

Information for Couples Considering a Wedding

The Christian wedding service is an act of worship. This is the most important thing to remember as you come together to offer special thanks and praise. You are here to ask God's blessing upon your life together as husband and wife. It is important to speak with the Pastor about the service and your understanding of what is involved.

1. FIRST STEPS

- A. You have completed the first step by contacting the church office. You will be given the necessary information and forms. The church calendar must have your date - quite frequently church facilities are booked many months in advance.
- B. After you have confirmed your date, make an appointment with the Wedding Coordinator. She will help you with many details of a wedding. Ask her all kinds of questions! The Coordinator is also in charge of the wedding rehearsals.

2. PASTORS

First United Methodist Church of Mesa has multiple Pastors. They have the responsibility for all weddings in the church, and yours will be appointed by the Senior Pastor. Please make an appointment with the Pastor for your wedding at least 3-4 weeks prior to your wedding date. You will need to schedule six (6) counseling sessions with the pastor.

3. MUSIC

- A. Because the ceremony is a part of worship, the music used in the wedding is expected to be appropriate. This will mean that some popular or secular pieces may have to be used at the reception, the rehearsal dinner or in another setting. No recorded music will be played during the ceremony.
- B. The wedding coordinator makes arrangements for an approved organist. The organist must be acquainted with our liturgical practices, music philosophy and our organ.
- C. Soloists are arranged for by the bride. The soloist's music should be given to the organist a few days before the wedding. The Wedding Coordinator will help facilitate this.

4. CHILDREN

Children who participate in the wedding ceremony must be at least 5 years of age.

5. FLOWERS AND CANDELABRAS

- A. Arrangements for flowers are to be made by the bride. The wedding coordinator will advise on matters of style, quantity and appropriateness.
- B. Flowers may be placed on the altar or on tables by the altar, but not directly in front. (The kneeling pad may be there.) **Flower girls may not throw fresh flower petals, as they stain the carpet.**
- C. Cleanup should occur as soon as possible after the wedding. The florist should remove his/her equipment. *(First Church gratefully accepts donations of flowers to be given to our shut-ins. Let the wedding coordinator know if you wish to participate in this way.)*
- D. The church has candelabras that you can use for a donation of \$35.00.

6. PHOTOGRAPHY

- A. The bride must arrange for her own photography. Please furnish the Wedding Coordinator a business card or name and address of the photographer.
- B. No flashbulbs, noisy cameras, or any distracting noticeable positioning or movement of equipment will be permitted during the ceremony. The ceremony is a worship service; flash pictures are not allowed at this time.
- C. Flash pictures may be taken of the bride before she reaches the altar and again when she and the groom exit down the aisle after the benediction.

7. REGULATIONS

- A. No ceremony will be performed without a proper license.
- B. No ceremony will be performed in which members of the wedding party give evidence of drinking alcoholic beverages or being otherwise impaired.
- C. There is NO SMOKING within the church buildings.
- D. NO CONFETTI, RICE OR BIRD SEED is to be thrown anywhere on church property or within the church. **There will be additional clean up charges for throwing of these items.**
- E. The honorarium for the wedding coordinator is for a time allotment of 2 hours before the wedding and 1 1/2 hours after. If more time is needed there will be an extra fee.
- F. Please make arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator for decorating the church. It may be necessary to wait until the day of the wedding due to other scheduled events.

Any rearrangement of church property or furnishings needs prior approval. If you would choose to have the chairs in the chancel removed for the ceremony, this decision must be made at least one month prior to your service. There will be a \$50.00 charge for such service that must be paid at least two weeks prior to the ceremony. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

8. MARRIAGE LICENSE

Plan to bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinator will keep it safe until the ceremony.

9. CONTRIBUTIONS AND HONORARIA

The following costs are based upon our observation that all who desire a church wedding wish to share in the obligations which make available the personnel and facilities of the church.

SANCTUARY: A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 for booking the wedding is required. The total balance for professional services and facility usage is due one month before the wedding.

<u>Professional Services</u>	
Pastor	\$200
Wedding Coordinator	\$125
Organist/Pianist	\$125
Custodian	\$ 75
Sound Technician	<u>\$ 35</u>
	\$560

CHAPEL: (Holds 50 people) A non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 for booking the wedding is required. The total balance for professional services and facility usage is due 2 weeks before the wedding.

<u>Professional Services</u>	
Pastor	\$200
Wedding Coordinator	\$125
Pianist	\$125
Custodian	<u>\$ 50</u>
	\$500

Post-wedding photography: If you wish to have pictures taken in the sanctuary after the wedding ceremony, there will be an additional deposit of \$100.00. All photographs must be finished within thirty minutes of the end of the service. If they are not, the deposit will be forfeited.

NOTES: The wedding coordinator works closely with the church office in arranging the organist, sound techs, and custodians. We will not accept any special requests for these positions.

ALSO: If you wish to change the time of your wedding, you must notify the Wedding Coordinator and the church office, either in person or in writing. No changes will be allowed in the 8 weeks before your wedding date.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Wedding Coordinator: Patty Smith (480) 898-0957 or the **church office 480-969-5577**.

We would like to congratulate you on your upcoming wedding and are happy that you have chosen to hold your ceremony at First Church. Our sanctuary has hosted a variety of wedding sizes and styles for over fifty years. It is important that we share our philosophy about the use of the sanctuary.

Merriam-Webster defines the sanctuary as: *the most sacred part of a religious building (as the part of a Christian church in which the altar is placed)*. As such, the sanctuary is above all else a place of worship and any wedding held within the sanctuary is a worship service. We will do our best to accommodate your use of the sanctuary; however, we will not remove or displace items that are regularly a part of the worship space. This includes, but is not limited to, the communion table, the communion rail, the altar, the pulpit, the lectern, the piano, hymnals etc. First Church's senior pastor will be the final decision maker in all matters.

This page must be signed by the bride/groom and returned to the church office with your wedding reservation form and deposit.

I have read and understand the above Wedding Policy Addendum and the DO's and DON'T's involved with having our wedding at First United Methodist of Mesa.

Signature of Bride or Groom: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Forms accepted by: _____

First United Methodist of Mesa – Church Office

Received reservation form, deposit and signed wedding policy addendum.

Deposit of \$50.00 hold wedding date (non-refundable) cash _____ check no. _____

Deposit of \$100.00 for photographs cash _____ check no. _____