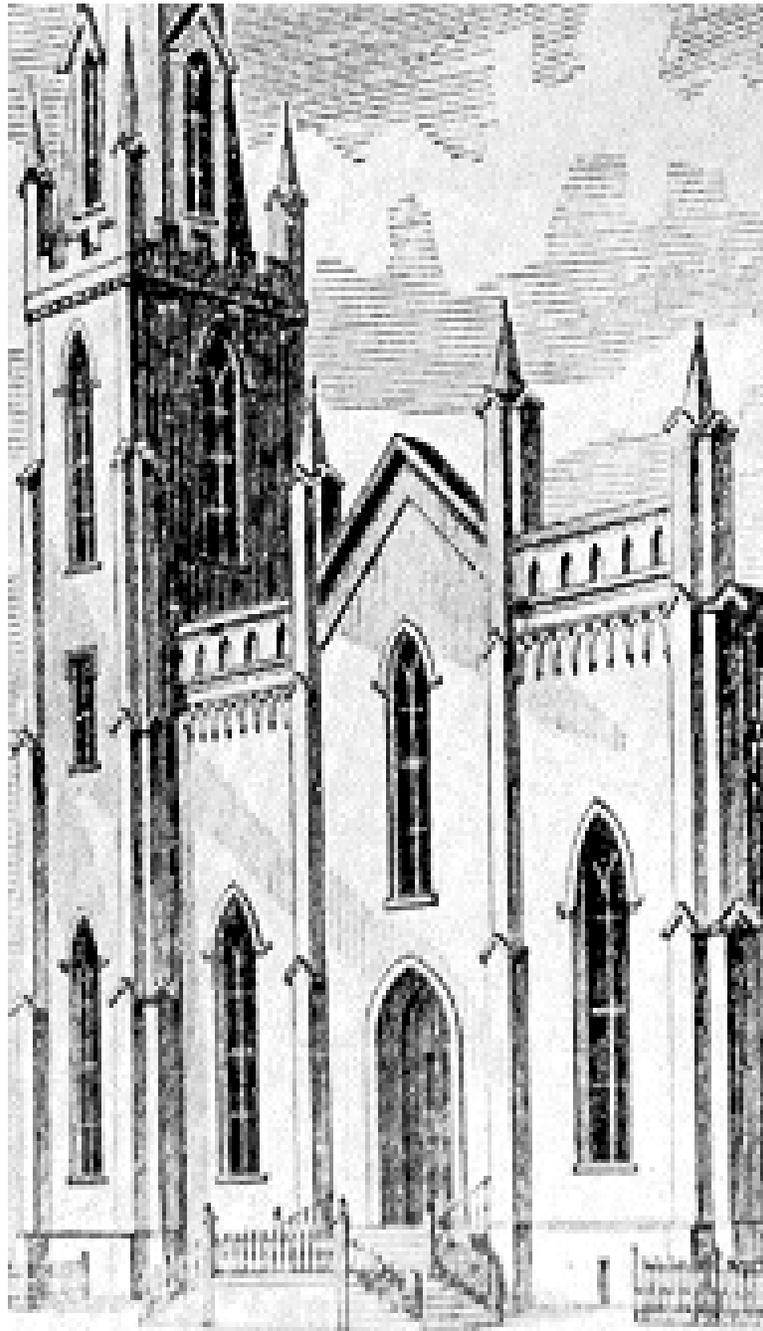


*Your Wedding at
First Presbyterian Church*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA
Founded June 15, 1818

Your Wedding at First Presbyterian Church Huntsville, Alabama

“Marriage is instituted of God, regulated by his Commandments, and blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in honor among men.”

(From Book of Common Worship)

It is a policy of this church that at least one of the couple to be married must be a member of the First Presbyterian Church. The Session, subject to approval of the officiating Pastor, may grant an exception to the above-stated policy under the following circumstances:

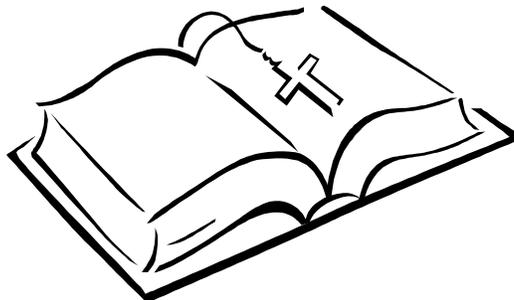
(1) At least one of the couple to be married, although not a member of First Presbyterian Church, regularly participates in the worship activities of First Presbyterian Church;

(2) At least one of the couple to be married is a member of another PC(USA) Church within the North Alabama Presbytery and the couple demonstrates circumstances that warrant having the ceremony at First Presbyterian Church;

(3) At least one of the couple to be married is a child of a member of First Presbyterian Church;

(4) At least one of the couple to be married has a prior connection to First Presbyterian Church which would otherwise qualify them having the ceremony at First Presbyterian Church; or

(5) There are extenuating circumstances that warrant making an exception to the general policy.



