

Your Wedding at First Church



We welcome the opportunity to share this joyous occasion with you and hope that this brochure will provide you with helpful information to make your wedding as meaningful as possible.

A Christian Wedding

We view the marriage ceremony as a rite of the church, an exchange of sacred vows in the presence of God, known in Christ, and gathered company. The exchange of vows is reminiscent of the covenant made between God and Israel. All marriage services will accord with this essential understanding and be arranged in consultation with a Minister.

Wedding Arrangements

Our historic, colonial Meetinghouse, built in 1771, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its pristine white interior with deep red accessories provides an elegant backdrop for your wedding ceremony. Reserve the date and time well in advance (at least six months, if possible) through Church Office. Weddings and receptions may be booked up to 18 months in advance. Upon receiving your completed Wedding Information Form and clearing the date with a Minister, a Facilities Use Agreement will be prepared for you to review, sign and return with your deposit. You will then make an appointment for a premarital consultation with the minister. No arrangement is final until the minister meets with each couple.

Wedding Policy

An ordained Christian minister shall officiate at all weddings held at First Church. If another minister is to be invited to share in the service, the invitation should properly be extended by a minister of First Church.

If they are to be married by a minister of First Church, couples are required to attend at least two (2) premarital conferences. Additional premarital counseling is available at no extra fee.

A Rehearsal is generally scheduled for 5 pm or 6 pm the evening prior to the Wedding Ceremony. The minister conducts this rehearsal.

All musical arrangements are made through the church's Minister of Music, Edward Clark. Music is part of the worship of God and should be appropriate to that setting. Mr. Clark has the right of first refusal at all church functions. Should he not be available for a particular date, he will find a replacement. Because of the value and complexity of our instrument, guest organists are allowed only at the invitation of Mr. Clark.



The Wedding Service

A Minister will work with you to make sure your service is appropriate to the worship of God, meaningful to you and beautiful. The following guidelines are set forth to these ends.

Simplicity in floral decoration is encouraged that the dignity and beauty of the sanctuary may assert itself. Nails or thumb-tacks may not be used in fastening decorations.

Smoking, open flames, and lit candles are not permitted in the Meetinghouse.

Flash photography of any kind is not permitted during the service in the sanctuary, nor are spot or floodlights. Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the Chancel area, and will be as inconspicuous as possible. Still photos and videotaping is permitted from the balcony during the service.

The congregation may sit or stand during the wedding ceremony, but shall stand during the entrance of the bride, which is from the North Tower, not the center doors.

The throwing of rice, birdseed or confetti is not permitted.



First Church of Christ, Congregational, 1652
75 Main Street
Farmington, Connecticut 06032

phone 860-677-2601
fax 860-674-8264
www.firstchurch1652.org

Other Helpful Information

The length of the center aisle is 38 feet. Because of this short length, we discourage the use of aisle runners. There are 10 pews along either side of the aisle.

We are sorry, but our flowers on Sunday morning are planned far in advance, and thus we are not able to use flowers from weddings in the Sanctuary for that purpose. You are encouraged to take your flowers with you that day.

A marriage license must be obtained at the Town Hall, 1 Monteith Drive, Farmington or from your Connecticut town of residence. It is recommended that a few weeks before the wedding you contact the Town Clerk (673-8247) for detailed information on blood tests, waiting period and other requirements and fees. The ceremony cannot take place without the license. The Marriage License shall be presented to the Minister at the Rehearsal.

The Meetinghouse is open one hour prior to the Wedding Ceremony for florist access.

Applicable Fees

All fees are due 30 days prior to the Wedding. Church member discounts may apply.

CEREMONY:

Meetinghouse (seats 700)	\$500
includes bridal party's use of selected areas in Amistad Hall for gathering and preparation	
Minister	\$250
includes at least 2 premarital interviews, conducting the wedding rehearsal, conducting the Wedding Ceremony and all necessary clerical work	
Organist	\$200
includes a wedding music consultation, 15-minute program preceding the ceremony, processional and recessional music and hymns	
Coordinator	\$75
includes preparation and cleaning of Meetinghouse and coordination with the Minister	

The Reception

The Sarah Porter Memorial, part of Amistad Hall, is a beautiful and elegant room. The space is 35' x 70', and was designed in a lovely shade of soft butter yellow, which creates a very relaxing feel. The room features 100-year-old crown moldings, a soaring ceiling, lovely chandeliers, a fireplace, elevated stage, enormous windows with amazing trim work, and hardwood flooring accented by coordinating area rugs and sofas. Please consider renting the Porter Memorial for your reception.

Amistad Hall/Porter Memorial	\$1,750
8-hour booking	
capacity of 175 for sitdown dinner	
includes kitchen, library and Welcome Hall	

NED W. EDWARDS, JR., Senior Minister
KIMBERLY HOARE, Associate Minister for Service & Outreach
JANE ROWE, Associate Minister to Children & Families
EDWARD CLARK, Minister of Music
ROBIN LAZINSK, Office Administrator
SUSAN DEMING, Business and Financial Administrator

Catering

The Caterer may use the kitchen and have access to 19 cu. feet of refrigerator space. There is no ice machine. The library and Welcome Hall areas are available for use during a reception booked in the Porter Memorial. Arrival time of the caterer, decorators, etc. must be coordinated with the caterer's event planner. All linens, dishes, flatware, glasses, etc. are to be provided by the caterer.

Seventeen (17) 60" round tables and 170 ivory banquet chairs are available at no additional charge. Two (2) 9' wooden serving tables are in the room at all times. Five (5) 8' folding tables are also available, as space allows.

Caterer is responsible for removing everything belonging to them and for cleaning the kitchen immediately after the reception. There is no storage available for rental items.



Alcohol Policy

Events serving beverages containing alcohol must comply with the following guidelines:

- ✘ Caterer or renter must provide a Certificate of Insurance which confirms it has host liquor liability coverage of at least \$1,000,000 and names The First Church of Christ, Congregational, 1652 as an additional insured. The Certificate must be in the church office by mail or fax (860-674-8264) at least 7 days in advance of the event.
- ✘ Non-alcoholic beverages must always be available when alcoholic beverages are served.
- ✘ No kegs are allowed.
- ✘ Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the Meetinghouse.

