



WEDDINGS

at First Pres Maumee

Celebrating Weddings, Preparing for Marriages



LOVE FIRST

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Thank you for your interest in a wedding at First Pres Maumee!

At First Pres Maumee, we are very interested in helping couples begin a committed life together which honors Christ and brings joy and blessing to society. We recognize that marriage is a serious, challenging, life-long commitment. Therefore, premarital counseling is seen as a critically important part of First Pres Maumee's commitment to the couple. Couples will ordinarily enter into a counseling relationship with one of our pastors. In exceptional cases, other premarital counseling arrangements may be made with the pastor's approval.

Description of Premarital Counseling:

- Four to six sessions with the pastor using results from "Prepare" inventory (a premarital online assessment that will be taken by the the couple prior to the first session)
- A review of a sample copy of the wedding ceremony bulletin at the last counseling session with pastor and couple
- One planning session with the pastor and wedding coordinator to arrange for the details of the service

Sharing in life together at First Pres Maumee

First Pres Maumee recognizes the importance of a supportive church family in a marriage. Therefore, couples being married at First Pres Maumee are asked to share in the life of the church beginning with their engagement.

Ways to share in the life of the church include:

- Worship on Sunday mornings at our 9:00 am Modern Service or 10:45 am Traditional Service
- Participate in a small group or bible study
- Attend Wednesday Night activities (dinner, classes)
- Serve in different areas of ministry on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings

For non-members (friend of First Pres), there is a \$400.00 fee to reserve your date. If, through premarital counseling and church attendance, a couple finds that they want to join the church, the \$400.00 will be refunded.

We believe that marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. We believe marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together, before God, their lives of discipleship. Marriage can be a wonderful and deeply satisfying commitment. A great marriage does not simply happen. It requires much intentional effort, including willingness from both parties to work at fostering relationship, nurture and care. We love walking along side engaged couples in premarital counseling and then celebrating together on your wedding day.

We are so glad you are here and look forward to walking with you on this journey!



Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Counseling & The Ceremony

In preparation for the marriage service, the pastor shall discuss with the couple:

1. The nature of their Christian commitment, assuring that at least one is a professing Christian
2. The legal requirements of the state
3. The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage
4. The nature and form of the marriage service
5. The vows and commitments they will be asked to make
6. The relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship
7. The resources of the faith and the Christian community to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments

Because the marriage ceremony is an act of worship within the congregation of First Pres Maumee, care will be taken to maintain the dignity of worship, the high place of the name of Jesus, and the upkeep of the church facility.

The following requirements have been ordered by the Session:

- Flowers or decorations should not be attached to surfaces within the facility in any way that may cause permanent damage (i.e. nails, staples, glues, etc.).
- Rice should not be thrown on church grounds. We suggest bubbles or rose petals as a substitute.
- Flash photography is not permitted during the worship service. The worship service is understood to begin with the pastor's opening statement and concludes with the blessing. Photographers and videographers will speak with the wedding coordinator prior to the rehearsal with regard to positioning for photography during service.
- Smoking is only allowed outside of the Gibbs St. entrance.
- No alcohol is permitted on church grounds.
- Only dripless candles from the church may be used in the church's candelabras or unity candle.
- Aisle runners become a tripping hazard when used on our church's carpeting and are therefore not permitted.
- Animals, with the exception of service dogs, are not permitted in the church building.

Though it is difficult to set "requirements," the couple is encouraged to be mindful about the dignity of worship. Final decisions about what will and will not be permitted in a marriage ceremony at First Pres Maumee resides with the pastor officiating the service.



Wedding Coordinator

In order to ensure that the wedding ceremony blesses all involved, First Pres Maumee has created the position of WEDDING COORDINATOR, a servant to the couple, pastor, and church. Because wedding coordinator works with the couple to ensure that the "details" of the ceremony are given attention, the wedding coordinator is integral to the success of a wedding ceremony at First Pres Maumee.

After the wedding application is approved by the Elders of the church, the wedding coordinator will contact the couple and set up a meeting to review wedding policy, show the couple what rooms are used for dressing, waiting, etc., and gather details about the ceremony. Parents of the couples are encouraged to attend the meeting as well. Additional meetings may be scheduled to finalize details and ensure that the couple is familiar and comfortable with the church setting and understands how events will proceed on the day of the wedding. On the wedding day, the wedding coordinator will be on site three hours prior to the time of the ceremony to coordinate flowers, be available to photographers, assist with keeping the bride and groom in separate areas, take care of any set-up/logistical needs, and keep guests moving into the sanctuary so the wedding starts on time. The wedding coordinator will also coordinate family seating, music and processional lineup, and will be available to the couple and their families for any other needs or issues.

