

Time and Place: Those wishing to reserve the church's facilities for a wedding should contact the church office as early as possible. Reservations are not considered final until the wedding application has been returned and all rental fees have been received. The church is not available for Sunday weddings.

Officiant: All weddings shall be under the leadership of the pastor. Guest ministers may assist but must be approved by the pastor before an invitation to participate is extended. Assisting ministers shall abide by all of the policies in this brochure.

Premarital Counseling: All persons requesting marriage at FPC shall undergo premarital counseling with the pastor. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to make arrangements for counseling with the pastor. The pastor reserves the right to refuse to carry out the service in the event that serious and irreconcilable differences present themselves, in which case all rental fees will be refunded. With the above in mind, it is advisable that you begin scheduling your counseling sessions **at least 3 months** before your proposed wedding date.

Wedding Coordination: We do not staff a wedding coordinator, nor should you expect the pastor or any other staff member to coordinate your service. If you plan to have special music, members of the wedding party processing in and out, etc., it is advised that you

hire/volunteer someone to coordinate these portions of the service. This person will need to attend the rehearsal.

The Wedding Service: All wedding services at FPC are *Christian* services of marriage. Therefore, all elements of the service shall be appropriate for a Christian service of worship. The pastor shall be responsible for designing the service and will have final approval over all of its parts.

Music: Musical choices should be tasteful and fitting for the worship of God. Secular music, no matter how beautiful or filled with sentiments of love, is not appropriate for a worship service. The church organist/pianist shall serve as the primary musician, though others may take part with her/his approval. All musical selections shall be approved by the pastor and the organist/pianist.

Decorating: Decorations shall be restrained and tasteful. Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary, but shall not be placed on any of the sanctuary furniture. No furniture within the sanctuary shall be moved without permission. It is the bride and groom's responsibility to ensure that all decorations are removed from the sanctuary immediately following the service.

Photo and Video: Photography and videography is welcome, but lights and flashes shall be turned off during the service.

Rehearsals: The pastor and organist/pianist will meet with the wedding party for the rehearsal (normally the night before the wedding). Anyone involved in the service should plan to arrive at the church **at least fifteen (15) minutes prior** to the scheduled rehearsal time. Provided everyone is punctual, the rehearsal should not take more than one hour. **Please bring your marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to the pastor at this time.**

General Policies

- Use of tobacco or alcohol is not permitted in or on the church grounds.
- Intake of alcohol prior to arrival at the church should be done responsibly. If any member of the wedding party arrives intoxicated, the wedding party will be responsible for asking that person to leave immediately and the service may be placed in jeopardy.
- If you will ride a "party bus" after the service, please plan to meet it away from the church property.
- You are responsible for providing ushers if you wish for your guests to be seated.

- No material of any kind shall be thrown by the wedding party or guests. Bubbles may be used, provided they are kept outside of the building.
- The church does not print wedding bulletins.
- You are welcome to use the church's classroom spaces for the wedding party to change. The nursery is also available should child care be needed, but you will be responsible for staffing it.
- The church is not responsible for valuables left unattended during the worship service.
- The use of unity candles/sand, etc. is strongly discouraged.
- If you wish to have a guest book, please consider having it at your reception rather than the church.
- If you would like the pastor (or any other staff member) to attend and/or take part in your rehearsal dinner or reception, please extend a verbal invitation well in advance of the event.

Fees

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Pastor - \$400

Organist/pianist - \$150 (+\$50 if accompanying)

Facility Usage and Custodial Fee - \$500

Fees **do not apply for active members, but staff honoraria and a donation to help offset the cost of facility usage are appreciated.

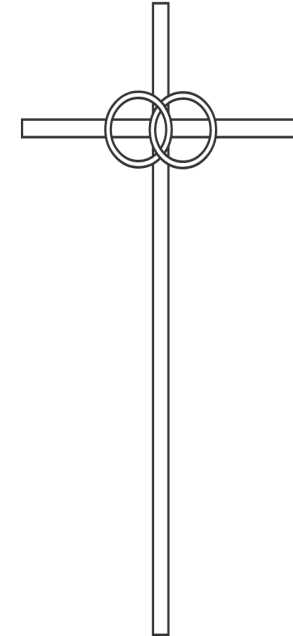
The Service of Christian Marriage

In the Christian marriage service, God is glorified as man and woman make solemn vows to be faithful to one another before God and the gathered community of friends and family. It should be understood that Christian marriage is a holy and sacred relationship not to be entered into lightly.

The Christian marriage service is first of all an occasion for worship. While we gather to witness and celebrate a bride and groom's joyful day, our focus must remain on God who calls husbands and wives together and whose grace sustains them through the many seasons of life. The service incorporates prayers, Scripture readings, a brief sermon and vows, as well as other optional elements such as congregational responses and hymns.

All weddings at First Presbyterian Church will be under the direction of the pastor, and shall be preceded by a season of premarital counseling with the pastor. Additionally, it is our policy that couples seeking marriage at First Presbyterian Church shall be actively involved in the worship and ministries of a Christian congregation.

Guidelines for Weddings



*First Presbyterian Church
501 N. 15th Ave.
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580-924-0433*