

KALAMAZOO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WEDDINGS

A SANCTUARY IN THE CITY



WEDDINGS AT
KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted that you are interested in having your wedding at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church.

We believe that “marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family”.

(Directory for Worship, from the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA).

We take very seriously our role in assisting couples in planning for their wedding day and in preparing for their lives together in God’s love. The staff of First Presbyterian Church wants your wedding to be lovely and meaningful.

Marriage is a civil contract, and this booklet provides guidance on obtaining a marriage license. Christian marriage, within our faith tradition, is a covenant through which a couple is called “to live out together before God their lives of discipleship ... publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.”

Our pastors will consult with you about availability, and then your wedding will be officially scheduled on our church calendar. Guest pastors can be a part of your wedding; the presiding pastor at our church will meet with your pastor to ensure that everything goes smoothly.

A wedding in our church is a service of worship, and one of simple dignity. The information provided here, including all policies and procedures, will assist couples in planning for a wedding that is joyful, beautiful, and appropriate to our Presbyterian faith tradition.

If you are interested in being married at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church, please contact our office at 269.344.0119, and ask for Kellys@fpcckzoo.org

RESERVE YOUR DATE

After speaking with one of our pastors about a specific day and time, you can reserve your date!

Our pastors will consult with you about which days are available. Couples may need to check with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the City Traffic Department for events scheduled in Bronson Park, since our church is just across the street, and there may be conflicts with parking.

Can non-members get married at Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church?

Yes, all people are welcome to get married in our church, as long as one of our pastors is available and willing to officiate on the desired day.

Can an outside minister officiate at my wedding?

A visiting minister can assist in the ceremony. An FPC minister is also required to serve. All visiting ministers must be approved in advance; our ministers are available and willing to officiate on the desired day.

How far ahead can I reserve the church for my wedding and rehearsal?

You can reserve our sanctuary up to one year in advance to ensure a pastor is available on the requested date. The rehearsal is normally held the day prior to the wedding ceremony.

What is the cost of being married at First Presbyterian Church?

As with all services, the cost of choosing FPC for your wedding ceremony involves many factors. To receive accurate pricing, please email Kelly Short: kellys@fpckzoo.org to discuss your specific wedding details.



Presiding Pastor and Pre-marital Consultation

Presiding pastors are assigned to each service on a rotating basis. Requests will be honored to the extent that schedules permit. All weddings at the church will be conducted under the leadership of a pastor of Kalamazoo First Presbyterian Church. Other clergy may be included by arrangement with our pastor. When a couple requests the participation of a guest pastor, The pastor from First Presbyterian Church will invite the guest pastor to assist with the wedding.

The pastors at our church take their responsibility to prepare couples seriously, not only for the wedding ceremony but also for their life after it. The designated pastor who will perform the service also provides pre-marital counseling and helps them to plan the service. Each pastor will have his or her own strategy for preparing couples. The length and number of appointments may vary, depending upon the needs of the couple.

EACH WEDDING IS A UNIQUE & PERSONAL EVENT

A wedding at our church is considered an act of worship. It is customary for the service to include special music, hymns, scripture readings, and a brief homily by the pastor. The pastor will review the service with you as part of the pre-marital consultation. It is our intention to make each wedding a unique and personal event, always praising and honoring God.

Music suitable for the wedding directs attention to God.

Our Music Director and Organist can provide guidance and suggestions for music appropriate to each wedding. Options for soloists and instrumentalists may also be discussed.

Couples can schedule an appointment approximately 4 months before their wedding to meet with our Music Director and Organist. They play at all weddings and arrange for substitutes when necessary.

The Wedding Coordinator helps with the details.

The Wedding Coordinator is responsible for helping couples with preparation and details for the wedding, and assists with coordination of participants on the day of the wedding. Questions about arrangements, fees, equipment, and the use of the church facilities may be directed to the Wedding Coordinator.

Connecting with our Wedding Coordinator should begin several months before the wedding day. Families may want to engage an outside coordinator for the initial wedding planning; however, the church's pastors and wedding coordinators will be responsible for conducting all rehearsals and ceremonies.



Photographers/videographers for your special day.

Photographers and videographers are welcome to take pictures and videos of your special day. We have an Organist/Pianist who can play during your wedding, if you choose.

How many of my friends and family can the sanctuary seat?

The maximum seating capacity is 850 people.

Can we serve alcohol before or after the ceremony?

Alcohol is not permitted on our property.

Take a tour!

We are happy to show you the sanctuary and dressing rooms that are available for weddings. To schedule an appointment, call 269.344.0119.



GROUNDING IN LIVING FAITH,
RECEIVING DIVERSITY AS A GIFT,

we seek to reflect Christ's light in God's world.

Continually discerning God's vision of grace and peace,
we share inspirational worship, spiritual nurture, compassionate service to others,
and the pursuit of justice...all to the glory of God.



KALAMAZOO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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