



One in the Bond of Love

First Presbyterian Church
256 Mahoning Avenue, NW
Warren, OH 44483
330.393.1524

Dear Friends,

We rejoice with you as you prepare for your wedding. We hope that it will be a moving and memorable experience and a fitting beginning to years of marriage lived in hope, faith and love.

We are pleased that you have taken the first steps toward celebrating your wedding at First Presbyterian Church. We want to work with you in making this an event that will honor God and lift up your love as a gift from God. Our desire is that your wedding service will be one of dignity, reverence and beauty.

In this booklet are the guidelines for weddings at First Presbyterian Church. While most of your questions are answered in this booklet, the pastor or office staff can answer other more specific questions.

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding and may God bless you not only as you prepare, but as you celebrate your life and marriage in Christ.

The Pastor & Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Marriage is, very simply, a gift from God. Marriage is a covenant made between a couple and God, and is similar to the covenant God has made with His people through Jesus Christ. Therefore, marriage is a unique expression of God's love for His people and a couple's love for each other.

We believe that marriage is to be received and celebrated with dignity and respect. The wedding service is not only an opportunity for the couple to express their faith, but also a service that unites the larger community in support of the couple. We consider our wedding service a Worship Service and the guidelines the church uses in preparing for worship also apply to preparation for your wedding.

This booklet grows out of a Reformed theological understanding for marriage and the Session's interpretation and direction. It is our hope that the pastor and congregation of First Presbyterian Church become integral participants in your life, not just on your wedding day, but for years to come.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

In agreeing to be married at FPC it is not required that you share all of our beliefs about marriage and the Christian faith. However, it is expected that you agree to abide by the rules and guidelines outlined in this booklet. It is also expected that you have an understanding of the covenant relationship between you and God that marriage signifies. Guests are expected to treat the building and wedding service with appropriate reverence and respect.

1. Phone the church office to determine if the date/time you desire for your wedding is available on the church calendar. Your date request must be made at least **three months** in advance of your planned date. Once the Session has approved your date, it will be reserved and entered on the church's calendar. The church office will confirm this action with you.
2. Once a date is confirmed, you must schedule an appointment with the Pastor. At that meeting, the pastor will ask for general information about your plans and review the church's policy on weddings. The Pastor will contact the church's wedding service coordinator and the Director of Music Ministry (DMM).
3. The Pastor will set up one or more counseling appointments. During this time, the Pastor will cover subjects central to Christian marriage and help you plan the details of your wedding service.
4. You will need to contact the DMM who will assist in planning your wedding music. When you meet with him/her, you will also meet with the wedding service coordinator to set up a time line for your wedding day and discuss further details pertaining to the day's events.
5. Finally, you will need to obtain a Trumbull County marriage license. **You MUST bring this to the rehearsal.** The rehearsal will not be conducted without proof of license.

**INCLUDING OTHER PASTORS, MUSICIANS
and SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

Other pastors may be invited to participate in the wedding service at our pastor's discretion. Protocol dictates that the invitation to a guest pastor(s) be extended by the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

Similarly, other musicians may be used during the wedding service. Because of the nature and complexity of our organ, invited organists must be approved by the DMM.

The extent of participation by other pastors and musicians will be discussed at the initial meeting with the Pastor and DMM of FPC. In all weddings where guest pastors and musicians are to be invited, the Pastor and DMM of FPC may choose not to participate if they feel the Reformed Theology of marriage will be honored and the guidelines for service music will be upheld.

Couples may choose to include other service participants during the ceremony such as scripture readings, soloists, other approved readings, etc. All readings and solo music will be approved by the Pastor and Director of Music Ministry.

BULLETINS

The church will provide wedding bulletins on our standard cover.

Other wedding bulletin covers are available from religious publishing houses or on-line. If you want FPC to print the bulletins, it is the couple's responsibility to purchase them and have them to our administrative assistant **at least two weeks** prior to the wedding. Printing will be in black only. Couple's are welcome to print their own bulletins. **All bulletins must be proofed by the Pastor prior to printing.**

HONORARIUMS AND FEES

Sanctuary & Building, First 4 hours

Members more than 1 year No charge

Members less than 1 year \$500.00

Non-Members \$500.00*

Additional Hours (all) \$200.00/hour

DMM/Organist \$150.00

Pastor \$200.00

(suggested honorarium)

Wedding Service

Coordinator(required) \$50.00

Custodian \$75.00

Sound Technician \$50.00

Additional Services

Chancel Candelabra \$ 50.00

Audio CD \$ 10.00

Set-up and Use \$150.00

of Fellowship Hall
and/or Kitchen

*we are not presently scheduling non-member weddings

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING

Our organ is a complex and valuable instrument; therefore the church organist will be the primary musician for all weddings at FPC. Any outside organist must be approved by the Director of Music. Additional musicians (soloists, instrumentalists and ensembles) may be used in the service under the guidance and supervision of the DMM. The Pastor and Director of Music Ministry will discuss music appropriate to the nature and standards for our worship services. The Director of Music Ministry will assist the couple, if needed, in securing musicians for special music.

All music will be approved by the Pastor and DMM of FPC.

CHANCEL USE and ADORNMENT

FLOWERS, CANDLES and SET-UP

The Sanctuary of FPC is a place of beauty and dignity.

The chancel will remain set as for a worship service.

**ONLY WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM THE PASTOR
WILL THE CHANCEL BE RE-ARRANGED.**

1. No flowers or decorations are permitted on the Communion table.
2. Nails, tape, wire or other fastening devices are not permitted on any of the furnishings in the Sanctuary without prior approval.
3. No pews may be moved, except by staff of FPC and with approval of Pastor.
4. Aisle runners are supplied by the florist (or can be purchased by the couple) and should be 75' in length. Runners are **REQUIRED** if real flowers are to be used in the service.
5. The wedding couple may be held responsible for damage done to furniture/fixtures.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

A professional photographer/videographer is best suited to provide you with the highest quality of memories of your wedding.

NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PERMITTED DURING THE WEDDING SERVICE. Flash **MAY** be used during the processional and recessional.

Photographers/videographers are **NOT** permitted to move about the sanctuary during the service. The Pastor and/or wedding coordinator will work with the photographer/videographer to choose the locations they may use. The sanctuary will be made available before and after the wedding service for additional photographs.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED IN THE BUILDING AT ANY TIME.

If any member of the wedding party arrives at either the rehearsal or the wedding in a state that the Pastor determines to be under the influence, the Pastor will **NOT** conduct the rehearsal or the wedding

Bubbles, balloons & bells are permitted for post wedding celebration. Birdseed may be used **ONLY** outside of the building.
NO RICE MAY BE USED.

Dressing rooms are available for the wedding party.