

*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*



WEDDING POLICY

rev. September 5, 2024

Thank you for considering the First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ in Stockbridge for your wedding. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation welcoming both same gender and opposite gender couples who seek to be married. We are a church which means that we understand a strong spiritual context to the promises that couples make as they stand before God, family and friends. Further we understand the wedding ceremony to be an act of worship. We welcome couples who are part of our congregation and those who seek to be married in the beauty of our sanctuary in the midst of the beauty of the Berkshires. We are committed to helping you plan and hold a beautiful, sacred and highly personal ceremony.

The Process

Those who are interested in holding their wedding at our church should first contact Will Garrison, the church administrator, to discuss the availability of dates and times. Will can answer basic questions that you might have about your wedding. Should you wish to proceed, we will hold the date on the calendar while you arrange a conversation with our Pastor, the Rev. Brent Damrow. (Please note for those not in the area, that first conversation can take place over Zoom or the telephone.)

Following that conversation should the couple wish to proceed, a non-refundable deposit of \$750 will be required to secure the date on the church calendar.

Our Building and Facilities

The First Congregational Church, UCC is a historic church blessed with a beautiful 1824 sanctuary equipped with a Steinway Grand Piano and an 1865 William Johnson Organ. The sanctuary has seating on the ground floor and a wraparound balcony. As a result, smaller weddings feel intimate while larger weddings can utilize the balcony to accommodate up to 450 guests. Large, clear glass windows allow wonderful amounts of light into the room creating a bright and cheerful atmosphere. Additional decorations may be added to the sanctuary provided they do not damage the room – a proposal should be submitted to be approved not less than one month prior to the wedding.

In addition to the sanctuary, wedding parties may use some of our smaller rooms to get ready for the ceremony at no additional charge. Our fellowship room (The Jonathan Edwards Room) is also available for catered receptions or rehearsal dinners at an extra charge.

Legal Requirements

It is the responsibility of each couple to satisfy the legal requirements (paperwork, registration...) for marriage as set forth by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As these requirements change from time to time, you are encouraged to visit the State's website related to marriage: [Getting Married in Massachusetts | Mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)

Costs

The cost of a wedding at First Congregational Church, UCC is \$2,000. This includes the pastor's fee, the church musician, the use of building, and cleaning fee.

Details:

- The costs for the use of the facilities (including the sanctuary for the wedding, a rehearsal on the day previous and the use of two small rooms for the wedding parties).
- The costs for the honoraria for the Pastor and the Minister of Music. In general, the church requires the use of our staff in the performance of the wedding – exceptions may be made to this policy based on discussion and written request.
- Cleaning of all rooms both before and after the wedding.
- Should additional services or space be required the charge would increase.

We look forward to working with you to create a day that you will long remember, that your guests will enjoy, and that will set a solid foundation for your marriage. Please contact us with any questions you might have.

*The First Congregational Church, UCC
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The Rev. Brent Damrow, Minister
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