

Frequently Asked Questions – FPC Wedding Ministry

How do I find out if a date is available or request to book my wedding?

Contact our Wedding Coordinator at weddings@fpchouston.org.

Who can get married at FPC?

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

The FPC pastors view marriage as a sacred covenant, entered into with prayer and preparation. Therefore, it is in the prerogative of the pastor to delay or cancel the wedding, at any time prior to the ceremony date. In a letter dated March 2015, the elders of FPC communicated this to our congregation:

"With deep respect to brothers and sisters in Christ who may disagree with our position, we continue to hold to the conviction that Scripture conveys the principle that God created us male and female in order to complete the revelation of His image within us. In addition, we believe that this revelation is further made manifest when a husband and wife join together within the covenant of marriage." Accordingly, First Presbyterian Church does not allow same sex weddings on our campus or to be performed by our pastoral staff.

How far in advance can we book a wedding?

We book up to 12 months in advance of your wedding date. Any request made more than 12 months out will be asked to wait and make their request on the first day of the month of their desired date the following year. (i.e. May 1, 2021 for any date in May 2022.)

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-6:00 pm. After 6:00 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, or Thanksgiving (Saturday after holiday). We do not book non-member weddings during the month of December, and member weddings in December are limited to one booking.

Who can officiate my wedding?

We welcome guest clergy, but an FPC pastor must 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, Marriage Beginnings, and individual counsel with your officiating FPC pastor (or guest pastor, if approved). If attendance at our class is not possible, we will work with you to find a program that is equivalent to ours. Participation in these two forms of faith-based prep is required.

We also require adherence to our FPC wedding guidelines, outlined in the Wedding Policies packet.

What are the fees for having a wedding at FPC?

Members:

Sanctuary: \$2,200

Chapel: \$1,800

Non Members:

Sanctuary: \$3,200

Chapel: \$2,200

Fees include: facility use, coordinator, pastor honorarium, organist, media tech, pre-marriage prep. A 50% deposit is due upon booking, and the final 50% is due one month prior to your wedding date.

*Livestream services are available upon request for an additional fee.

How do I become a member of FPC?

We offer 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, visit fpchouston.org/explorefpc.

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.