

Weddings at...



*First Presbyterian Church
171 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 267-8705*

www.annapolis-presbyterian.com

2022

Blessings!

Since you are reading this booklet, it is assumed you are at an important turning point in your life in either seriously considering a marriage service and/or you are requesting the use of our sanctuary and facilities here at First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, Maryland.

For either reason, the following information provides you with:

- The values and requirements for marriage at First Presbyterian of Annapolis
- Steps to requesting, scheduling, and planning a wedding service
- The availability and cost of FPCA facilities for use with your event,
- FPCA staff providing support services, and
- A wedding preparation checklist.

It is both our mission and desire to collaborate with you in planning a memorable and meaningful ceremony; and if as a member of the FPCA community, to explore your spiritual resources to support the life-long commitments of faith and marriage.

May God's Spirit guide you in the creation of a strong loving and enduring marriage.

Sincerely,

Andy and Mihee

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kort Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort

Marriage within the faith community is founded on both personal and spiritual values.

At First Presbyterian of Annapolis, we believe that ...

Christian marriage is an occasion of holiness when two people “promise and covenant before God and these witnesses” to be loving and faithful throughout all the joys and sorrows of life’s journey together.

Christian marriage is ordained by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Spirit of God for the welfare and happiness of a couple, a family and humankind. The union is spiritual, emotional, and physical as two persons offer the fullness of their lives to each other.

Within the church, marriage is a gift and a responsibility, a joy and a calling, a life of mutual respect and sharing.

Outside of the church, marriage is a civil contract between two people, recognized and affirmed by the State of Maryland.

Requesting and Planning Your Wedding

Inquiry and Requests

All wedding requests begin with filling out with [Wedding Application Form](#). After the church receives this application someone will contact you for next steps.

Frequently these reservations need to be made a year in advance.

Depending upon the size of the ceremony, the next step is [to complete the online request for use the FPCA Sanctuary or Shaw Chapel](#). If the party desires to use Fellowship Hall or the Zimmerman-Wilson House for part of the event, these requests are also made online. A description of these facilities is found below and on the [website here](#).

Full Sanctuary Wedding services for both FPCA defined members and non-members include:

- Use of the sanctuary (both for the ceremony and rehearsal), music room for wedding preparations, and gardens for photographs
- Pastor consultation and pre-marital sessions
- FPCA wedding coordinator services (includes one organizational consultation session, either in person or virtual, attendance at the onsite rehearsal, and attendance at wedding)
- FPCA organist (one consultation session on music selections, either in person or virtual, attendance at the rehearsal and wedding day)
- Onsite Custodian services during the rehearsal and wedding day

Please consult the church's [Wedding Policy](#) in regards to costs and fees.

Planning

Premarital Counseling

Marriage before the community gathered, within First Presbyterian of Annapolis, makes known your faith in the purposes of God for human life and your sincere desire to faithfully fulfill your commitment to God and to each other. As a foundation for a marriage ceremony within the Church, the Pastor provides premarital counseling and guidance sessions three to four times in the months prior the wedding. During these sessions, the Pastor explains the characteristics and requirements of the service as well as learning from the couple the nature of their commitment, responsibility and understanding of this holy union.

Music

The Church has both a Music Director and Organist. The Director is responsible for considering specific music requests whether provided by the Church or outside musicians. During the scheduling meeting with the Pastor, any request for music is made known to the Pastor, who will convey this information to either the director or organist. A guest organist, singers and/or instrumental soloists may also be employed with the approval of the Pastor, upon consultation with the Church's Music Director. All music must be appropriate for the setting of worship, subject to discretion of the organist and Pastor.

Wedding Coordinator

Following the meeting with the Pastor and scheduling the date, all parties holding a wedding within First Presbyterian will schedule a meeting with the Church's Wedding Coordinator to review all logistical details, the facilities use policies and procedures, and managing additional requests.

Sanctuary Decorations

Wedding ceremonies at First Presbyterian Church include a kneeling bench (upon request), hurricane lamps, a unity candle holder, two candles on the communion table, two flower tables and a small guest book podium.

Ceremony Program

Members may have their ceremony program designed in consultation with the Pastor with responsibilities for printing arrangements made by the wedding party. Outside parties using the Church for ceremonies will provide a draft of the program to the Pastor for review, prior to printing.

Order of Worship

The Pastor works with all couples to design a meaningful service of prayer, scripture, the exchange of vows and other traditional elements of a marriage ceremony. A traditional Presbyterian ceremony includes the following components.

- Prelude
- Processional
- Statement on the Gift of Marriage
- Prayer
- Declarations of Intent
- Affirmations of the Families
- Hymn
- Readings from Scripture
- Sermon
- Hymn or Special Music
- Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- Prayer with the Lord's Prayer
- Announcement of Marriage
- Charge and Blessing
- Recessional

Photography and Videography

Before and after the ceremony, photographs may be taken anywhere in the church or its gardens. During a ceremony performed by FPC Pastors, consideration and respect by all guests and photographers should be given to honoring the nature of the ceremony of the couple.

Wedding Party Responsibilities

- The wedding party provides other candles (beyond the two on the communion table).
- All flowers or bows must be attached to the pews with clips. The use of pins, tacks, tape, or nails is not permitted.
- Remaining flowers may be donated to the Church for Sunday worship service with the wedding donor mentioned in the Sunday bulletin.
- All decorations not being used for the following Sunday worship must be removed by the florist or a member of the wedding party after all ceremony events are completed.

