



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AKRON

WEDDINGS

We are delighted to consider sharing this joyous occasion with you! Thank you for your interest in having your wedding here at First Church. We hope this brochure will be helpful to you in your planning. We anticipate working with you to make your wedding beautiful and meaningful. When you contact the church office, our staff will happily answer any questions and begin the reservation process.

A WEDDING IN OUR MEETINGHOUSE OR CHAPEL

Our Meetinghouse is an elegant and distinctive sanctuary. With gracefully curving wooden pews, sweeping gallery and exquisite stained glass windows it makes the perfect setting for large weddings, seating up to 550 people. The Chapel provides a contemporary and open flexible-seating space for smaller, more intimate ceremonies, ideally suited to gatherings of 40 people considering physical distancing.

WEDDING PREPARATIONS

Initial Meeting and Tour

The first step is to make an appointment with Senior Minister, Rev. Nanette Pitt, to meet, talk about the ceremony, and tour the worship spaces. Weddings are then scheduled at the discretion of the Senior Minister. Contact the Congregational Life Coordinator, Alex Morris, to set up a meeting: alex.morris@akronfcc.org.

Premarital Mentoring

Couples are required to attend three to four meetings with a Minister, in addition to the initial introductory meeting. These sessions provide an opportunity for marriage preparation, as well as planning the wedding ceremony.

Music

Our Organist / Pianist will work with you to plan the music for your wedding. Any special musical arrangements should also be discussed with the Minister.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is arranged in consultation with the Minister, usually beginning between 4 and 5:30pm on the evening prior to the wedding ceremony. The Minister leads the rehearsal and all ceremony participants need to be present.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Choosing this sacred setting for your important day reflects your intention to have Christian faith and values be a part of both your wedding planning and ceremony, as well as your marriage. Love, joy, dignity, and the presence of God are integral to this and will be a part of any service here at First Church.

Our commitment, as you anticipate your wedding, is to offer a worshipful setting and the guidance of our Ministers and Organist / Pianist in planning a memorable and personally tailored ceremony.

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

The couple must obtain a marriage license from the Probate Court of the county in which you live. For Summit County residents, the Probate Court office is located at 209 South High Street, Akron, OH 44308. The license costs \$50. More information, including the application form, can be found on www.summitohioprobate.com or 330-643-2346. The license must be given to the Minister at the rehearsal.

An occasional question is, "Can we use our own Minister or Musician?" It is First Church's policy that the use of an outside Minister, Organist, or other musician is at the discretion and invitation of our Senior Minister, so please discuss this early in the planning process.

If wedding programs are needed, a nominal fee is charged and we request that all information be submitted to our Congregational Life Coordinator in the church office two weeks prior to the wedding.

CHURCH POLICIES

As you plan, please be aware of the following:

- Flash photography and videography are usually allowed at the discretion of the Minister, and providers must check in with the Minister prior to the ceremony.
- The church will be open one hour prior to the service for florist access or as arranged with the church office.
- Nails and thumbtacks **may not** be used in fastening decorations. Furnishings, including pulpit and Communion table, cannot be moved in either the Meetinghouse or Chapel.
- No rice, flower petals, bird seed, balloons or confetti may be thrown in the Meetinghouse or Chapel, or on the church grounds.
- Live streaming and a digital recording of a service held *in the Meetinghouse* will be available if requested during service preparations with the Minister for an additional fee.
- We are a smoke, alcohol, drug, and weapon-free facility.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

A non-refundable reservation gratuity of \$100 is due when you reserve the date for your wedding, payable to First Church. We ask that all other payments be completed by or at the wedding rehearsal.

Clergy officiant	\$350.00
Lead Organist / Piano	\$300.00
Additional vocalist / musician	\$150.00 each
Building Staff	\$125.00 – 350.00
	Dependent on the number of staff required, reception, etc.
AV Tech(s)	\$25/hr/each (3hr min)
Wedding Coordinator (Day of)	\$150
Meetinghouse	\$600.00 *
Chapel	\$300.00 *
Other fees as required	

* Fee waived for active church members.

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