



WEDDINGS

at First Pres Maumee

Celebrating Weddings, Preparing for Marriages



LOVE FIRST

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Thank you for your interest in a wedding at First Pres Maumee!

At First Pres Maumee, we are very interested in helping couples begin a committed life together which honors Christ and brings joy and blessing to society. We recognize that marriage is a serious, challenging, life-long commitment. Therefore, premarital counseling is seen as a critically important part of First Pres's commitment to the couple. Couples will ordinarily enter into a counseling relationship with one of our pastors. In exceptional cases, other premarital counseling arrangements may be made with the pastor's approval.

Description of Premarital Counseling:

- Four to six sessions with the pastor using results from "Prepare" inventory
- A review of a sample copy of the wedding ceremony bulletin at the last counseling session with pastor and couple
- One planning session with the pastor and Wedding Coordinator to arrange for the details of the service

First Pres Maumee recognizes the importance of a supportive church family in the life of a marriage relationship. Therefore, couples being married at First Pres Maumee are asked to share in the life of the church during their engagement. For non-members, there is a \$400.00 fee to reserve your date. If, through premarital counseling and church attendance, a couple finds that they want to join the church, the \$400.00 will be applied to organist/pianist, wedding coordinator, and custodial fee.

Ways to be Involved:

- Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am Modern Service or 10:30 am Traditional Service
- Participate in a small group or bible study
- Attend Wednesday Night activities (dinner, classes)
- Participate in a choir (Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, or Modern Band)

We believe that marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. We believe marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together, before God, their lives of discipleship. Marriage can be a wonderful and deeply satisfying commitment. A great marriage does not simply happen. It requires much intentional effort, including willingness from both parties to work at fostering relationship, nurture and care. We love walking along side engaged couples in premarital counseling and then celebrating together on your wedding day.

We are so glad you are here and look forward to walking with you on this journey!



Counseling & The Ceremony

In preparation for the marriage service, the pastor shall provide a discussion with the couple concerning:

1. The nature of their Christian commitment, assuring that at least one is a professing Christian
2. The legal requirements of the state
3. The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage
4. The nature and form of the marriage service
5. The vows and commitments they will be asked to make
6. The relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship
7. The resources of the faith and the Christian community to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments

Because the marriage ceremony is an act of worship within the congregation of First Pres Maumee, care will be taken to maintain the dignity of worship, the high place of the name of Jesus, and the upkeep of the church facility.

The following requirements have been ordered by the Session:

- Flowers or decorations should not be attached to surfaces within the facility in any way that may cause permanent damage (i.e. nails, staples, glues, etc.).
- Rice should not be thrown on church grounds. We suggest bubbles as a substitute.
- Flash photography is not permitted during the worship service. The worship service is understood to begin with the pastor's opening statement and concludes with the blessing. Photographers and videographers should speak with the pastor prior to the rehearsal with regard to positioning for photography during service.
- Smoking is allowed outside of the Gibbs St. entrance only.
- No alcohol is permitted on church grounds.
- Only drip-less candles from the church may be used in the church's candelabras or unity candle.
- Aisle runners become a tripping hazard when used on our church's carpeting and are therefore not permitted.
- Animals with the exception of service dogs are not permitted in the church building.

Though it is difficult to set "requirements," the couple is encouraged to be mindful about the dignity of worship. Final decisions about what will and will not be permitted in a marriage ceremony at First Pres Maumee resides with the pastor officiating the service.



Wedding Coordinator

In order to ensure that the wedding ceremony blesses all involved, First Pres Maumee has created the position of Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator is a servant to the couple, pastor, and church. Because they work with the couple to ensure that the "details" of the ceremony are given attention, the Wedding Coordinator is integral to the success of a wedding ceremony at First Pres Maumee.

This person is responsible for ensuring that the church's wedding policy is carried out and the couple's wishes are honored. If there are any questions about the permissibility of a request, the pastor is responsible for making the final decision.

