

Weddings



The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443

*“A welcoming and inclusive spiritual community . . .
An Open and Affirming Church.”*

Welcome!

We are honored that you have chosen to hold your celebration of Christian marriage here with us. We look forward to helping you prepare for this most important day.

The following are some guidelines to help you plan for your wedding day. If you have any questions concerning these items please call the church office for further information.

Arrangements - The services of the First Congregational Church of Madison are available to all couples who desire to make a commitment of marriage through a Christian order of worship. When you have selected a wedding date, call the church office to secure that date, this will include confirmation of the availability of the Pastor, use of the Church building and the organist. Do this as soon as possible to help ensure we can accommodate your preferred date. For those who are not members of our congregation a \$100 deposit is required to hold your day, this will be put against the building use fee.

Pastor - The Pastor of the Church will officiate at all weddings held in the Church building. It is your responsibility to contact the Pastor at least 6 months prior to your wedding to arrange for pre-marital counseling sessions. Schedule these as soon as possible.

Music - The Director of Music Ministry, in consultation with you, will help plan all music for the ceremony. Since weddings in the Church are worship services, all music should reflect the sacred, Christian nature of the event. Soloists and additional musicians are permitted and should be discussed in advance with the director. The organist will play for all weddings and provide accompaniment for soloists unless other arrangements are made. Only our Church Organist is permitted to play the organ without prior consent. If our organist is unavailable to play for your wedding, assistance will be provided to schedule a substitute. If you choose to not use our organist, that fee is still required.

Rehearsal - Usually, the rehearsal is scheduled to take place the evening before the wedding day, although another time may be suggested due to unusual circumstances. Allow approximately one hour for your rehearsal.

To ensure that your rehearsal will go smoothly:

- a) Prepare ahead of time a list of who is to be included, and the order of, your procession. (bridesmaids, groomsmen, moms, grandparents etc)
- b) Everyone in the wedding party should be present.
- c) We begin the rehearsal precisely when scheduled.
- d) Everyone should be respectfully dressed for the rehearsal.
- e) For August rehearsals only – Your Friday rehearsal must be concluded by 5:30 pm due to an ongoing concert series in the Meetinghouse every Friday evening.

At the rehearsal, **the minister is the only one giving directions.** Every detail of the ceremony will have been discussed during our planning sessions prior to rehearsal. Rehearsal is not the time to invite other people's suggestions. That approach will needlessly extend the rehearsal time and render you tardy for your celebration.

Should any member of the wedding party come to the rehearsal or wedding ceremony under the influence of an intoxicating substance, they will be excluded from the service.

Flowers and Decorations - We welcome the use of decorations to enhance the beauty of your day. Items that leave permanent damage in the sanctuary through the use of tacks, tape, etc. are prohibited. Candles are not permitted in the church except the wedding ceremony unity candle. The wedding party is responsible for providing candles, candle holders and table covering. The church will be unlocked one hour before the wedding for flower delivery.

Ring-bearers & Flower Girls - Children participating in the processional must not be younger than five years old. They must have someone to sit with during the ceremony. The best man will keep the rings in a pocket until they are presented during the ceremony (the rings carried by a ring-bearer are symbolic).

Photography and Video - During the ceremony, photographers and videographers are asked to avoid the use of flash, refrain from unnecessary movement, and limit their activity to the rear half of the sanctuary. Couples will be expected to communicate this policy to relatives who wish to record the ceremony.

After the Ceremony - Please refrain from releasing balloons or throwing rice, bird seed, confetti or streamers inside the Church building or on Church grounds.

License Information - You must go in person to the Office of the Clerk at the Town Hall in either your Connecticut "Town of Residence" or here in Madison to obtain a marriage license. A blood test is **no longer required**.

You are encouraged to give the license to the Minister any time prior to the wedding.

BUT NO LATER THAN THE REHEARSAL.

Without a proper license, there can be no wedding.

Fee Information –

Building Use Fees –

Meetinghouse \$500.00 (Required of non FCC Members)

Chapel \$200.00 (Required of non FCC Members)

Date will be secured upon receipt of \$100 non-refundable deposit (non- members only)

Individual Fees -

Pastor \$300.00

(If your ceremony is at a location other than our building, we recommend an amount be added to the above Pastor fee in recognition of travel and additional time commitment.)

Organist \$250.00 - If you choose to not use our organist, this fee is still required.
\$ 70.00 - Additional fee for rehearsal time with soloists and/or instrumentalists.

Sexton \$200.00

All fees must be paid no later than the time of the rehearsal.

(Payment not received by that time, will result in a delay in filing the marriage license.)

Please bring or mail them to the Church Office

26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443

Attn: Laurie Satterwhite/wedding.

INDIVIDUAL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

First Congregational Church of Madison – memo: Wedding Building Fee

Chris Nichols - Pastor

Nathan Bayreuther - Organist

Walter Stone - Sexton

Contact information – (203)-245-2739

Please feel free to call with any questions you may have.

If your Wedding plans change, please notify the church office as soon as possible.

Pastor – Chris Nichols, ext.-13

Organist – Nathan Bayreuther, ext.-12

Church Office –Laurie Satterwhite, ext.-10



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Of Madison**

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26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT
(203) 245-2739

Email: mainoffice@fccmadison.org

Web Site: fccmadison.org

Affiliated with the New Haven East Consociation and
The Connecticut Conference of The United Church Of Christ

The Reverend Dr. Christopher Nichols, Senior Pastor
The Reverend Boyd Johnson, Minister of Pastoral Care and Visitation
Nathan J. Bayreuther, Director of Music Ministry
Lyn Lunn, Director of Children and Youth Ministry
Candice Guerette, Church School Assistant
Laurie Satterwhite, Administrative Assistant
Marcia Stone, Finance Administrator
Walter Stone, Sexton