

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I find out if a date is available or go ahead with booking my wedding?

Contact our Wedding Coordinator, Ashley Morris at either 713.620.6480 or [amorris@fpchouston.org](mailto:amorris@fpchouston.org).

### Who can get married at FPC?

Both members and non-members are welcome to have their ceremony here.

### How far in advance can we book a wedding?

We book up to 12 months in advance of your wedding date.

### Can I place a hold on a date(s)?

We do not hold any dates. Your date is booked when you put down a deposit and sign a contract.

### When can I have my wedding?

FPC books weddings on Saturdays, anytime between 11 am-6:30 pm. After 6:30 pm, a \$500 surcharge is applied. FPC is not open and therefore will not book weddings on the following holiday weekends: New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving (Nov 25, 2017), Advent Season (Dec 2-30, 2017)

### Who can officiate my wedding?

We welcome guest clergy, but an FPC pastor must also participate, acting as host pastor. Your FPC pastor will approve all participants' roles (including guest clergy) in the Order of Service.

### What is required to get married at FPC?

We require attendance at our pre-marriage class, Looking Towards Marriage, and individual counsel with your officiating FPC pastor. If attendance at our class is not possible, we will work with you to find a program that is equivalent to ours. Participation in some form of faith-based prep is required.

### What are the fees for having a wedding at FPC?

#### Members:

Sanctuary: \$1850

Chapel: \$1350

#### Non Members:

Sanctuary: \$2850

Chapel: \$1850

Fees include: facility use, coordinator, pastor honorarium, organist, sound tech, pre-marriage prep. A 50% deposit is due upon booking, and the final 50% is due 30 days out from your wedding date.

### How do I become a member of FPC?

We offer four week membership classes throughout the year and ask that you make this decision prayerfully. We desire those who become members at FPC also become active participants in our church community. For more information on membership classes, contact [explorefirst@fpchouston.org](mailto:explorefirst@fpchouston.org).

### Do pastors officiate off-campus weddings, or offer pre-marriage counsel if I am not getting married at FPC?

#### Guidelines concerning off-site weddings:

First Presbyterian Church and its pastors are committed to helping couples prepare for great marriages; marriages that seek to honor Jesus Christ and last a lifetime. From time-to-time we receive requests to officiate weddings that occur away from the FPC campus. Please know that we are happy to receive these inquiries. However, in the event of such requests, please note the following:

- Couples must make any request for one of our pastors to officiate an off-site wedding through the FPC wedding coordinator.
- Pastor availability for off-site weddings is often limited due to their regular responsibilities in service to their local church, including the many weddings that take place on campus. While we will do our best to consider your request, we are not able to guarantee that one of our pastors will be available for an off-site wedding.
- All FPC pastors require couples to complete the same Preparation for Marriage class (or its equivalent) for both on-site and off-site weddings, including the completion and evaluation of the Prepare and Enrich inventory.
- Off campus weddings are still considered a sacred event. The setting, the pre-service activities and the wedding ceremony must reflect that value. The pastors will explain their expectations and interpret them for each setting.
- All financial arrangements/honorariums shall be communicated to each couple by the presiding pastor and should take into consideration the time and expense incurred by the pastor in travel, housing, counseling, preparation, wedding rehearsal, and the wedding event.

**Pre-Marriage Counsel:**

Pastors are willing to provide pre-marital counsel for couples not getting married at FPC. They strongly recommend your participation in our Pre-Marriage Prep Class (Looking Towards Marriage), but will provide counsel regardless, depending upon their availability. Please contact the Wedding Coordinator to inquire about this.