

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. No wedding will be scheduled at the following times: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving Day, or during Holy Week.
2. No alcoholic beverages may be served on the church premises. Members of the wedding party are expected to refrain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages immediately prior to the rehearsal and wedding.
3. Since the service is a sacred worship service, all photographs should be taken before or after the service. The Worship Committee requests, if a bulletin or program is printed, that the following or similar message be included: “Please, no photography during this worship service.”
4. Videotaping of the service is permitted from a stationary position in the balcony only.
5. Audiotaping can be arranged through the church office.
6. Arrangements may be made with the church office for printing bulletins or programs. Standard covers are provided at cost; other appropriate covers are available from supply houses, bookstore and print shops.
7. Birdseed, rice and confetti should not be thrown in the building.
8. Personal items, such as wedding dresses, purses, jewelry, silver, or cameras should not be left unattended in the church building. The church cannot be liable for such items if lost, stolen or damaged.
9. Some items for the reception, such as glass plates, cups, tablecloths, etc., are available from the church. Details for use of these items will be coordinated with the Director.
10. All couples are expected to attend a minimum of two regular church worship services during the planning and consultation stage before the wedding.
11. If attendance of the Pastor, Organist or Director is desired at any of the social functions associated with the wedding, written invitations should be extended well in advance of the dates.

The bride and groom are responsible for notifying members of the wedding party, florists and photographers/videographers of these guidelines.

Our desire is for your wedding to be as meaningful as possible. May God’s richest blessings be with you and the home you are establishing.

**Christian Marriage
at
First United Methodist Church
Elkin, NC**

First United Methodist Church is happy you are considering or have chosen this church for your wedding. We believe marriage to be a sacred covenant between Christ and His church. It is a joyful time of celebrating the love of a man and woman and God’s blessing upon their marriage within the church community.

It should be remembered that *a church wedding is a service of worship*. Therefore, the decorations, the music, and the attitudes and decorum of all participants should be in keeping with the worship experience. In that spirit, the following policy is offered to guide the planning and conduct of the wedding service at First United Methodist Church, Elkin.

THE PASTOR:

The United Methodist Church instructs its pastors to perform the wedding ceremony only after “due counsel with the parties involved,” and states that, “The decision to perform the ceremony shall be the right and responsibility of the Pastor.” Therefore, the first step toward planning a wedding is to make an appointment with the Pastor. No wedding date can be finalized before this consultation. The Pastor will discuss with the couple the schedule for remaining pre-marital sessions.

It is the policy of this church that its Pastor is in charge of all weddings in this church. However, another Pastor may assist with or perform the ceremony, provided the Pastor of this church is first consulted and agrees to issue an invitation to the guest Pastor.

MUSIC:

The music for a wedding should follow the standards for music in public worship – music appropriate for a secular ceremony or a reception may not be suitable for the church wedding. Love songs, theater music, secular music, and taped music of all kinds are not acceptable for the service.

All arrangements for the wedding music, including any guest musicians, must be approved by and coordinated with the Director of Music. If an Organist other than the church Organist is desired, he/she must be approved by the Director of Music, who will approve all musical selections.

Weddings are not understood to be part of the church Organist's normal duties. Therefore, there is a fee for these professional services.

THE DIRECTOR:

It is necessary that the wedding be directed by an approved, trained Director of First United Methodist Church, whose fee is paid by the couple. The Director will, in consultation with the Pastor and Worship Committee, help to interpret church policy and oversee the rehearsal and wedding service. At the first appointment with the couple, the Pastor will discuss with them the choosing of the Director, after which the couple will schedule an appointment to meet with the Director. (In the event of a very small wedding, with the Pastor's consultation, it may be determined that a Director is unnecessary.)

Some families may choose to employ a wedding consultant to assist with planning. Such a consultant will not have any official responsibilities during the rehearsal or wedding.

FACILITIES:

For the wedding service, either the Memorial Chapel, which seats 95, or the Sanctuary, which seats 500, may be used. The arrangement of altar furniture in the sanctuary and chapel is not to be changed in any way.

For the reception, the church parlor or the fellowship hall is available. The parlor is on the main floor with the chapel and sanctuary, has a small serving kitchen, and is suitable for smaller groups. The fellowship hall is easily accessible downstairs and is more adaptable for larger groups. Furniture from the parlor should not be moved to the fellowship hall.

The nursery is available for child care, if desired. The church does not furnish a nursery attendant.

DECORATIONS:

Our sanctuary and chapel are beautiful and dignified worship spaces. Therefore, only a minimum of decorations are needed.

- Only natural flowers or greenery may be used. One arrangement may be used on the altar behind the cross, or two arrangements may be placed on flower stands by the altar. The church provides containers for these arrangements, and these containers may not be removed from the church building.
- A small floral bouquet or bow may be used to mark the family pews, or the church will provide pew markers, if desired.
- No tape or tacks are to be affixed to church furniture, walls or woodwork.
- Seasonal decorations in the sanctuary and chapel may not be moved or changed.
- The church provides a kneeling bench or cushion on request.
- The church provides paraments and altar candles.
- Only church-supplied white candles in clear glass globes may be used in the windows. There is a maintenance/housekeeping fee for this service. The bridal party may add natural greenery, if desired.
- The church does not provide a unity candle, but allows its use in the service. This item may be rented from a florist.