I. THE PASTOR

The pastor or Associate pastor of the Church ordinarily officiates all weddings; provided, however, other Ministers of Word and Sacrament of a PC(USA) church, (“PC(USA) Minister”) may officiate at the ceremony. Where a member of the clergy other than a PC(USA) Minister is to participate in the ceremony, the couple must obtain approval of the Session for the Pastor or Associate Pastor, who has agreed to officiate at the ceremony.

You must make sure that the Pastor will be available to perform your wedding on the date you have selected. This assurance must be obtained before your wedding can be placed on the church calendar. Please telephone the Pastor well in advance of your wedding to make an appointment to plan your wedding in the church and to schedule a series of counseling sessions. Should one or both parties have been separated by divorce, remarriage by one of the pastors of the First Presbyterian Church is possible, but will require special consultation with the pastor.

After making an appointment with the pastor, and a reservation for the wedding, you will need to contact the Wedding Director. It is the responsibility of the Couple to make an appointment promptly with the Director of Music to discuss music for the wedding ceremony.

Appreciation of the time committed by the pastor(s) in counseling, officiating, etc. is recognized with an honorarium.

II. THE WEDDING DIRECTOR

A Wedding Director will inform you of all church regulations for weddings including:

1. Rules of the church concerning services of florists.
2. Fees for services rendered by the staff.
3. The payment of all fees in advance (except honorariums.)
4. The proper reservations for all church facilities.



III. THE MUSIC

Arrangements for the music for your wedding are to be made in consultation with the Organist and Director of Music. As soon as possible after a wedding date has been reserved, make an appointment for a music consultation. The Organist will be able to suggest effective organ music to be played prior to the ceremony, appropriate processional and recessional music, and solo literature if desired. The wedding ceremony is a sacred service as well as an act of corporate worship. Therefore, only music which conforms to standards of dignity and is theologically appropriate shall be used.

The Church Organist is expected to play for all church weddings. In the event that he/she is not available to play on a certain date, arrangements for a satisfactory substitute organist will be made by the Organist. In the event the couple desires an organist other than the Church Organist to play for the ceremony, such arrangements may be made only with the prior approval of the Church Organist.

If desired, vocal music and accompanying instruments of various types may be incorporated into the wedding ceremony. Hymns are an effective way to involve all worshippers. A soloist or ensemble of singers may be arranged in consultation with the Director of Music. In any event, vocal music to be used must be theologically sound, and the accompaniment appropriate for a service of worship. Whether the organ or piano is to be used, the music must be written in such a way as to be effectively accompanied on the particular instruments. Vocalists and instrumentalists will need to arrange for adequate rehearsal time with the organist and should plan to wear appropriate clothing or choir vestments in the Chancel.

IV. THE DECORATIONS

Decorations which are unsuitable and which tend to destroy the sacredness and dignity of the sanctuary and detract from the spiritual nature of the wedding will not be permitted. The appointments for worship are to be respected. This includes the candles, the cross, the Lord's Table, and the open Bible on the Table. The Wedding Director is to be the final arbiter of the acceptability of decorations.

Property, such as potted plants, etc. belonging to the florist, must be removed immediately after the ceremony unless being left for a memorial.

No nails, tacks, or screws are to be inserted into any part of the building or woodwork.

No carpentry work is allowed.

Nothing shall be placed on the Communion Table.

No arrangement can be higher than the bottom of the cross. (*at Gideon Blackburn House*)

No artificial platforms or structures are permitted.

When used, candles must be approved by the Wedding Director.

V. GENERAL RULES

Weddings are scheduled on Sunday only under special circumstances.

Weddings and receptions cannot be scheduled when in conflict with regular church activities.

No flash photography may be taken during any part of the wedding service, beginning with the processional and until the end of the recessional. The processional and recessional are considered a part of the service. Timed exposures are permitted from the balcony only during the service, and the photographer is urged to be as quiet as possible. An opportunity for posed photographs following the ceremony is offered. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform all members of the wedding party and families of this prohibition. Video taping of the ceremony is permitted only from the balcony. A remote controlled video camera may be placed in the chancel area but no person will be allowed to sit there for its operation.

