

First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent

Wedding Guidelines

Adopted: June 2023

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Pastor: Steve Vance

Our beautiful sanctuary provides a wonderful setting for local weddings. The church buildings (there are two almost identical churches) stand beside the village park, adding a statuesque presence to the park's natural beauty. If you would like to consider using our sanctuary for a wedding, please note the wedding policy below and then contact the church office to schedule an appointment with the Pastor.

We are happy to allow other clergy to officiate or participate in weddings in our sanctuary, so long as the wedding ceremony itself retains the character of a Christian service and is approved by the Pastor and Session.

Whether you decide to have your ceremony performed in our sanctuary or not, we celebrate your decision and pray for blessings on your wedding and your life together.

WEDDING POLICY

The following information is provided for couples who are planning to have their service in the First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent. In coming to be married in the church, we assume that the service means more to both of you than being married in a civil ceremony.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) does not require that either person be a member of the church to be married in it, however, it does require that God be involved in the lives of the two persons entering into marriage and that the Spirit add strength and stability to their marriage. A wedding is an act of celebrating that two people have chosen to live their lives together and to find joy and fulfillment in that relationship. The service is a service of worship that has a deeply joyful spirit.

The following are required by those couples choosing First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent:

- The request to be married in the First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent must be made by contacting the Pastor and obtaining his/her permission to be married, as well as approval by the Session.
- Pre-marital counseling with the Pastor is required for a marriage service in this church.
- The pastor will be happy to help design a meaningful service.
- The music of your choice in hard copy should be presented to and reviewed by the Pastor a month in advance. Appropriate music is appreciated as wedding ceremonies are a form of worship. The Pastor will coordinate with the Music Director, who usually will perform all music that is part of the service.
- When the installed Pastor is not officiating the ceremony, a representative of the church must be present at the ceremony and rehearsal.

- A rehearsal prior to the service is mandatory. The wedding party, both sets of parents, and all other participants should be in attendance.
- The marriage license must be brought to the wedding rehearsal.
- No rice or confetti is to be used on or near the church property.
- No flash pictures shall be taken during the wedding ceremony. Video may be taken from the balcony.
- No alcohol or tobacco product is to be used on church property.
- There is a small restroom and meeting room available for the bride and attendants to use to dress if necessary.

SCHEDULE OF FEES:

- \$ 200 for Pastoral services (paid directly to Pastor)
- \$ 150 for church organist (paid directly to the organist)
- \$ 50 for church custodian (paid to the church)
- *Non-members:* \$ 250 for use of the Sanctuary (paid to the church)
- Additional participants in the wedding ceremony (outside clergy, vocalists, musicians, etc.) may require additional fees.

All fees above must to be paid in full prior to the ceremony and not later than at the time of the rehearsal.