

Weddings



First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City

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Planning Your Wedding

Preface

The fact that you want to be married here at First Presbyterian Church indicates that you recognize the sanctity of the institution of marriage and of the vows that you will take to begin your life together.

A wedding is a worship service filled with the joy of prayers, hymns, scripture and meditation. Within the framework of worship, we will do everything that we can to make your wedding one that will be memorable for you, as well as one that invokes the blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our staff will help you to make your plans and carry them out as smoothly as possible. The pastor will counsel with you as you seek to understand the meaning of the vows and explore together certain aspects of a Christian marriage. The wedding coordinator will be very helpful to you during the weeks to come, suggesting alternatives, giving guidance, being a resource, helping to make sure that things happen the way you plan.

Christian Marriage

Marriage has tended to be viewed from two important perspectives. First, marriage is understood to be grounded in the doctrine of creation and thus the gift of God to all humanity. From this perspective, marriage is not the exclusive possession of the Christian faith; it belongs to the whole of human society.

Christians marry by “the authority of the state,” participating in the same social reality as all others who marry.

Christians, however, also view marriage as an issue of discipleship. They understand marriage to be grounded in the doctrine of redemption as well as creation. They seek to bring their marriages into accord with the will of God and to allow their relationship with Christ to form a pattern for the covenant of marriage.

The service for those who marry at First Presbyterian Church is one of Christian worship. The service expresses praise and thanksgiving to God for the gift of marriage and assumes that the promises of marriage are to be made in response to the Word of God, in the context of prayer, and in the presence of the community of faith.

Marriage Preparation

With a high rate of unhappiness in marriage as well as divorce, the elders and pastors of First Presbyterian Church concur in the absolute need for quality preparation. This includes a requirement for premarital counseling and that the counseling be completed before final approval for the service at FPC-OKC.

The couple will also meet with the pastor for the planning of the marriage worship service.

Arrangements

Date

Selecting a date for your wedding is the first step. Rehearsal and wedding dates need to be cleared with the church office as soon as possible. Because of special days and holy days, there are times when weddings cannot be scheduled. At this point, a Wedding Information Form needs to be completed.

While church members and events are given priority, once your date has been cleared and placed on the church calendar, it will be secure. This determination is made after your consultations with the pastor, organist, and wedding coordinator. When you are notified by the wedding coordinator that the wedding has been approved, a non-refundable deposit of \$200 is payable. Saturday evening weddings may not be held after 7:00 p.m.

Available Facilities

The following areas are available:

Chapel (first floor)	Capacity 150
Sanctuary (first floor)	Capacity 1000
Parlor (circulating)	Capacity 100
Watchorn Hall	Capacity 300

Dressing areas are provided for the wedding party.

Rooms will be available to you and your wedding party two and one-half hours prior to the wedding.

Costs and Fees

The wedding coordinator will consult with the couple to determine the services desired and the fees for those services. All fees must be paid in full to the church office one month prior to the date of the wedding.

Wedding

Most Chapel Weddings	\$2,065.00
Most Sanctuary Weddings	\$2,735.00

Reception

Fees charged for a reception include room use, reception coordinator and custodial service. Kitchen fees are to be determined by the wedding coordinator. Large weddings may require additional workers. Fees do not include the cost of food, food preparation or extraordinary custodial services.

Parlor	\$550.00
Watchorn Hall	\$1800.00

Wedding Coordinator

The services of our wedding coordinator are required, and they will see that matters other than those involving the ministers and musicians are properly arranged. They will confer with the couple regarding our facilities and procedures for weddings and will also be available to answer any questions. In addition, they will assist the officiating minister in directing the rehearsal and the wedding.

After consultation with the pastor and the organist, the wedding coordinator will contact you and arrange a meeting to coordinate and oversee your wedding plans.

Officiating Pastor

All weddings are officiated by a member of our pastoral staff. At the time of your first consultation with the pastor, should you desire another minister to assist at the wedding, you will have an opportunity to ask the pastor to extend this invitation.

Pictures

Photographers and videographers are to be unobtrusive. During the ceremony, pictures will be taken from the balcony in both the Chapel and Sanctuary. Pictures may not be taken from the front of the Chapel or Sanctuary or in the aisles. No flash pictures may be taken during the ceremony. Following the wedding, you will want to take as many pictures as possible but limit the time for this session to about 20 minutes. The reason for this is that your guests are waiting to greet you. If there is no reception, this time limit may be relaxed.

Sound

No electronically enhanced instruments shall be permitted, and nothing shall be attached to the church audio system. Taped or recorded music is not permitted.

Music

Music in a wedding service glorifies God. Whether traditional or contemporary, music is to aid worshippers to fix their hearts and minds on God. All music for your wedding must be performed live. All plans and arrangements for your wedding music are made in consultation with the staff organist. The organist will meet with you to discuss the role of music in the wedding service and play a variety of selections for you in the worship space you choose. All music must be approved by them.

Music chosen for the service should be both to your liking and appropriate for the occasion. While it may not be appropriate in a wedding service, sentimental or popular music may be used for the reception.

The organist will offer you a choice of several selections for your processional and recessional and can provide suggestions for instrumental and vocal soloists. They will play for your wedding unless other arrangements are made by them.

The organist will have many suggestions for the various musical parts of the Wedding service. Some appropriate examples for worship are:

Seating

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
Arioso	Bach
Air from Water Music	Handel
Rhosymedre	Vaughan Williams

Processionals and Recessionals

Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke
Trumpet Tune in D	Johnson
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Marche Nuptiale	Loret
Psalm 19: The Heavens are Telling	Marcello
Hornpipe from Water Music	Handel
Rigaudon	Campra
Now Thank We All Our God	Karg-Elert
Ode to Joy	Beethoven
Toccata from Symphony No. 5	Widor

Decorations and Flowers

Both our Sanctuary and Chapel have colorful stained-glass windows so very little decoration may be needed. We ask your florist to be careful so that we may continue to be good stewards of this wonderful building and its furnishings. For instance, no tape may be used on any piece of furniture. Chaste candles must be used. No paint may be sprayed. The communion table will have no decorations of any kind. Florists may set up two and one-half hours prior to the wedding. Florists will remove all their equipment immediately after the wedding.

Children

Children are welcome to participate in your wedding. Their individual level of development and maturity will affect their ability to take part. Normally, the ring bearer or flower girl should be at least five years old.

Safety

Safety rules include: no rice, no smoking and no alcoholic beverages. A security officer will oversee the parking area during the wedding.

License

You are responsible for obtaining your Marriage License and giving it to the pastor by Thursday (before a Saturday wedding) prior to the ceremony. A license should be procured at the courthouse.