



Wedding Information & Policies

First Baptist Church
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573-442-1149

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First Baptist Church

Wedding Policy & Application

A wedding ceremony within a place of Christian worship is a religious service. It's also a fiscal, managerial matter. Both dimensions have been considered in the policies outlined below. Sometimes the reason for a certain policy is a matter of proper use of facilities and labor, other times the concern is theological. We trust that these policies, which have been developed through decades of experience, will assist you in planning the kind of wedding you desire.

According to church policy, weddings are not scheduled during the month of December. Holiday weekend weddings are not normally available, but will be considered on a case by case basis, for an additional fee.

Thank you for your consideration,
First Baptist Church (FBC) Staff

Process

Application

- Arrangements for your wedding begin by securing this policy and application form.
- Once you have received this information, contact our main office, 573-442-1149, to determine the availability of the facilities on your desired date.
- If the date you prefer is available, please complete the application portion of the packet, and return it, along with \$50 non-refundable reservation fee, to the church office.
- Applications are then approved by the staff; you will have verbal confirmation of your reservation day within the week. Should the application not be approved, the reservation fee will be returned to you.

Wedding Rehearsal/Ceremony

The week before the ceremony, a keycard will be checked out to you from the main office. This will grant the couple access to the church the entire day of the ceremony, allowing time for decorating, meeting vendors, etc. The doors will be scheduled by the main office to open at an appointed time before the ceremony, allowing guests to freely enter the building. Please confirm the timing of the doors with the administrative assistant in the main office.

After the Wedding

The keycard is to be turned back into the church no later than one-week after the wedding ceremony. Your security deposit will not be returned until the keycard has been returned. If it is turned in later than one week, \$20 will be withheld from your security deposit.

Facility Information

- Length and width of aisle: 90 feet long, 5 feet wide
- Number of pews on each side of center aisle: 26
- Capacity of Sanctuary: 500
- The communion table is extremely difficult to move and we request that it be left in place. Since we believe that the cross is central to our identity and purpose, it shall remain on the communion table. The candlesticks should also remain on the table.
- The Pulpit and Lectern are also very difficult to move. Moving these items tends to cause damage to the furniture and the flooring. For this reason, we prefer not to move them. If you find it necessary for your wedding, the pulpit and lectern will be removed for a fee of \$100. Please note that occasionally these items are moved on behalf of church staff for worship services. It is possible that you will tour our facility and not see both pulpit and lectern in place, however, it should be assumed that they will be in place during your wedding, unless otherwise requested.
- If the church is decorated for religious holidays and you do not want the decorations that are already up, they will be removed for a fee of \$100.
- If the church or Child Development Center have displayed any outdoor signage on the front lawn/ columns that may interfere with your photography, they can be removed for a fee of \$50.
- In decorating, we ask that you not deface or mar any of the furnishings (no thumb-tack holes, candle wax drips, tape marks, etc.). No lighted candles in the windows.
- The church has no jurisdiction over the parking on Broadway or Waugh St. The couple is responsible for calling the City of Columbia to arrange for special parking.

Non-Compliance with the following policies will result in the forfeiture of the Building Use Deposit

1. Only drip-less candles may be used.
2. No smoking in building or on church grounds.
3. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages anywhere in the building.
4. No rice, confetti, or fireworks inside or outside the building.
5. No real rose petals dropped in the aisle; silk petals can be used.
6. No birdseed or bubbles in the building; they may be used outside.

Facility Tours

Contact Brenda Rice, wedding facility coordinator, to schedule a tour. 573-442-1149

Ceremony Information

Time Frame

Wedding rehearsal time should be between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Wedding Ceremony times should be between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm, unless otherwise approved by a First Baptist minister.

Music and Instruments

Music is to be selected in consultation with the Minister and/or church organist. The following should be kept in mind:

- a.) The pipe organ here is a very delicate and expensive instrument. Only the First Baptist Church organist(s) - or members of the American Guild of Organists (with approval of the First Baptist Church organist) may use the organ for the service. The Trustees have made him/her responsible for its care.
- b.) The sound system will be taken care of by the custodian or a member of First Baptist Church only.
- c.) Music selections should be appropriate for a place of worship.

Photography

Please ensure that the photographers are respectful of the sanctity of the marriage ceremony, and do not move about in a distracting manner.

Ministers

A minister of First Baptist Church will usually officiate at weddings in our sanctuary. The couple will be required to participate in two marital readiness sessions, scheduled with our minister(s).

