

First United Methodist Church
Canton, Mississippi 39046

Wedding Guidelines

The wedding ceremony is one of the most sacred moments in the life of any person. It is a very significant and serious experience. The vows are a part of a religious ceremony in which two persons invoke the blessing of God in Holy Matrimony. In order to establish a uniform and regular practice with regard to weddings in the First United Methodist Church and to make available to all interested parties the accepted customs of the church, the following procedures have been adopted by the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church of Canton.

Weddings utilizing the facilities of FUMC should be planned and conducted in full conformity with these procedures and instructions. The date of the wedding should be cleared with the church office as soon as possible.

In case the bride who is a member of First United Methodist Church does not intend to use the minister of FUMC, she should notify the minister as early as possible, naming the officiating minister in order that the visiting clergy may be invited by the First United Methodist Church. This is correct procedure, for the visiting clergy may hesitate to officiate without a proper invitation by the pastor.

Non-members wishing to use the church for a wedding must use the pastor of FUMC as the officiating minister. It is his choice whether he performs the wedding or not.

General Instructions

Our church holds that the sanctuary is the proper setting for the sacred rites of Matrimony. If the bride prefers decorations, only appropriate ones should be used. It is the bride's responsibility to see that the floral designer has a copy of instructions for decorating the church. Brides may wish to have a printed program giving the order of worship. Arrangements are the responsibility of the bride in consultation with the pastor and wedding coordinator.

Specific Instructions

1. The minister is to be in charge of the marriage ceremony.
2. Pictures may be made at the rear of the sanctuary as the bride and her attendants enter, and upon leaving the sanctuary. Pictures of the wedding party at the altar may be made before or after the ceremony. No photos may be made during the service. Time exposures or videotaping may be made from the balcony. Ushers should remind wedding guests observed with cameras that no photographs are allowed during the ceremony.
3. No rice shall be used anywhere on the church property. If rose petals are used, the carpet should be covered with runners.

4. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church property.
5. The bride and her family shall be responsible for any damages done to the church property by the wedding party, floral designer, photographer, or guests.
6. A church member will be constantly on site to serve as host/hostess. Any disrespectful behavior observed by the host/hostess will immediately terminate this agreement.

Decorations Guidelines

1. The Altar/Communion Table will be vested with white hangings, and it may NOT be removed, and the Pulpit may NOT be removed. The chairs and other furniture or appointments in the sanctuary may be moved with permission.
2. During the seasons of Easter and Christmas, the church decorations SHALL REMAIN in place.
3. Dripless candles should be used, and plastic drop cloths must be used. If candles from the church are to be used, there will be a replacement charge.
4. No plants, palms, candelabras, tape, tacks, or nails are to be used on the chancel furniture or pews. Potted plants must have waterproof containers.
5. Decorations should not hinder the movement of the minister within the chancel.
6. Bows with a spray of greenery or flowers may be used. Those should be secured with a ribbon. No tape, tacks, or nails may be used.
7. All decorations must be removed immediately after the ceremony in order that the janitorial service may prepare for the next service.
8. No decorations will be placed on the cross.

Reception

The fellowship hall may be engaged for your reception. Arrange this with the wedding coordinator.

Music

As soon as the wedding date is confirmed, the bride should consult with the FUMC Music Director to assist in planning the music. A list of appropriate selections will be gladly given. Any qualified organist may play for the service. In the event of a guest organist, the FUMC organist or music director should be contacted in order to arrange practice times. The use of hand bells must be approved before use. All liturgical and musical elements of the service must be sacred. The text of all wedding music should be appropriate for sacred worship and be taken from the Bible, the Book of Worship, Hymnal, or other sacred writings. Secular texts and music are not appropriate.

Building Fees

- \$700.00 Non-member use of the sanctuary and janitorial services before and after the ceremony
- \$200.00 Member use of sanctuary and janitorial services before and after the ceremony
- \$350.00 Use of fellowship hall for reception or rehearsal dinner by a non-member
- \$100.00 Use of fellowship hall for reception or rehearsal dinner by a member
- \$100.00 Sound technician for rehearsal & ceremony

Only FUMC staff will be used for the above jobs

*Members are considered to be current members on the rolls of FUMC or their direct descendants.

Other Fees:

Organist/Pianist - \$200.00 - (includes ceremony, rehearsal, & rehearsal with guest soloist;)

Soloists - \$50.00 - 100.00

Damage deposit - \$100 (refundable after inspection)

Private Ceremony

There will be no charge for a private ceremony. This applies to services at the altar with no cleaning or music personnel required. The only fee incurred will be the minister's fee. The FUMC minister is the final authority on defining a "private ceremony."

WEDDING REGISTRATION FORM

First United Methodist Church
3301 South Liberty Street
Canton, MS 39046
601-859-4621

Wedding Date _____ Time _____ Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Reception in Fellowship Hall Yes No Fellowship Hall other use Yes No
Rehearsal dinner- Fellowship Hall Yes No specify _____

Bride

Groom

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: Home _____

Phone: Home _____

Work _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Cell _____

Bride's parents _____

Groom's parents _____

Members of FUMC

Members of FUMC

Bride Yes No

Groom Yes No

Bride's parents Yes No

Groom's parents Yes No

Staff Minister officiating Yes No

Name _____

Visiting Minister Yes No

If yes, Minister's name _____

Phone Numbers _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Staff organist Yes No

If no, organist/musician's name _____ Phone _____

Soloist(s) Yes No

If yes, Name _____ Phone _____

List solo titles _____

Please note: only sacred music is appropriate for the wedding ceremony

Do you need the church sound system? Yes No

Photographer's name _____ Phone _____

Videographer _____ Phone _____

Floral Designer _____ Phone _____

Fees Due:

- \$ 700 Non-member use of sanctuary and janitorial services before and after ceremony
- \$ 200 Member use of sanctuary and janitorial services before and after ceremony
- \$ 350 Use of fellowship hall for reception or rehearsal dinner by a non-member
- \$ 100 Use of fellowship hall for reception or rehearsal dinner by a member
- \$ 100 Sound technician for rehearsal & ceremony
- \$ 200 Organist

It is customary for the groom to pay the clergy's honorarium.

Fees for services other than those listed should be negotiated with and paid to the Wedding Coordinator.

Make check payable to First United Methodist Church:

Total Paid _____

Date _____

Signature _____