

THE WEDDING SERVICE

A Christian wedding service proclaims that marriage is a gift created by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The service presumes that the bride and groom, family and friends come together as worshipers seeking God's blessing in the life of the bride and the groom. The service also presumes that both the bride and the groom share the belief that marriage is a life-long covenant of mutual love, faithfulness and service. And we, at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, presume that the bride and groom want their wedding to take place in the church as an expression of their own faith and desire to have God as an ongoing partner in their marriage.

Therefore, at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, we use the Service for Christian Marriage of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. as the basic structure for wedding services. Because the ceremony is a witness to the Christian gospel the service is under the supervision of our pastor. Within the liturgy there are ample opportunities for a couple to shape a service which expresses their lives and faith commitments. Members of the wedding party, family or friends may participate in the service. The officiating pastor will provide a list of suggested scripture readings from which to choose. The liturgy also provides opportunities for specific requests for sacred music.

What must I do to be married at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin?

The first step is to contact the church office to check on both the availability of the pastor and the sanctuary on the date you request. A minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin is required to officiate at all weddings and will conduct all rehearsals. The Pastor requires three sessions of premarital counseling before any wedding she/he officiates. A guest minister may participate only by invitation of the pastor and the Session of our church. If there is a guest minister involved in the wedding, Session approval is required. The Session ordinarily meets on the third Tuesday of each month. In order to be put on the Session agenda, the request for the involvement of a guest minister should be received by the church office no later than the second Tuesday of the month.

Note

The minister (and spouse) does not attend the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception unless invited and their attendance would depend on other events. These invitations, if you desire to extend them, should not be made the night of the rehearsal or day of the wedding.

The Marriage License

Florida law requires that a marriage license be obtained. Proper ID is required. Please check with the Marriage Bureau for current fee requirements. The license is good for 60 (sixty) days. Blood tests are not required in Florida. Please visit the Pinellas County website at www.pinellasclerk.org to answer any questions. A Pinellas County marriage license is required for weddings conducted at The First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin.

Where to Apply for Marriage License

Both parties must be present when applying for a marriage license, to sign the application form and take an oath to the truthfulness of the information provided. The following license locations are open from 8am to 5pm.

CLEARWATER BRANCH OFFICE

315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756
Telephone: (727) 464-4876

ST. PETERSBURG BRANCH OFFICE

545 First Avenue, North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
Telephone: (727) 582-7771

NORTH COUNTY BRANCH OFFICE

29582 U.S. 19 North
Clearwater, Florida 33761
Telephone: (727) 464-8710

CLERK'S TYRONE BRANCH OFFICE

1800 66th Street, North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33710
Telephone: (727) 582-7681

A \$30.00 certificate to apply toward the marriage license is given at the last session of counseling.

Scheduling of the Wedding and Rehearsal

Our church staff is available to assist you with the scheduling of your wedding. One of our ministers must agree to perform the wedding before it can be scheduled. Weddings are not scheduled for New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, during Holy Week, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day and weekends where the congregation's schedule of activities prohibits the use of facilities. Weddings are not normally scheduled for the holiday weekends of Memorial Day, Labor Day, or Thanksgiving.

The Organist and Wedding Music

Because the marriage ceremony is a religious service of deep spiritual significance, special care must be taken in the choice of musical selections. Sentimental ballads, popular songs and tunes from musicals are not consistent with a church ceremony. If there is to be organ music, the Director of Music is to be engaged. If our Director of Music is not available, First Presbyterian Church will obtain a substitute for you.

If you prefer music on CD, our sound system can be used for that purpose. It is necessary, however, that the operator for that system be a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin who has been trained in its operation. There is a fee for that service.

Vocalists and instrumentalists are permitted if the music performed is of a sacred nature. The Director of Music will assist in the selection of competent vocalists and instrumentalists who meet the high standards for music at our church. Fees for additional musicians are paid directly to the individual musicians prior to or at the time of the rehearsal. Wedding solos, too, must be chosen in accordance with guidelines established by our church. He/she must meet with the Director of Music before the rehearsal. No one will be allowed to "sight read" material before the ceremony no matter what the level of proficiency. Due to the extra time involved in making these arrangements and rehearsals with the soloist, there is an additional fee to the Director of Music of \$25.00 payable with the wedding fees.

Use of Church Facilities on the Scheduled Wedding Day

Use of the church on the wedding day is limited to a maximum of four hours. No member of the wedding party or wedding services (florist, photographer, etc.) will be given entry to the building more than two hours prior to the scheduled wedding time. This allows ample time for set up before the ceremony and photographs following. Use of the church for the wedding is strictly limited to the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Meeting Room with attached Ladies' Room, Hayward Study with attached Men's Room and the rest rooms off Hager Hall. No wedding party member, guest, or service personnel are allowed in the Kitchen or Hager Hall unless this area has been previously reserved.

Bird Seed, Rice, Confetti, Balloons, and Glitter

Due to ecological, safety, and clean-up issues bird seed, rice, confetti, and glitter cannot be used inside or outside the church facility. Bubbles however are permitted outside. Flower girls may sprinkle artificial rose petals inside as they go down the aisle.

Photographs

The taking of pictures is **NOT** permitted in the Sanctuary during the ceremony, from the processional to the recessional. It is not in keeping with a religious service of worship and can be distracting to the minister, organist and members of the bridal party. Prior to and following the ceremony you may pose for as many pictures as time permits.

Videotape

If you are having the service videotaped, a stationary camera may be placed in the Chancel. No one is permitted to operate the camera on the Chancel. It must run automatically.

Guest Book and Gifts

It is the responsibility of the bride and/or groom to arrange for a person to provide and supervise the guest book. The Church cannot assume responsibility for gifts that are brought to the church.

Flowers and Sanctuary Decoration

Plastic clips or rubber bands may be used to attach decorations to the pews. No flowers or other decoration may be taped or tacked to the pews. There will be no alteration to the Chancel or moving of any furnishings in the Chancel.

When to Give the Marriage License to the Minister

The marriage license and all payments in full must be given to the wedding coordinator at the wedding rehearsal.

On-Site Receptions

Hager Hall and the Kitchen may be used for simple receptions following the wedding service. NO ALCOHOL is permitted on the premises.

Fees for use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

See the church administrator for the fee schedule

Kitchen equipment may be used, but must be cleaned following the event. Any food left in the refrigerator or freezer will be discarded immediately following the event. The use of the church's silverware or linen is strictly prohibited. Use of dishes is allowed, but they must be cleaned and stored in the designated cabinets following the event. A damage deposit will be required to recover any cost to the church for additional cleaning or replacement of any damaged or missing property. All delivery and service personnel should use the kitchen entrance door for delivery of equipment or food to be used in Hager Hall.

Alcoholic Beverages and Smoking

NO alcoholic beverages are to be brought onto the church property or into the church buildings. It is expected that the members of the bridal party will refrain from alcoholic beverages before the wedding and rehearsal. The bride and groom are responsible for making this rule known to their attendants. The minister reserves the right to refuse to permit members of the wedding party from participating in the marriage service if, in their judgment, they are intoxicated.

Revised 4/08

Historic First Presbyterian Church of *Dunedin*

THE WEDDING SERVICE



Historic First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin, Florida
“Continuing God’s Work Since 1871”

455 Scotland Street - Dunedin, Florida 34698

Rev. Victoria Gardner ByRoade – Pastor

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