



Weddings

First Presbyterian Church

106 North Gay Street
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

(740) 393-1326 *(phone)*

(740) 393-1321 *(fax)*

office@mtvpres.org *(email)*

www.mtvpres.org *(website)*

Marriage

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)

“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, Presbyterian Church, USA, W-4.9001)

Welcome

The First Presbyterian Church welcomes you to use the facilities of the Church for your wedding. We are pleased that you are considering our Church for this happy occasion, and we will do everything possible to make this a beautiful and meaningful service of worship. If you choose to be married at First Presbyterian Church, you are choosing to have your wedding conducted in accordance with the customs and policies set by the Board of Elders/Directors of this Church.

For the Christian bride and groom, the house of God is an appropriate place for them to join their lives. The Church is where they were pledged to God in baptism, where they have been taught from the Word of God and where they partake of the Lord’s Supper. It is fitting that the presence of Christ be the foundation of their future home. The decision to be married in the Church demonstrates a desire to be joined together by God, and a commitment to have Jesus Christ as the center of the relationship. It is a request, by the couple and the community of faith, for God’s blessings upon the marriage. It is a pledging of vows to each other before God and the community of faith.

The wedding ceremony takes place in the context of a worship service. Therefore, what happens in the wedding ceremony is done in the presence of God. It should reflect the Christian understanding of marriage and be done with proper decorum.

The Minister

The pastor of First Presbyterian Church shall be in charge of all weddings conducted in its facilities. If you choose to have another pastor participate in the wedding, you must make arrangements for this with the pastor of First Presbyterian Church and with the Board of Elders.

A preliminary conference between the pastor of First Presbyterian Church and the bride and groom must be scheduled at least 10 weeks prior to the wedding date. It is the pastor’s prerogative to reserve a decision to officiate at your wedding until there has been sufficient opportunity to get to know you. Premarital counseling is required, and includes 6 sessions with the Church pastor.

There are six goals of the PREPARE/ENRICH Program. In order to achieve these goals there are also six corresponding couple exercises designed to help couples improve their relationship skills.

The six goals are:

1. To explore relationship strengths and growth areas
2. To learn assertiveness and active listening skills
3. To learn how to resolve conflict using the Ten Step Model
4. To help the couple discuss their Family-of-Origin
5. To focus on personal, couple and family goals

The following are the 20 relationship areas assessed in each of the five Couple Inventories:

- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Personality Issues
- Financial Management
- Sexual Expectations
- Marital Satisfaction
- Leisure Activities

- Children and Parenting
- Family and Friends
- Expectations/Cohabitation Issues
- Idealistic Distortion
- Role Relationship
- Spiritual Beliefs
- Assertiveness
- Self Confidence
- Avoidance
- Partner Dominance
- Family-of-Origin Closeness
- Family-of-Origin Flexibility
- Couple Closeness
- Couple Flexibility

The Setting

The sanctuary of our Church will comfortably seat about 400 people. Rooms are available that provide adequate space, privacy and mirrors for dressing for the bridal party and for the groomsmen. Before leaving the Church facilities, family and friends of the wedding party are responsible for removing all articles belonging to the wedding party.

The Church building and its equipment have been provided by the gifts of faithful people across the years, and are dedicated to the worship and service of God. To help care for these, we ask that you observe the following:

1. Furniture may be moved only under the supervision of the pastor or custodian, and must be moved back to its original location after the wedding.
2. No tacks, nails, tape, staples, or other damaging material may be used on any walls, woodwork or furniture of the church. Ribbons or flowers may be attached to the center aisle side of the pews with existing nails.
3. Candelabras are available for use during the wedding. They may be placed only in the chancel of the sanctuary. You must provide your own candles. *No lighted candles shall be carried in any part of the church buildings. The wedding party will be responsible for any damage resulting from the use of candles.*
4. There shall be no alcohol or smoking on church premises.
5. Bubbles and/or flower petals are more than welcome outside to greet the newlyweds. Use of anything else needs to be approved by the pastor.
6. The programs of the Church have first priority for use of the building. Members of the Church have second priority for building usage. *Non-members may reserve the church for a wedding no more than 1 year before the date of the wedding.*
7. The Church is not available for weddings during the following times:
 - Saturday evenings starting after 6:00 p.m.
 - Sundays starting before 2:00 p.m.
 - New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and any other time when a service is scheduled.