Outside officiants will be allowed.

Fees - retain for your records

The Non-Refundable reservation fee is due at the time of application. All other payments are due no later than 45 days prior to the wedding date. Checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church, which will in turn pay the minister, custodian, organist, coordinator, as applicable. These fees are fully refundable until ten days prior to the wedding. After that, 50% will be refunded.

Required Fees:

Non-refundable reservation fee	\$50
<i>Due at time of application. This fee is to hold your wedding date only, this does not go toward other fees and will not be refunded if the wedding is canceled.</i>	
Building Deposit	\$300
<i>The building deposit will be refunded, upon approval that the facility is left as it was found and policies were followed. We reserve the right to retain any portion of the damage deposit should damage occur and/or policies not be followed.</i>	
Sanctuary Use	\$750
<i>Rehearsal and Wedding. There is no charge for use of the building if the bride or groom or either of their parents have been members of First Baptist Church six months immediately prior to the calendaring of the wedding.</i>	
Custodian Fees	\$175
<i>Weddings are not considered part of normal job duties, nor do they occur during normal working hours. The church's custodian must be used as he alone is fully knowledgeable of and responsible for church facilities and equipment.</i>	
Church Building Representative	\$20/hour
<i>This person is a First Baptist staff member, or lay leader, who will be present during the rehearsal and ceremony, to insure that things run smoothly in the church building. This person will be familiar with the building and will be available to assist with any needs that arise in our facility. Minimum hours: 2</i>	
Organist Fee (when using First Baptist's organist)	\$175
Minister Fee (when using a First Baptist clergy member)	\$300

Other Expenses:

Rehearsal Dinner	\$200
Cake and Punch Reception	\$175
<i>When dinner and/or reception services are requested, the use of the kitchen is included for serving purposes only. Cooking will not be allowed. Training and clean-up required.</i>	
Additional Custodian Fees	
Rehearsal Dinner	\$100
Cake and Punch Reception	\$100
Pulpit and Lectern Removal	\$100
Removal of Religious Holiday Decorations	\$100
<i>Please check with the church 7 days before your wedding to learn if there is any holiday decor present at that time. Decor may be different than they were at time of application/facility tour, and we must have 1 week's advance notice prior to the wedding rehearsal in order to remove any decor.</i>	
Removal of Outdoor Signage	\$50
<i>Please check with the church 7 days before your wedding to learn if there is any outdoor signage present at that time. Signs may be different than they were at time of application/facility tour, and we must have 1 week's advance notice prior to the wedding rehearsal in order to remove any signage.</i>	

Application

Date of Application _____

Date of Wedding _____ Time _____

Minister to Officiate _____ Do you request an FBC minister? _____

Bride/Groom _____

Email Address _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____

Member of FBC? _____ If not, where? _____

Bride's Parent(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Member(s) of FBC? _____ If not, where? _____

Bride/Groom _____

Email Address _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____

Member of FBC? _____ If not, where? _____

Groom's Parent(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Member(s) of FBC? _____ If not, where? _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Will the rehearsal dinner be held at FBC? _____

Will the reception be held at FBC? _____

Anticipated Number of Guests at Wedding _____ At Reception _____

Coordinator _____

Organist _____

Florist _____

Photographer _____

Other Vendors _____

Applicant agrees to comply with church wedding policies and to be responsible for damage to premises or equipment

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Church Official _____ Date _____

For Office Use Only

Required Fees:

Non-refundable reservation fee	\$50	Date Paid _____
Building Deposit	\$300	Date Paid _____
Sanctuary	\$750	Date Paid _____
Custodian Fees	\$175	Date Paid _____
Church Building Representative	\$20/hr	Date Paid _____
Organist	\$175	Date Paid _____
Minister Fee	\$300	Date Paid _____

Dependent on Ceremony:

Rehearsal Dinner	\$200	Date Paid _____
Cake and Punch Reception	\$175	
Additional Custodian Fees		
Rehearsal Dinner	\$100	Date Paid _____
Cake and Punch Reception	\$100	Date Paid _____
Pulpit and Lectern removal	\$100	Date Paid _____
Removal of religious holiday decorations	\$100	Date Paid _____
Removal of Outdoor Signage	\$50	Date Paid _____

Attach Receipts Here:

Keycard Issued _____
Date Returned _____
Deposit Refunded _____
Payment Distributed via Payroll _____
Additional Notes _____