

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!!

To help in the planning of your wedding, the following information will be useful. Please discuss wedding plans at least 6 months prior to the date, if possible, to facilitate completion of planning for your wedding.

1. It is your responsibility to contact the Church Office to determine if the date and time you desire is available. The Church Office is open Monday through Friday (8:30 am - 4:30 pm). You may contact the Office by telephone at (902) 895-8098.
2. Time of your wedding and rehearsal must be arranged in consultation with the Minister and Organist of First United Church before being confirmed by the Church Office. **All weddings require the approval of the Session of First United Church.**
3. The Minister(s) of First United Church will perform wedding ceremonies at First United Church. **Requests for other persons to perform or assist with weddings must be submitted (in writing) to the Session for their approval.**
4. The Organist at First United Church will normally play for all weddings. You should contact the Organist at least one month before the date of your wedding to discuss music and to arrange for rehearsals with soloists or other musicians. If you wish to bring in someone else to play the organ or piano, you may do so in consultation with the First United Organist. The First United Organist is still entitled to the fee as playing for weddings is part of the Organist's position. Should the First United Organist be unavailable on the date of your wedding, the Organist will assist in finding a suitable replacement who would then receive the Organist's fee.
5. The Wedding must be appropriate to the Christian Service of Worship. Generally speaking, this means that the music in its entirety expresses faith in God and the implications of that faith in our human relationships.
6. All decisions regarding conduct of marriage using these guidelines, will be at the discretion of the Minister(s) and in consultation with the Session if necessary.
7. Following is the Fee Schedule for weddings held at First United Church:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Member's/Adherent's Fee</u>	<u>Non-Members Fees</u>
Minister	\$200.00	\$200.00
Organist	\$150.00	\$150.00
Caretaker	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Church	Waived	\$200.00

**The Church fee is due at the confirmation of your date.
All other fees are due, in the church office, one week prior to your wedding date.**

8. The use of confetti is **not** permitted in the Church buildings or on the Church property.
9. We request that your photographer consult with the Minister before the start of the wedding ceremony.

Theology of Wedding Music at First United Church

The Christian Marriage Ceremony is first and foremost a service of worship to unite two people in the presence of God. The couple pledge their love to one another and ask the blessing of God and the Church. The music used in the Christian Marriage Ceremony ought to complement this celebration of love in Christian Worship.

It is the feeling of First United Church, therefore, that the music used at weddings conducted in the sanctuary be appropriate to the particular occasion. That is to say, the text and music of any vocal selections and/or instrumental music should create an atmosphere in which God is glorified and praised and which invokes God's blessing on the couple to be married.

Both instrumental and vocal music may be chosen, in consultation with the Organist, in compliance with the above guidelines. In a case where the Organist is unavailable for consultation, the Chairperson of the Music Committee should be contacted.

Choosing your Wedding Music

It is a common misconception, no doubt due in part popularized by Hollywood wedding scenes, that all wedding ceremonies must start with Wagner's "Here Comes The Bride" and end with Mendelssohn's "Wedding March". There is actually a wealth of pieces that you can choose in order to make your ceremony unique. As guests are arriving, there is usually background music playing (the organist will usually select these pieces, unless there are special requests). For the service itself, you will need to select processional music (one or two pieces, depending on the size of the wedding party), as well as a recessional piece to conclude the ceremony. Below is a list of suggested pieces, many of which will work as either processional or recessional music:

Title	Composer	Pro?	Rec?
Allegro Maestoso (Water Music)	George F. Handel	No	Yes
Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel	Yes	No
Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring <i>(works very well during signing of register)</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach	Yes	Yes
Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier	J. S. Bach	Yes	No
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow (Toccat)	Michael Burkhardt	No	Yes
Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven	John Goss	Yes	Yes
Rondeau in D	Joseph Mouret	Yes	Yes
St. Anthony's Chorale	Franz Joseph Haydn	Yes	Yes
Trumpet Tune and Air	Henry Purcell	Yes	Yes
Trumpet Tune in D	David Johnson	Yes	Yes
Trumpet Voluntary	Jeremiah Clarke	Yes	Yes
Trumpet Voluntary	Gordon Young	Yes	Yes
Walking With God	George F. Handel	Yes	No
Wedding March	Felix Mendelssohn	No	Yes

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have other ideas for appropriate music, these can certainly be taken into consideration.

You may have noticed that Wagner's "Here Comes The Bride" is not included in this list. This piece has, in fact, fallen out of favour with many churches and church musicians. Wagner's opera, "Lohengrin", from which this piece comes, involves a pagan wedding that is doomed from the start due to mistrust (some have linked the bride to a devil!), and thus this once popular bridal march is not used any more at many churches, including First United. There are many other beautiful pieces that are more appropriate.

Another thing you may wish to take into consideration is to have a soloist sing at your wedding (perhaps during the signing of the register). If you have a singer friend who would be a part of your special day, this can be a lovely addition. We ask two things, however. First, please clear any musical selections with the organist and minister. Secondly, if you wish the organist to accompany a singer (this can also be on piano), it is necessary to provide a copy of the music, *in the correct key*, well in advance of the wedding day.

In order to decide on the perfect music for your wedding, please call to set up a meeting with the organist at least 1 month before the wedding day. This will help all parties to be planned well in advance. You can arrange a meeting by calling the church office at 895-8098.

First United Church
Marriage Request Form

Place of Marriage: _____

Minister: _____ Organist: _____

Date & Time: _____

Date & Time of Rehearsal: _____

BRIDE:

Surname: _____ All Given Names: _____

Birth date: _____ Age: _____

Birthplace: _____ Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____ Religion: _____

Residence before Marriage: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Birth Place: _____ Birthplace: _____

BRIDEGROOM:

Surname: _____ All Given Names: _____

Birth date: _____ Age: _____

Birthplace: _____ Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____ Religion: _____

Residence before Marriage: _____

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Birth Place: _____ Birthplace: _____

Contact Persons: _____ **Phone** _____

_____ **Phone** _____

Witnesses:

Maid of Honour: _____

Best Man: _____

Number in Bridal Party: _____

Number expected at Service: _____

Church Affiliation: _____ **Planning to become a member of First United**
_____ **Already a member/ adherent of First United Church**
_____ **Already a member of another United Church or denomination**
_____ **N/A**

Signature of:

Bride: _____ **Groom:** _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED MARRIAGE REQUEST FORM TO CHURCH OFFICE!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY!!

Minister: _____ **Organist:** _____

Date Received in Office: _____

Worship Committee Recommendation:

Approved: _____ or Referred: _____ Fee waived: _____ (yes or no)

Question: _____

Chair of Worship: _____ **Date:** _____

Session Approval

Clerk of Session: _____ **Date:** _____

Return to Church Office after final approval.