The Rehearsal

Normally all weddings will have a rehearsal. The rehearsal is an important part of your wedding preparation. The rehearsal is usually held the day before, and should be scheduled at a time when the entire wedding party can be present, including the musicians and soloists, when possible. Please make every effort to see that all people arrive *on time*.

Pictures and Video Recording

In order to avoid distractions and to enhance the sanctity of the worship service, the following guidelines are to be followed:

1. Posed pictures are permitted before and/or after the wedding ceremony.
2. Photographs with flashes may be taken during the wedding processional. However, no flash pictures may be taken during the rest of the ceremony, except by the professional and only from the balcony or front row. Ushers should inform your guests of this policy as they are seated.
3. Photographers must be discreet and act in a manner appropriate for a worship service. Photographers should not be moving around in front of the Church during the ceremony. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to communicate all of these guidelines to any hired professionals and their guests.
4. Weddings may be video-taped using a stationary camera on a tripod. A qualified person, selected by the family and approved by the pastor, may operate the video camera. Operators of the video camera should not behave in a manner inappropriate to a worship service (i.e., moving around).

Wedding Ceremony and Music

The pastor will work with the bride and groom in planning the wedding ceremony. The pastor has final authority for the order of the service and what is included.

The music you select should be appropriate to the worshipful nature of your wedding. All special music will be approved by the pastor. You will also want to consult with the organist/pianist, who may be able to help you select appropriate music. Anyone using the organ must be approved by the organist of the church.

The Bride & Groom shall have consulted with the Organist / Pianist, and have all musical selections determined and finalized one month prior to the actual wedding date.

Reception Policy

Should a reception be held at the church after the Wedding Ceremony, First Presbyterian Church requests the following rules be adhered to.

1. A reception at the Church may be held in Fellowship Hall.
2. Use of the Church kitchen may be used; however, the Church will not provide food, utensils, plates, silverware, glasses, cups etc. The Church Wedding Coordinator must be in attendance to supervise use of the kitchen.
3. Receptions are limited to two hours in duration. All Church receptions must be completed by 6:00 p.m.
4. Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on Church property.
5. There will be an additional fee to cover costs for clean up and utilities. See fee table.
6. A deposit will be necessary in the event of damage incurred to the Church during the event. The deposit will be refunded in whole or part depending on the condition of the Church after the event.
7. First Presbyterian Church does not provide decorations.

Fees

All fees shall be paid by the time of the rehearsal. See schedule below:

SCHEDULE OF FEES		
	Member	Guest
Use of Sanctuary	\$150	\$400
Refundable Sanctuary Deposit	\$100	\$150
Use of Fellowship Hall for Reception	\$100	\$150
Refundable Reception Deposit	\$150	\$200
<i>This fee includes 4 hours of Church Coordinator time, 2 hours of Sound Technician time and general building use. Time beyond this should be arranged individually.</i>		
<i>Make check payable to: First Presbyterian Church</i>		
<hr/>		
Pastor	\$150	\$150
Counseling	\$150	\$150
Prepare Inventory	\$35	\$35
<i>Make check(s) payable to pastor: Jonathan Fettig</i>		
<hr/>		
Organist/Pianist	\$100	\$100
with Soloist	\$25	\$25
<i>Make check payable to: First Presbyterian Church</i>		
<hr/>		
Custodian	\$100	\$100
<i>This fee covers 3 hours of cleaning the sanctuary following the rehearsal and ceremony. Time beyond this should be arranged individually.</i>		
<i>Make check payable to: First Presbyterian Church</i>		

What to do next:

Send a letter requesting permission to hold your wedding at First Presbyterian Church on a given date(s). Non-members should also mail a \$150 check for the refundable deposit. Address correspondence to:

Postal Mail

Worship Committee, Session
First Presbyterian Church
106 North Gay Street
Attn: Weddings
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Email

firstpresbyterian@rrohio.com
Subject: Session - Wedding

FAX

740-393-1321
Attention: Session - Wedding