Smoking is not permitted in the sanctuary at any time.

Children under five years of age normally do not participate in the wedding services. Special application for this must be made and is subject to approval by the Wedding Director.

Throwing of rice is not permitted within the building or on the premises. Bird seed may be used outside only.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church. No rehearsal, reception, or wedding participant is permitted in the church when that person is under the influence of alcohol.

The church does not prepare food. It must be prepared off premises and brought to the church.

Rehearsals will be under the direction of the Wedding Director.

VI. CHARGES

A schedule of fees and charges are provided in this brochure.



MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING SERVICE

A guide for couples to be married at First Presbyterian Church Huntsville, Alabama

When a couple chooses to be married 'within the church,' the wedding ceremony becomes a service of worship.

The Book of Church Order of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States stated, 'Such music as accompanies the service should be to the glory of God who sanctifies marriage.' The Directory for the Worship of God of the former United Presbyterian Church USA was equally distinct as it reiterated the statement with the words, 'Such music as accompanies the marriage ceremony should direct attention to God who sanctifies marriage, and special care should be taken to assure that it is suitable and reverent.' The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church USA (1985-86) declares 'All music in worship should serve the purposes of worship and should represent the best that Christians have to offer God.'¹

The position of the Presbyterian Church on the marriage service is clearly set forth as a celebration of worship - joyful, reverent, and dignified. Therefore, it follows that the music used should enhance this joy, reverence and dignity.

Music suitable for the marriage rite should embody the high standards of quality necessary for any musical offering used in a service of worship. Texts should focus on God and emphasize the corporate, rather than the private, nature of worship. They should reflect praise, joy, and thanksgiving to God who is worshiped, and should celebrate the depth of God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation for Christian marriage. Certainly all texts should express the common faith and theology, not only of the couple, but of the Christian community witnessing the rite.²

Popular favorites or love songs centered on sentimental love which often come out of the entertainment world and recall secular or social association are highly inappropriate in the marriage service. If desired by the wedding party, they should be suggested for use at the reception, family gatherings or other social occasions surrounding the wedding festivities.³

Music involving congregational participation, such as hymns, spirituals, or psalms greatly enrich a marriage service. Vocal solos or choral works by a choir with texts that are theologically sound and God-centered are also appropriate. Instrumental ensembles such as handbells, strings, brass, woodwinds, or music for various solo instruments (flute, violin, trumpet, harp, and oboe) and keyboard could well be used.

There exists a great wealth of dignified, joyous music suitable to be used for the procession and recession of the wedding party other than the 'Bridal Chorus' from Wagner's Lohengrin (popularly known as 'Here Comes the Bride') and the Wedding March from Mendelssohn's Midsummer Night's Dream. Objection may also be made to the context in the works from which they are taken. The 'Bridal Chorus' is sung after the doomed wedding of Elsa and Lohengrin, while the Mendelssohn march accompanies the clowning of Bottom and Flute.

The position of the Presbyterian Church regarding music in the wedding service is clear from the above statements. It is our desire, as the music staff of First Presbyterian Church, to guide you in the selection of music and musicians, so that your wedding may be enhanced by meaningful music of high quality.

The following lists contain recommended music in various categories which are appropriate for a wedding in this church. Selections of music may be made in consultation with the Director of Music, who will also assist you in the selection of instruments or soloists, if they are desired.

Hymns may also be used as processions, rather than instrumental music, or may be used within the body of the service.



¹ Reformed Liturgy and Music, the Office of Worship of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Volume XX, Number 3, p. 143

² *Ibid*, p. 139

³ *Ibid*, p. 140

SELECTED HYMNS SUITABLE FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE



All Creatures of Our God and King	Lasst uns erfreuen
Be Thou My Vision	Slane
Blest Be the Tie That Binds	Dennis
Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation	Regent Squarw or Westminster
Come Down, O Love Divine	Down Ampney
God of Love and Joy and Laughter (Jane Parker Huber)	Ode to Joy
Ode to Joy	Ode to Joy
Love Divine, All Love's Excelling	Hyfrydol
Now Thank We All Our God	Nun danket alle Gott
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	Lauda Anima
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	Lobe den herren
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above	Mit freuden zart
Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here	(Hymnbook 1982)



