsfield.

Main Street Cemetery

Located at the corner of Main and Park Avenue

(413) 684-6117

Separated from Main Street by an iconic large concrete wall, this cemetery dates back to 1781. The 10-plus acres consists of granite paths, shrubbery and mature trees. The most notable residents are the Crane family of Crane Company paper.

Pittsfield Cemetery

203 Wahconah St
Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 447-7953

This historic rural-style, non-denominational cemetery is located in the center of town. In early 1900s the prominent Olmstead Brothers were hired to plan the new layout. The cemetery is now on the National Registry of Historical Places.

Saint Ann Cemetery

1 Orebed Road
Lenox MA 01240
(413) 637-0157

This is a smaller cemetery that is associated with Saint Ann Church.

Saint Joseph's Cemetery

222 Pecks Rd
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-1317

Located in Pittsfield, this is the cemetery of choice for those of the Catholic faith.

Hotels:

Although Pittsfield is not necessarily a tourist destination, there are enough large chain hotels, smaller motels and bed and breakfasts close by to please everyone. The following are a few good options that are near some of our recommended funeral homes.

\$ up to 150
\$\$ 151 to 250
\$\$\$ 251 to 350
\$\$\$\$ 351 and up

Berkshire Inn

150 West Housatonic Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 443-3000

www.theberkshireinn.com

Guests at this locally-owned hotel enjoy free wifi, continental breakfast and a clean and centrally located hotel. They also have both indoor and outdoor pools. \$

Crown Plaza Pittsfield-Berkshires

1 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-2000

www.berkshirecrowne.com

The *Berkshire Eagle* voted this “Best hotel in the Berkshires.” Guests can enjoy free wifi, One West restaurant, pub indoor pool, hot tub, well-equipped fitness center and full-service day spa and beauty salon. \$\$

White Horse Inn B&B

378 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-2512

www.whitehorsebb.com

This charming bed and breakfast was renovated in 2006. It's luxurious yet reasonably priced. Guests will enjoy not only the inn facilities and the lovely McGovern family, but also the yummy breakfast. \$-\$\$

Restaurants

There are a number of restaurants in Pittsfield and the surround towns. Here are just a few recommended options for venues close to the funeral homes that can accommodate a group. If you opt for another restaurant, just be sure to call ahead and ask if they can hold crowd your size; the restaurant might have a special event private room and/or menu. Also, you might want to consider a favorite local restaurant or a deli such as The Market Place Café to cater a Shiva or lunch at your home.

Baba Louie's

34 Depot Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-2400
www.babalouiespizza.com

Diners love this restaurant so much that they had to open three locations to accommodate the crowds. The menu is easy Italian comforts consisting of pizza, pasta and salads. It's worth noting that the restaurant also does catering.

Mad Jack's BBQ

295 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-2290
www.madjacksbbqonline.com

This BBQ favorite in Pittsfield has all the classics (ribs, pulled pork and fried chicken) along with some specialties as well (beef etouffee or strawberry salad). This restaurant also offers catering and a bulk menu for those opting to host outside of the restaurant. (Note: 48-hour notice is needed for the bulk menu options.)

Trattoria Rustica

27 McKay Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-1192
www.trattoria-rustica.com

The owner, Davide was raised in Pompeii and brings authentic Italian charm and warmth to the Berkshires. The mozzarella and bread are made fresh daily. Although it's slightly more costly than some other options in the area, clients rave about this restaurant.

Other Helpful Local Resources

Boho Exchange

252 Main St
Great Barrington, MA 01230
(413) 528-4500

Located in Great Barrington, this funky thrift store has an industrial feel to it. They encourage customers to “buy, sell and trade.” There is no consignment; those looking to sell are offered a percentage of what Boho thinks they can sell it for.

Goodwill

440 Merrill Rd
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-6627
www.goodwill.org

Lord & Tailor Gift and Thrift Shop

110 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-7357

This small store stocks clothing and jewelry.

Salvation Army Thrift Store

300 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-0624
www.salvationarmyusa.org