

Wedding Guidelines

First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven

The Session and Congregation of First Church congratulate you and wish you happiness in your marriage. As you unite your lives to establish a Christian home, the church rejoices with you and is eager to help you make your wedding beautiful and memorable. Church staff will be happy to assist you in any way possible. May God bless you as you plan your wedding!

Reservations for a Wedding

Reservations for wedding and rehearsal events shall be scheduled with the church office in consultation with the pastor. The “Application for Building Use” form should accompany the request for usage.

The sanctuary may be used for the ceremony and seats 150. There are also 2 rooms in the sanctuary building which may be used for dressing or storing items during the ceremony. The church office building has a large room, our “parlor”, which is also available. Mowat Fellowship Hall is available for the reception and has a capacity of 125.

Pastor Officiation

The pastor of this church shall conduct all weddings unless the pastor and the Session agree to make an exception. A minimum of three pre-marital counseling sessions will be held with the pastor of First Church. This requirement may be waived by our pastor if the couple receives counseling from another clergy or approved counselor. However, there will be at least one meeting with the couple and the pastor to discuss the liturgical plan for the service.

A wedding is a service of worship. All weddings will be conducted in a manner respectful of the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions. The entire worship service is under the direction of the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven.

Arrangements and Decorations

Only dripless, smokeless candles may be used with a protective cloth placed beneath the candles. If flower petals are strewn an aisle cloth must be used. All potted floral arrangements must be placed in saucers. The wedding party will consult with the church pastor regarding relocating, removing or replacing church furnishings.

If the sanctuary is decorated for another special occasion (e.g. Christmas) the decorations may not be moved and must be incorporated into the wedding decorations. The use of nails or tacks to attach flowers, ribbons, greenery or decorations to pews, furniture or walls is prohibited.

Photographs and Videotaping

During the ceremony, no flash photography or additional spotlights will be permitted. The photographer may not move about during the ceremony. Any pictures of the wedding party at the altar may be taken before or after the ceremony. Video cameras should be positioned so that they will not distract from the ceremony. The pastor will give final permission for the placement of cameras. Pictures during the ceremony by members of the congregation should be discouraged.

General Policies and Procedures

The pastor or a member of the Session shall be present for all functions related to the wedding.

The wedding party is responsible for overseeing the removal of any rental equipment and for leaving the facilities in good order. Equipment owned by the church may be used with prior approval of the Session and pastor. If table linens owned by the church are used, they must be dry cleaned and returned to the church on hangers within one week of the wedding date.

Repairs from any damage to church property will be charged to the couple being married.

Only birdseed may be thrown outside.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed on church premises. If alcohol is found in the possession of a member of the wedding party on church property, that person will be asked to leave the premises and the deposit will be forfeited.

Smoking and/or vaping is not permitted on church premises.

The church is not liable for personal items lost, stolen or damaged during the wedding or reception.

All donations must be paid prior to the wedding service.

In the Presbyterian Church, all matters are subject to the discretion of the Session. Any questions may be directed to the Session through the pastor.

The address of the church is 810 Georgia Avenue, Lynn Haven, Florida 32444. The phone number is 850-265-2051. The church's email address is firstchurchlh@gmail.com. Church office hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.