SELECTED ORGAN MUSIC APPROPRIATE FOR PROCESSIONS IN THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Epithalame	Healey Willan
Grand Choeur Dialogue	Eugene Gigout
Hornpipe in D Major (from Water Music)	George Frederick Handel
Hornpipe in F Major (from Water Music)	George Frederick Handel
In Thee Is Gladness	Johann Sebastian Bach
Ode to Joy	Ludwig van Beethoven
March in C Major	Henry Purcell
Now Thank We All Our God	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude in Classical Style	Gordon Young
Procession on Westminster Abbey	Robert Wetzler
Psalms 19	Benedetto Marcello
Rigaudon	Andre' Campra
Rondeau	Jean Mouret
St. Anthony Chorale	Joseph Haydn
Toccata, from Symphony V	Charles Marie Widor
Toccata	Various Composers
Trumpet Tune in D Major	Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tunes (several)	David N. Johnson
Trumpet Tune in D Major	John Stanley
Trumpet Tunes	Various Baroque composers
Trumpet Voluntary in D Major	Jeremiah Clarke



SELECTED VOCAL SOLOS APPROPRIATE FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Alleluia, From <i>Exultate, Jubilate</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Be Thou With Them	Johann Sebastian Bach
Et exultavit, from <i>Magnificat</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
Eternal Life (Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)	Olive Dungan
The Gift of Love (I Corinthians 13)	Hal Hopson
The Greatest of These Is Love (I Corinthians 13)	Roberta Bitgood
I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness	Anton Dvorák
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring	Johann Sebastian Bach
Jesus, Stand Beside Them	Austin Lovelace
Lord Jesus, Be Near Them	Johann Sebastian Bach
My Heart Ever Faithful	Johann Sebastian Bach
My Song Shall Be Alway (Psalm 89:1)	Godfrey Sampson
O Lord Most Holy	César Franck
O Perfect Love	Joseph Barnby
O Perfect Love	Harry T. Burleigh
O Rest In The Lord	Felix Mendelssohn
Set Me As a Seal Upon Your Heart (Song of Solomon)	John Mitcheltree
Song of Devotion (Philippians 1:3-11)	John Ness Beck
The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)	Anton Dvorák
Thou Wilt Keep Him In Perfect Peace (Isaiah 26:3,4)	Eric Thiman
The Lord's Prayer	Albert Kay Malotte
A Wedding Benediction	Austin Lovelace
Wedding Prayer	Fern Glasgow Dunlap

SELECTED DUETS APPROPRIATE FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE



Eight Sacred Duets	Heinrich Schütz
Great Is The Lord (Psalm 145:3,4)	
Lord, Create In Me A Clean Heart (Psalm 51)	
Lord, My Hope Is In Thee (Psalm 13:5,6)	
Praise Ye the Lord (Psalm 30:5,6)	
Et Misericordia, from <i>Magnificat</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
The Gift of Love (I Corinthians 13)	Hal Hopson
Gloria Patri, from <i>Gloria</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
Laudamus, Te, from <i>Gloria</i>	Antonio Vivaldi
The Lord Is My Strength and My Song (Exodus 15:2)	George Frederick Handel

WEDDING FEES
ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE REHEARSAL
Circle those fees which you will be paying
(additional soloists or instrumentalists can be arranged.)

	Member of FPC	Others
Pastor	Honorarium (sug.\$250)	Honorarium
Wedding Director	\$250.00	\$250.00
Wedding in Sanctuary	No Charge	\$500.00
Reception in Fellowship Hall	No Charge	\$150.00
Wedding in Gideon Blackburn	No Charge	\$250.00
Reception in Gideon Blackburn	No Charge	\$250.00
Wedding & Reception in GBH	No Charge	\$450.00
Organist without accompanist	\$235.00	\$235.00
Organist with accompanist	\$270.00	\$270.00
Custodian Service:		
Wedding only	\$75.00	\$75.00
Fellowship Hall Reception	\$50.00	\$50.00
Dishwashing	\$50.00	\$50.00

NOTE: All applicable fees are to be paid with one check payable to First Presbyterian Church.
ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE THE REHEARSAL CAN TAKE PLACE.

Would you like to leave your flowers at the church to be used in worship? Yes No

If memorial flowers, in memory of whom? _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARENTS OF THE BRIDE:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONES: _____

PARENTS OF THE GROOM:

NAME: _____

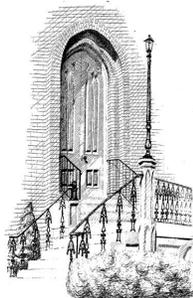
ADDRESS: _____

PHONES: _____

ADDRESS OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM AFTER MARRIAGE:

I have read the booklet "Your Wedding at First Presbyterian Church" and agree to abide by the requirements contained therein. **I have ascertained that the minister named in this request is available to perform this wedding on the date requested.**





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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www.fpchsv.org