First Pres Maumee has a Wedding Photography Policy. Once the wedding coordinator knows the couple's photographer & videographer, the coordinator will email or fax this policy document to them.

The coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the church's wedding policy is carried out and the couple's wishes are honored. If there are any questions about the permissibility of a request, the pastor is responsible for making the final decision.

Music Selection

Music is a critical element to most wedding ceremonies. It helps to create the mood, provides for transitions in the service, and can communicate Biblical truth. Because music is so important and music tastes are so varied, questions surrounding music selections can be complicated. Because of this, couples should communicate their expectations of music for the service early in the planning process.

Our organist/accompanist, Mr. Wayne Whitten, is a very accomplished musician with both a bachelor's and master's degree in organ performance. He is a wonderful resource for planning the musical portion of a wedding. Mr. Whitten can be reached at (734) 652-1215 or by email at ewmjwhit@aol.com.

Keeping in mind that the wedding ceremony is a worship service, music selections should be chosen appropriately. Non-sacred (or secular, non-religious) music selections require advanced approval from the pastor at least one month in advance of the ceremony.

Whether it is organ, piano, or other live instrumentation, the church highly encourages the use of "live" music during the service instead of recorded music. Please speak to your wedding coordinator for more information regarding music choices, and let them know if you are considering using the organ or other instrumentation.



Decorating the Facilities

For many couples, decorating the sanctuary is an important part of the planning. The church will seek to be as permission-giving as possible with regard to decorations as individual tastes vary greatly. First Pres Maumee's wedding coordinator should be consulted early in the planning process with regard to decorating the church facilities. They are familiar with what has worked well with our particular worship spaces and have creative ways for overcoming decorating challenges. Please keep in mind that our church is subject to Maumee City fire policies. Couples planning to be married during the Advent season should plan to incorporate the church's Advent decorations into their decorating plans, as they will not be removed.

Timing the Ceremony

First Pres Maumee typically conducts wedding ceremonies on Saturday afternoons, but other days and times may be considered at the request of the couple. Wedding ceremonies will not be permitted to begin after 5:00 pm on Saturday evenings in order to allow adequate time for our custodial staff to prepare for Sunday morning worship services.

Ordinarily, wedding ceremonies are not conducted on national holiday weekends to allow our staff the opportunity to rest and celebrate with their families. If a couple desires to be married on a holiday weekend, they should speak to the pastor to see if an exception can be made.

Live-streaming

Couples have the option of livestreaming their wedding ceremony. The wedding coordinator will communicate this request to the TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR. The technology coordinator is familiar with streaming various services from the sanctuary. Please note: this option is for weddings that take place in the sanctuary only, not the chapel.

Wedding Rehearsal

Weddings conducted at First Pres Maumee require a rehearsal. Ordinarily, wedding rehearsals will be held on the evening prior to the wedding ceremony. This rehearsal will take about one hour. The couple is asked to encourage the wedding party and family members to be on time for the rehearsal so as to honor the time of all involved. Having already learned of the bride and groom's desires for the ceremony, the pastor will lead the rehearsal with assistance from the wedding coordinator.

Fellowship Hall

Fellowship Hall may be used for wedding receptions. Additional fees are required should a couple choose this option, and the wedding coordinator can provide information about this. Please note that no alcohol (including champagne) is permitted on church grounds.



Fee Schedule

The "Building Use" fee of \$400 for non-members reserves the requested wedding date and should be paid when the Wedding Application is submitted. If the couple finds that they want to become members of the church, the \$400 will be refunded after their membership becomes official.

Ceremony Fees	Covenant Partner	Friend of First Pres
Building Use	N/A	\$400
Pastor	\$200	\$300
Organist/Pianist	\$175	\$250
Additional music rehearsal for each soloist	\$50	\$50
Wedding Coordinator	\$100	\$200
Custodial Fee	\$125	\$200
Technology Fee (includes livestreaming if couple requests)	\$100	\$200

The wedding coordinator will determine what fees are due and will provide the couple with an itemized list. One check can be made out to First Presbyterian Church and is due two weeks prior to the wedding date.

I pray that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

EPHESIANS 3:17