Rehearsal

Typically, a rehearsal of the wedding process and ceremony is held the evening before the wedding for approximately one hour. All members of the wedding party are expected to attend the rehearsal, including the ushers, readers, and parents. Other guests are welcome to sit in the pews. All members of the wedding party should arrive on time for the rehearsal, considering any traffic issues and parking in downtown Annapolis.

First Presbyterian Church Accommodations

A description of the Church's campus facilities available for use of a wedding ceremony and other related activities are described. Use of these facilities is made online, and all users must adhere to the FPC Facilities Use Policies and Procedures.

Main Sanctuary

Located on Duke of Gloucester Street in historic downtown Annapolis, *First Presbyterian Sanctuary*, offers a beautiful and gracious setting accommodating up to 350 people (per fire codes). Its campus also includes two gardens for use as outdoor settings for photographs or a small gathering (less than 50 people). For persons with disabilities, elevator access to the Church's Sanctuary and Hall is located near the Conduit Street entrance of Fellowship Hall.

The Music Room on the lower level (Room 106) and Church Library (off the conduit) are also available for the use by the wedding party and must be requested.

Shaw Chapel

Beautifully restored in the Celtic tradition, this simplistic setting provides a unique venue for a small personal ceremony or special service. Adjacent to the Kinhart Center Garden, the Shaw Chapel accommodates up to thirty persons.

Fellowship Hall - Receptions/Dinners

Located on the lower level of the main building is the McBee Fellowship Hall, which accommodates up to three hundred guests for a standing event and 150 seated at tables. FPC has both rectangle and round tables and chairs available for use, as well as an audio-visual system. There is also a covered serving island, coffee station, and small ice machine.

Adjacent to the Hall is a fully equipped commercial kitchen. Outside caterers using the kitchen facility are allowed with proper consideration for use and care of the facilities as well as clean-up. A separate request form with identified procedures must be completed.

Zimmerman-Wilson House

The first floor of the adjacent Zimmerman-Wilson House owned by FPC, in a beautifully restored Victorian setting, is also available for use for a small rehearsal dinner, reception, or preparations (application request form on website). Located on Conduit Street, next to the church's main building, the first floor includes a guest room, bathroom, dining room, kitchen, parlor, and front porch.

Parking

Parking is available at various garages in the city and fill up quickly on summer weekends.

Reserved Parking

It is possible to reserve parking at the Sanctuary on Duke of Gloucester in front of the church on the wedding date. Parties must apply to City of Annapolis Parking Enforcement, 308 Chinquapin Round Road, 410-263-7964.

Scripture Readings for a Christian Marriage

*The following readings are particularly appropriate for use in the service of Christian marriage. An asterisk * indicates that the text of that reading is included in this resource (pp. 895-902).*

Suggested Readings:

Old Testament

Gen. 1:26-31 Humankind created in the image of God

Gen. 2:18-24 Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh

Song of Sol. 8:6-7 Set me as a seal upon your heart

Prov. 3:3-6 Trust the Lord with all your heart

Jer. 31:31-34 The Lord will make a new covenant

Psalms: *Appropriate for singing or reading in the service.*

Ps. 8 Mortals crowned with glory and honor

Ps. 67 May God be gracious to us

Ps. 95:1-7 O come, let us sing to the Lord

Ps. 100 Make a joyful noise to the Lord

Ps. 103:1-5, 15-18 Bless the Lord, O my soul

Ps. 117 Great is God's steadfast love

Ps. 121 Lift up my eyes to the hills

Ps. 136:1-9, 26 O give thanks, for God is good

Ps. 148 Praise the Lord

Ps. 150 Everything that breathes praise the Lord

Epistles

Rom. 12:1-2, 9-18 A living sacrifice . . . let love be genuine

1 Cor. 13:1-13 Faith, hope, love . . . greatest is love

Col. 3:12-17 Clothe yourselves with love

1 John 4:7-12 Let us love one another . . . God is love

Rev. 19:1, 5-9 Rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb

Gospels

Matt. 5:1-10 The Beatitudes

Matt. 5:13-16 Salt of the earth . . . light of the world

Matt. 19:3-6 No longer two, but one flesh

Matt. 22:35-40 Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind

Mark 10:6-9 What God has joined, let no one separate

John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

-- A Wedding Checklist --

TO BEGIN . . .

- _____ Call the church to schedule the wedding (at least six months before the date)
- _____ Make an appointment with the officiating pastor (four months ahead)

IN THE MONTHS BEFORE . . .

- _____ Meet with the organist to select the music, soloists, etc.
- _____ Call the Wedding Coordinator (if needed) to discuss your wedding plans
- _____ Arrange for the printing of the worship bulletin (after approval by the pastor)
- _____ Apply for a marriage license
- _____ Discuss your decorations and any church restrictions with your florist
- _____ Arrange for the use of McBee Fellowship Hall

AT THE REHEARSAL . . .

- _____ Bring the marriage license
- _____ Bring the worship bulletins
- _____ Bring decorations and any other items that you can leave at the church overnight
- _____ Bring payments due for the organist, custodian, etc. (see fees listed)
- _____ Return any worship resources borrowed from the pastor or organist

THE WEDDING DAY . . .

- _____ Arrive one hour ahead of time
- _____ Remember the rings!

Wedding Related Staff of First Presbyterian Church

Julie Hester, Wedding Coordinator

Linda Hanifin Bonner, Facilities Coordinator

Rev. Dr. Andrew Kort – Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort, Co-Pastors

Jill Woodward, Director of Music

Grace EunHye Oh, Organist

Sharon Wiegand, Church Office Secretary

Al Johnson, Custodian

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