

Introduction

We are pleased that you have chosen First Presbyterian of Greer for your wedding. All weddings held at FPC Greer conform to the guidelines listed in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order and in this policy adopted by the Session on April 14, 2024.

Preparation for Marriage

Marriage is a gift from God given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. On one level, marriage is a civil ceremony between a man, a woman, and the state. For Christians, however, marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out in the presence of God, their discipleship to Jesus Christ and their devotion to one another. In the service of Christian marriage, a lifelong commitment is made to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the gathered community of faith.

When you decide to have your wedding in a church, you are in fact deciding that your wedding is to be a service of worship. Therefore, all elements of the service should focus on praise and thanksgiving to God, even as prayers are offered for God's blessing on yours and all marriages.

It is the practice in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for the minister to instruct and discuss the privileges and the obligations which are assumed in marriage. It is the responsibility of the couple preparing for marriage to make an appointment with the minister at their earliest convenience to begin these conversations. Please call the church office at 864-877-3612 to schedule appointments.

The Marriage Ceremony

Christian marriage should ordinarily be celebrated in the place where the community gathers for worship. As a service of Christian worship, the marriage is under the direction of the minister and the supervision of the Session. Specific questions should be directed to our Wedding Coordinator by contacting the church office at 864-877-3612.

A minister on staff of First Presbyterian Church, Greer must officiate or assist in any marriage ceremony held in our sanctuary. If you desire to have another minister participate in the ceremony, he/she may be invited to do so by a minister at First Presbyterian. Approval of the Session is required for any visiting minister.

Wedding Coordinator

Our Wedding Coordinator will meet with you to review the procedures of this church. She/He will contact the Church Office to reserve your date. You are required to use our Coordinator.

Fees

See attached sheets.

FYI

Our Sanctuary will seat three hundred people, including the balcony.

Damaged or missing church property, which occurs at the time of Rehearsal, Reception or Wedding will be the

responsibility of the Wedding Party. A reasonable fee will be determined by the Property Committee of First Presbyterian Church to cover replacement cost or repairs. If you have further questions, please contact the church's Wedding Coordinator by calling the church office.

The building will be locked two hours following the beginning of your wedding or, if you are also holding your reception at First Presbyterian, the building will be locked four hours following the beginning of your wedding.

You are responsible for your personal belongings. Please be sure to arrange for someone to remove all personal items immediately after the wedding. The church is not responsible for items left behind.

Reception

Our Fellowship Hall and Gymnasium are both available for your use.

No alcoholic beverages may be served in the church buildings or on the church grounds.

You must meet with our Kitchen Coordinator prior to your reception. Please call the church office to make an appointment.

Unless you receive prior approval, any decorations used in the fellowship hall or gymnasium are to be removed immediately following the reception.

Reception music other than piano or chamber music must be approved by the Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator with any requests as soon as possible by calling the church office.

Rice may **not** be thrown at the wedding or reception.

Music

Remembering this is a service of worship, all music should be chosen to suitably celebrate the occasion and must be approved by our Director of Music or Church Organist. Due to the reverent nature of the worship service, we ask that no recorded music be used.

As our organist knows the instruments best and is familiar with the wedding procedures, she/he is the preferred choice for your ceremony.

The use of a guest organist requires approval of the Session and she/he must meet with our Director of Music or Church Organist to gain familiarity with the instrument.

Rehearsals

It is mandatory to have a rehearsal for your ceremony. The rehearsal must be under the direct supervision of our Wedding Coordinator. To schedule a rehearsal, please call the church office.

Decorations

The sanctuary should be decorated as simply as possible. Flowers and other decorations should not be elaborate or ostentatious.

Flowers should not be placed on the piano or organ.

Only drip-less candles may be used.

We do not allow the use of tacks or nails.

For safety reasons, aisle cloths are not permitted in the sanctuary.

If you wish to leave the flowers for use by the church on the following Sunday, please contact the church office to make arrangements no later than three weeks prior to your wedding date.

Church property (i.e., banners, flags, furniture, instruments) cannot be moved without the approval or assistance of the presiding minister or the church's Director of Operations.

Photography

Remembering this is a service of worship, we ask that no flash photography be used during the ceremony. Please remind your photographer and guests of this request.

Your photographer/videographer may take non-flash pictures from the balcony during the service and may take flash pictures from the narthex during the recessional and as you leave the church.

Flash pictures may be taken in the sanctuary prior to and immediately after the ceremony.

No audio or video projection is allowed.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE MUST APPROVE ALL SPECIAL REQUESTS.

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