

CHECK—LIST


- ___ Initial Church Contact
- ___ Initial meeting with Clergy
- ___ Initial meeting with Wedding Coordinator
- ___ All dates confirmed with wedding party, Minister(s), and Director of Music?
- ___ Consultation with church Director of Music (arranged by Wedding Coordinator)
- ___ Photographer, Florist and Caterer (if reception is at the church) are scheduled, names given to Wedding Coordinator at least 2 months before the wedding.
- ___ All fees are paid by 2 weeks prior to wedding date
- Rehearsal is at _____ promptly at _____
- ___ Marriage License, Wedding Rings and other required items left in the Pastor's office at time of the rehearsal.
- Arrival time will be at least 1 hour before the ceremony.

Christian marriage is a reflection of God's commitment to us. It is life long and never ending. The congregation of Grace First Presbyterian Church invites you to accept and cherish this most precious gift of God.

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
John 15:12*

Updated and approved by the Session of
Grace First Presbyterian Church, November 24, 2025.

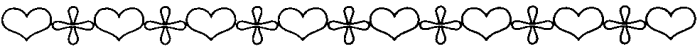
**CELEBRATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AT
GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





Where you go,
I will go;
where you lodge,
I will lodge;
your people
shall be my people
and your God my God.
Where you die,
I will die,
and there will
I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts
me from you!"

Ruth 1:16b-17



adapted from the Book of Order,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Grace First Presbyterian Church
606 Mockingbird Lane
Weatherford, Texas 76086

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

In Baptism, each Christian is claimed in the covenant of God's faithful love. Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community. In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

Book of Order 2025-2027 (W-4.0601)

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. *1 Corinthians 13:4-8a*

We are pleased that you have chosen Grace First Presbyterian Church in which to celebrate your marriage and begin your life together. In the spirit of reverent worship, our congregation has adopted policies for the celebration of weddings in our church. It is our hope that the information contained in this pamphlet will be of assistance to you in the planning and conduct of your wedding in a spirit of joy and in accord with those policies.

FEES

Please make checks out to the appropriate individual for their service. All checks to be written in full thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled wedding date.

Includes pastor's honorarium, organist, wedding coordinator, custodian, and use of building.

Church Members

Pastor	\$300
Director of Music/Organist	\$300
Church Wedding Coordinator	\$300
Custodian	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$1,000

Non-Church Members \$1,400

Includes use of building and custodial fees

All Weddings

Soloists, each Negotiable
(if requested and provided by Grace First)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Smoking is not permitted in any of the church facilities. Only birdseed is allowed to be thrown on the newlyweds and must be used outside.

Personal valuables and other items should not be left unattended as the church is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices must be turned off or placed in a silent mode during the wedding. Guests will be reminded as they enter the sanctuary.

SOUND SYSTEM

The church is equipped with a sound system that makes video recording possible which is available upon request.

THE RECEPTION

The great hall or parlor and kitchen are available for the wedding reception. No alcoholic beverages may be served at any time in the church building or on the church grounds.

DRESSING AREAS

Dressing areas will be provided for the wedding party.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

A wedding rehearsal will be held normally the day before the service. It is very important that ALL of the wedding party be present and on time for the rehearsal. Bring to the rehearsal the Marriage License and the rings to be exchanged. They will be kept in the Pastor's office until the service.

CUSTODIAL SERVICE

All of the rooms (including sanctuary and kitchen) used in the church will be left in the condition in which they were found. If the wedding ceremony is conducted on a Saturday, any wedding and reception must be completed by 9:00 p.m. to allow for cleaning and set-up in preparation for Sunday morning worship services. The Wedding Coordinator will be the sole contact person with the custodian.

INITIAL CHURCH CONTACT

The church office should be contacted initially to determine a tentative open date on the church calendar and availability of the pastor upon session approval, a meeting with the pastor is then scheduled for consent of the wedding and to confirm an agreed upon date.

CHURCH WEDDING COORDINATOR

The church provides the services of a Church Wedding Coordinator who is knowledgeable of the church's wedding policies. After the initial meeting with the Pastor, all further arrangements will be made through this coordinator, with the exception of the arrangements for music. These will be planned directly with the Director of Music.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Premarital counseling between the pastor and the engaged couple is required. In preparation for marriage, the pastor shall discuss with the engaged couple the nature of their Christian commitment, the legal requirements of the State, the privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage, the nature and form of the marriage ceremony, the vows and commitments they are asked to make, and the relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship.

If the pastor is convinced after discussion with the couple that commitment, responsibility, maturity, or Christian understanding are so lacking that the marriage is unwise, the pastor shall assure the couple of the church's continuing concern for them and not conduct the ceremony.

THE SERVICE

At Grace First, the Christian marriage is celebrated in the sanctuary, as this is the place where the community gathers for worship. As a service of worship, the marriage service is under the direction of the pastor and the supervision of the session. The wedding will ordinarily be a special service which focuses upon marriage as a gift of God and as an expression of the Christian life. Celebration of the Lord's Supper during the service requires the approval of the session, and care shall be taken to extend the invitation to the Table to all present who are baptized.

A pastor of Grace First Presbyterian Church will ordinarily conduct the marriage ceremony. A pastor from another church may be able to participate in the service, with consent of the pastor of Grace First and the session.

MUSIC

Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to God and expresses the faith of the church. The congregation may join in hymns and other musical forms of praise and prayer. Music needs to be selected a minimum of 2 months in advance of the ceremony. The Director of Music maintains an extensive list of music suitable to the wedding ceremony and will be available to assist in the selection of music. The Director of Music has final approval on all music, text, instrumentalists, and soloists to be used in the wedding ceremony. If a soloist or instrumentalist is to be used, rehearsal time must be scheduled with the director of Music/Organist as soloists do not rehearse during the wedding rehearsal. In compliance with the policies adopted by the Session, **no secular music and no recorded music or recorded accompaniment tapes will be permitted.**

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Flowers, decorations, and other appointments will be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshipers' consciousness of the reality of God, and reflect the integrity and simplicity of Christian life. No arrangements will be placed upon or obscure the baptismal font, the pulpit or the communion table. Ribbons and greenery may be used on the center aisle, but no fastenings are to be used that will mar the pews. Only votive candles or drip-less candles with floor protection may be used in the sanctuary. Only silk flower petals may be thrown by the flower girl to prevent real petals from staining the carpet. Aisle runners are a safety hazard and may not be used.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The wedding is a service of worship; therefore photographs of the ceremony are to be limited to an entrance shot and an exit shot taken from no farther into the sanctuary than the back pew. No other photographs, flash, time or otherwise may be taken in the narthex or sanctuary immediately prior to or during the ceremony. The choir loft may be used for video cameras or other silent equipment without flash or special lighting only when not occupied by wedding guests. While in the choir loft, the photographer must not interfere with the musician's work or the organist's view of the wedding party downstairs. Arrangements for the use of the choir loft should be made in advance. Following the ceremony, the wedding party may pose for pictures in the sanctuary. If preferred, pictures may be taken in the sanctuary before the service. They must be completed at least one hour before the wedding is to begin. Ushers will inform all camera carrying guests not to take pictures during the ceremony.