

WEDDINGS

*First Presbyterian Church
2577 Wickham Drive
Muskegon, Michigan 49441
Phone (231) 759-1275
Fax (231) 759-7825
www.fpcmuskegon.org*



THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE OF MARRIAGE

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is a civil contract between a woman and a man. For Christians marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage a lifelong commitment is made by a woman and a man to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.”

~ Directory for Worship: (W-4.9001)

PREPARATION

All requests for marriage will be approved by the Session after filing an application through the church office. A deposit of \$50 for church members and \$100 for non-church members is required when a wedding date is reserved. The deposit will be refunded in its entirety, providing the following guidelines are followed and the couple completes the required ministerial counseling sessions. The pastor of the church will officiate at all weddings. If another pastor is requested by the couple to assist, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church will issue the invitation.

The minimum period of time from initial contact to wedding date shall be at least six months to allow for the number of counseling sessions required.

All weddings shall be held in the sanctuary or the chapel of First Presbyterian Church, and requests for weddings away from the church building will only be entertained from members of First Presbyterian Church.

Members of First Presbyterian Church may reserve dates from 6 months to two years in advance. Non-members may reserve dates from 6 to 9 months in advance.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) states that...

“In preparation for the marriage service, the minister asked to lead the service shall provide for a discussion with the man and the women concerning:

1. *The nature of their Christian commitment, assuring that a least one is a professing Christian.*
2. *The legal requirements of the state.*
3. *The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage.*
4. *The nature and form of the marriage service.*
5. *The vows and commitments they will be asked to make.*
6. *The relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship.*
7. *The resources of the faith and the Christian community to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments.*

“This discussion is equally important in the case of a first marriage, a marriage after the death of a spouse, and a marriage following divorce.” ~ (W-4.9002)

Marriage is the most important step two people take together. To that end couples seeking to be married at First Presbyterian Church will be required to meet with the pastor. The pastor will meet with each couple a minimum of four times to get to know the couple, provide counsel about Christian marriage, and work with the couple in planning their service. The cost for this service is \$30. After meeting with the couple, the pastor may, in consultation with the couple, refer them to outside marriage counselors.

MUSIC

The regular church organist, if available, will provide music at all weddings requiring organ music held within the church. The services of other organists may be used only if the regular organist is not available, and only with the permission of the regular organist

If a soloist is to be employed, it is the responsibility of the couple to contact the soloist and other musicians. It is up to the couple to provide copies of music to be used, if not in standard wedding repertoire.

“Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to God and expresses the faith of the church.” (Directory for Worship: W2.1004) The church wedding is a service of worship, and the music should be in keeping with the reverence that is observed in a Christian sanctuary. All music for the church wedding must be considered appropriate for the occasion and approved by the pastor in consultation with the Director of Music/Organist. Traditional acoustical musical instruments are considered appropriate for additional accompaniment. Taped/electronic accompaniment is not considered appropriate at First Presbyterian Church.

FLOWERS

A minimum of flowers and decorations is recommended for a dignified and beautiful service. Bows may be tied around the pews with ribbon and many florists have clamps available for attaching bows or other decorations to the pews. Nails, wire or any type of tape may not be used on the pews, the furnishings or on the building.

If candelabras are to be used, the church will order the candles, and the cost will be passed on to the wedding couple. The candelabrum for the unity candle is also available at the church. Candles for the unity candelabrum may be arranged in a similar fashion to candles for the candelabras.

No flowers are to be placed on the Communion Table. Arbors, arches or other paraphernalia are not allowed in the chancel.

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Upon arrangement with the pastor, photographs may be taken prior to or following the ceremony. The photographer may take flash pictures in the narthex prior to the wedding and as the bride starts down the aisle. Flash pictures are NOT permitted during the ceremony. The videographer MUST remain stationary at either the back of the sanctuary or in the choir area throughout the ceremony. Photos taken prior to the service must be completed NO LATER THAN fifteen (15) minutes prior to the service.

THE WEDDING PARTY

Members of the wedding party are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to the atmosphere of the church.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church building. The church also has a non-smoking policy in all its facilities.

Rice and confetti are not to be thrown in the church building or outside of the church. Birdseed may be thrown out of doors.

THE WEDDING DIRECTOR

The Wedding Director is a very important and helpful person in coordinating your wedding. The director will have a large part in your rehearsal and will schedule its time. The director will supervise the planning of the wedding party and decorations. The director will also talk with you about the rules and guidelines pertaining to First Presbyterian Church. The Wedding Director is responsible for informing you of the fees of all services rendered by the church staff and to receive payments of all fees in advance. The director will also communicate any pertinent information to the church staff, such as organist, custodian, etc., to help organize your wedding day. In order that your wedding may proceed smoothly, the Wedding Director must be present when a processional is involved.

DRESSING AT THE CHURCH

The bridal party may dress at the church with arrangements made through the Wedding Director.

WEDDING RECEPTION

The Chapel and Fellowship Hall are available for wedding receptions. Arrangements may be made through the church office, and a member of Presbyterian Women must be present if an outside caterer is employed.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license is to be given to the church office manager no later than noon on the Wednesday immediately preceding the wedding. This is necessary for the license to be typed and recorded.

The complete wedding fees are due and payable when the marriage license is delivered to the office manager.

WEDDING FEES

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Deposit	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Premarital Survey	30.00	30.00
Sanctuary use	None	200.00
Pastor	Honorarium Accepted	200.00
Organist	125.00	125.00
Extra rehearsal-soloist	25.00	25.00
Wedding Director	100.00	100.00
Custodian (Wedding only)	75.00	75.00
Sound Operator	35.00	35.00
Candles	20.00	20.00
Unity Candle	5.00	5.00

The custodial fee is based upon a four hour reservation for the church. If the couple desires to reserve the church for a longer period of time, the custodian will be paid \$12.50 per half hour of additional time.

RECEPTIONS IN THE CHURCH

Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	\$ 60.00	\$100
Chapel/Kitchen	35.00	75.00
Custodian	75.00	75.00
Wedding Hostess	None	40.00

(Whenever outside caterers are involved in receptions)

The custodial fee for receptions in the church, either the Fellowship Hall or the Chapel is for a minimum of 3 hours. There will be a fee of \$12.50 per half hour for additional time.

The Fellowship Hall kitchen and Chapel kitchen include use of utensils, coffee makers, dishes, punch bowls, heat, lights and related building items. Linens and candles are not included.

*...live in love,
as Christ
loved us...*



Ephesians 5:2