Music Selection

Music is a critical element to most wedding ceremonies. It helps to create the mood, provides for transitions in the service, and can communicate both truth and emotion. Because music is so important and music tastes are so varied, questions surrounding music selections can be complicated. Because of this, couples should consider their expectations for music in the service early in the planning process.

Our accompanist, Mr. Wayne Whitten, is a very accomplished musician with both a bachelor's and master's degree in organ performance. He is a wonderful resource for planning the musical portion of a wedding. Mr. Whitten can be reached at (734) 854-2583 or by email at ewmjwhit@aol.com.

Whether it is organ, piano, or other live instrumentation, the church highly encourages the use of "live" music during the service instead of recorded music. Please speak to your Wedding Coordinator for more information regarding music choice.

I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith, as you are being rooted and
grounded in love.

EPHESIANS 3:17



Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Decorating the Facilities

For many couples, decorating the sanctuary is an important part of the planning. The church will seek to be as permission-giving as possible with regard to decorations as individual tastes vary greatly. First Pres Maumee's Wedding Coordinator should be consulted early in the planning process with regard to decorating the church facilities. They are familiar with what has worked well with our particular worship spaces and have creative ways for overcoming decorating challenges. Please keep in mind that our church is subject to Maumee City fire policies. One policy that frequently comes into play is the requirement that window or aisle candles be "globed." Couples planning to be married during the Advent season should plan to incorporate the church's Advent decorations into their decorating plans, as they will not be removed.

Timing the Ceremony

First Pres Maumee typically conducts wedding ceremonies on Saturday afternoons, but other days and times may be considered at the request of the couple. Wedding ceremonies will not be permitted to begin after 5:00 pm on Saturday evenings in order to allow adequate time for our custodial staff to prepare for Sunday morning worship services.

Ordinarily, wedding ceremonies are not conducted on national holiday weekends to allow our staff the opportunity to rest and celebrate with their families. If a couple desires to be married on a holiday weekend, they should speak to the pastor to see if an exception can be made.



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and the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Live-streaming

Couples have the option of livestreaming their wedding ceremony. The wedding coordinator will communicate this request to the technology coordinator. The technology coordinator is familiar with streaming various services from the sanctuary. Please note that this option is for weddings that take place in the sanctuary only, not the chapel.

Wedding Rehearsal

Weddings conducted at First Presbyterian require a rehearsal. Ordinarily, wedding rehearsals will be held on the evening prior to the wedding ceremony. This rehearsal will take about one hour. The couple is asked to encourage the wedding party and family members to be on time for the rehearsal so as to honor the time of all involved. Having already learned of the bride and groom's desires for the ceremony, the pastor will lead the rehearsal with assistance from the Wedding Coordinator. The couple should remember to bring all outstanding fees to the rehearsal as well as their marriage license.



Fee Schedule

The "Building Use" fee reserves the requested date and should be paid when the wedding application is submitted. Because others will have been denied this date as a result, this fee is non-refundable. Fees paid to the Pastor, Organist, and Wedding Coordinator should be made out to the individual performing the service and given to the Wedding coordinator at or before the wedding rehearsal. If a couple finds that they want to join the church the \$400.00 will be applied to the Organist/Pianist, Wedding Coordinator, and custodial fee.

Ceremony Fees	Active Member	Non-Member
Building Use	-	\$400
Pastor	\$200**	\$300
Couple Assessment Fee	\$35	\$35
Organist/Pianist	\$175	\$250
Wedding Coordinator	\$100	\$200
Custodial Fee	\$125	\$200
Reception - Hall Rental*	-	\$250
Reception - Custodial Fee*	\$200	\$250
Technology Fee* Includes livestreaming of the ceremony or service	\$100	\$200

**Optional Fees*

*** Suggested Honorarium, added or subtracted value at the couple's discretion.*

Checks should be made out to "First Presbyterian Maumee" and given to the Wedding Coordinator at the Rehearsal.

