



Ephesians 4:2: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

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WEDDINGS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

A Guide As
You Prepare





CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR UPCOMING WEDDING! CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING BEFORE GOD AND WITH THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH IS A JOYFUL AND MOVING TIME.

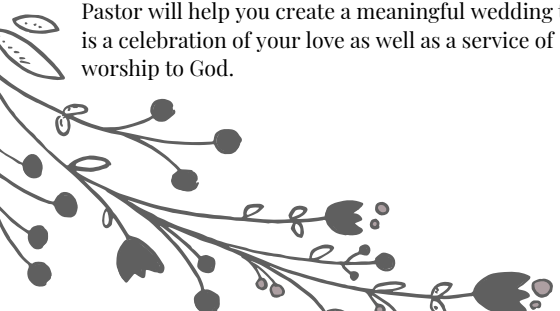
PLANNING AHEAD

Meet with the Pastor. The Pastor of First Presbyterian church will meet with you as a couple and talk with you about your plans before you finalize the date and schedule a wedding here. You will need to call the office to set up a date and time for this first meeting. PLEASE NOTE: Only the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church may officiate at a wedding service in the church. Other ordained clergy may assist, but only at the invitation of our Pastor.

Reserve the Church. If the date you have chosen for your wedding does not conflict with the church calendar, and if the minister has agreed to officiate at your wedding, fill out an application, and place a non-refundable \$100.00 deposit to reserve your wedding date. Make this check payable to First Presbyterian Church, marked "Wedding". This amount will be credited toward the sanctuary fee.

Pre-Marital Counseling. You will need to schedule several counseling sessions to discuss your relationship, including spiritual and emotional aspects. Most couples attend three sessions with the Pastor. At these sessions you will discuss the many issues involved in living a committed life together and will focus on the ways your families of origin impact your current relationship.

The Pastor will provide a relaxed and confidential atmosphere to get your input about your relationship and give you both tools for working through new issues as they arise in the future. These sessions will also help you faithfully consider your unique family situation. When planning the wedding ceremony, the Pastor will help you create a meaningful wedding that is a celebration of your love as well as a service of worship to God.



REHEARSAL

All participants in the wedding service need to be present for the rehearsal, which usually takes approximately one hour. All final payments of fees should be paid before, or at the time of, the wedding rehearsal.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

It is the responsibility of the couple to pay all fees and obtain the marriage license from the proper county office. The church can help you with this information. Please bring the marriage license to the wedding rehearsal so it can be prepared for signing on your wedding day. PLEASE NOTE: The church will need a copy of the signed license for its files as well.

WEDDING FEES

(Wedding fees are paid directly to the individual, not to the church. A list of names will be provided.)

Sanctuary* (non-members)	\$200.00
<i>*Sanctuary fees are paid directly to the church</i>	

Pastor*	\$250.00
<i>*Members customarily give an honorarium</i>	

Organist	\$200.00
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Sound System Manager	\$100.00
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Janitorial Service	\$100.00
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Optional:	
Fellowship Hall	\$125.00
Programs	at cost
Church Soloist	\$100.00

ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED ON THE CHURCH PROPERTY, NOR IS SMOKING ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING.



GUIDELINES

Music The wedding service is first and foremost a worship service. All music should be planned in the spirit of Christian worship. No taped music is permitted. Though a wide variety of musical options exist, it is expected that you will choose music that is appropriately reverent. The church organist may be available to play for your wedding; you will need to arrange that. If you choose to have a soloist, it is necessary for that person to be present at the rehearsal and/or to arrange to meet with the organist at another time. Appropriate fees will be charged for the organist/soloist rehearsal time. Our organist has right of first refusal. If another organist is used, the organist of First Church will still be paid.

Flowers Flowers may be placed on one of the two pedestals provided by First Church, or your florist may use his/her own suitable flower stands. Flowers shall not be placed on the communion table. If you plan to leave your flowers for use in our Sunday worship services, please notify the Office Administrator as soon as possible so that your name can be placed on the flower calendar and in the bulletin.

Candles There are two candles on the communion table. Unity candles are not necessary in a church wedding. If you plan to use them, you must provide your own candles.

Decorations We do not recommend using an aisle runner. Please make sure all decorations provided by you (unity candles, pew bows, etc.) are collected following your wedding, as these things will need to be removed from the sanctuary before Sunday morning worship. Also, balloons may not be used as they can damage the ceiling fans.

Wedding Programs Most couples prepare wedding programs for the service. You may bring your own or have our office administrator do (at the stated cost in the fees). The order of the worship service is available from the Pastor and must be included in the program. Please submit your request for programs, including all the information, to the church office three (3) weeks in advance of the wedding date. Plan to provide your own paper and covers. The church office has examples from which wedding program covers may be ordered.

Photography Flash photographs may be taken prior to or after the wedding service, but no flash pictures are allowed during the service. Video cameras are allowed from non-obtrusive stationary positions approved by the Pastor. Please notify family and friends of this policy. If you would like to include the Pastor in a photograph after the service, please mention it in advance.

