

Your Wedding

Before you set the date...

Information regarding weddings at
First Presbyterian Church



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ASSOCIATE REFORMED SYNOD

1324 MARION STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

(803) 799-9062

FAX: (803) 799-9172

WWW.FIRSTPRESCOLUMBIA.ORG

Marriage at First Presbyterian Church



So you are thinking about getting married! Marriage is a wonderful gift from God designed to bring much good into the lives of those who unite together. First Presbyterian Church is committed to doing what it can to prepare you for a strong, Christian based marriage—as well as a God honoring marriage ceremony.

You are currently considering whether the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary or Smith Chapel is the place for your wedding. Here is what you need to know.

Marriage is a special relationship created by God and we believe that there are certain principles and standards which are to be upheld for marriages performed at First Presbyterian Church. The nature of marriage, as well as instructions for marriage, are given in the Bible. For example - *“...a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”* (Gen. 2:24). First Presbyterian Church also adheres to guidelines regarding marriage given in the Standards of our denomination - The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. In those Standards are found this basic statement - *“Marriage has been instituted by God as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. God has established marriage for the mutual help and companionship of husband and wife, for the increase of mankind with descendants and the Church with holy seed, and for prevention of immorality.”*

Marriages may be performed for couples if—

- ☞ One or both are members of First Presbyterian Church.
- ☞ One is the child of a church member.

All couples—whether members or not—must meet with Rev. David Lauten or Rev. Neal Mathias prior for final approval. They can be contacted by calling the church office. Be prepared to answer questions about—

- ☞ Your commitment to the Christian faith.
- ☞ Any previous marriages.
- ☞ Your commitment to living separately, saving sexual relations until marriage.

After meeting with the pastor, if he is satisfied that the couple and church are in one accord regarding the marriage, he may approve your wedding request, signing a form which will state your desired date and time for the ceremony.



Note to Non-members:

Non-members who have no parental relationships in the church may request to use the facilities. A letter should be sent to the Senior Minister's Executive Assistant outlining the details of the request, including information about the couple, the date requested, the reason for desiring to get married at First Presbyterian Church, any past or current relationship with the church, and current church affiliation. The letter will be forwarded to the Worship Committee of our Session for consideration. The committee will provide an answer in three - four weeks. Should the request be given approval, the couple will make an appointment with one of our pastors and follow the guidelines given.

All questions regarding weddings at First Presbyterian Church should be directed to the Senior Minister's Executive Assistant at (803) 799-9062, Ext. 250.



For Your Consideration

- ⌘ Weddings held in the First Presbyterian Church must be officiated by one of our ministers. Requests for outside ministers to assist may be considered.
- ⌘ The officiating minister is responsible for pre-marital counseling and planning the service with the couple to be married. The couple will be encouraged to attend a pre-marital seminar (Right Start) co-sponsored by the church with the First Presbyterian Church Counseling Center.
- ⌘ A traditional Protestant form will be used for weddings conducted in the First Presbyterian Church.
- ⌘ The rehearsal and wedding are under the direction of the minister who will perform the ceremony.
- ⌘ All weddings in the Sanctuary will require the use of a FPC Wedding Director and an Assistant Director. Most weddings in Smith Chapel will require the use of a FPC Wedding Director.
- ⌘ Weddings starting after 7:00 p.m. are discouraged.
- ⌘ The church organist will play for weddings in which an organ is to be used. If he is unavailable, then he will provide a substitute. Outside musicians are welcome to assist.



Wedding Fees

Basic Services

Sanctuary*
\$975.00

Chapel**
\$735.00

*Wedding fees include sexton, organist, wedding director, assistant director, and security services.

** Chapel wedding fees include sexton, organist, wedding director, and security services.

- ∞ Includes on duty time for sexton up to 1 hour prior to rehearsal and 1 hour after rehearsal. Additional hours are \$20.00 per hour.
- ∞ Includes on duty time for sexton of up to four (4) hours prior to wedding and two (2) hours after wedding. Additional hours are \$20.00 per hour.
- ∞ Includes security for wedding (4 hours for Sanctuary and 3 hours for chapel). Additional hours are \$18.75 per hour.

Additional Services Available

Organist Rehearsal Fee with soloist or ensemble	\$75.00
Boxes for Window Arrangements (setup and removal).....	\$50.00
Pew Candles	\$200.00
Harpsichord (setup and removal).....	\$40.00



Reception Fees

Jackson Hall
\$ 445.00*

Small Dining Room
\$210.00

Atrium
\$170.00

- ∞ Includes duty time for a sexton of up to two (2) hours prior to wedding and four (4) hours after,
- ∞ as well as two (2) hours of security. Additional hours are \$18.75 per hour.

*up to 200 people; 50 cents extra per person for all additional persons attending. Includes the use of the Atrium.

Family Life Center
\$ 345.00**

**up to 300 people; 50 cents extra per person for all additional persons attending.