



**First Congregational Church**  
 129 South Park Street  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Wedding Hostess:  
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Church Office Manager:  
 Becky Ramsey  
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### Weddings

A strong marriage is one of life's joys, yet a rich marital union doesn't come automatically. It is the result of shared values, personality development and spiritual growth. Marriage - a life-long process in which we order our lives according to our most deeply held commitments - is a spirituality. Love is a matter of the will. Most marriages are about as happy and as deep as the couple makes up their minds to be.

If you plan to be married, please prepare to stand on the very edge of your life. Expect to confront an answer to the question Thomas Merton once kept asking himself: "What Can I Say 'Yes' to, Without Reserve?"

Your marital intentions position you toward the path of volition, commitment and grace.

### Wedding Arrangements

A wedding service in a church is a service of worship with deep spiritual significance. We are ready to help make your wedding a joyful and meaningful occasion.

### Wedding Fees

The following fees include: Use of the church facilities, administrative fees, and payment to the Custodian and Organist. They will be adjusted if you will be using an Organist other than a member of the church staff. Our minister only officiates weddings of members. Please consult with the Office Manager if you have any questions.

<u>Active member of First Congregational Church:</u>	\$475.00
<u>Inactive member or other UCC Member:</u>	\$850.00
<u>Non-UCC Members:</u>	\$1,150.00

Use of microphones is included.

Additional sound system use	minimum \$100
Additional building use	\$50/hour

\*For purposes of this document, active membership is defined as a member who regularly participates in worship and financial support to the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo. Children of active members are also included in this category.

**Scheduling** - Arrangements for the use of the church and its services should be made as far in advance as possible. The date for your wedding will be set in consultation with one of the ministers and will be confirmed by the Office Manager. No wedding is finally confirmed until a Wedding Agreement is signed and delivered, along with a non-refundable \$200.00 deposit, to the Office Manager. **The balance due must be paid no later than 30 days prior to the wedding date.** Wedding services will not be conducted on Ash Wednesday, during Holy Week, on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, or on any Sunday.

The church building will be open for your rehearsal for a **maximum of ninety minutes**. The building will be open for a **maximum of four hours** on the day of your wedding. Arrangements can be made for you to come in and decorate at another time. Please consult with the Office Manager regarding the times of your rehearsal and wedding ceremony, as well as the times that the building will be opened and closed, as soon as possible in order for these times to be entered on the church's Master Calendar.

**Minister** - The minister will help you to prepare for your marriage and plan your wedding. After you have contacted the minister, a series of meetings will be arranged at a mutually convenient time well before your wedding day for premarital counseling and to arrange your wedding service. The minister will encourage you to take an active part in the creation of your service. His/her guidance and advice will insure for you a wedding which is worshipful and memorable.

**Music** - The music for your service will be selected in consultation with the church organist and/or the Director of Music. Any organist other than the church organist must be approved by the church organist and/or the Director of Music. The church organist will be paid a consulting fee of \$50.00 for orienting an approved guest organist.

**Decorations** - All candles used in the church must be dripless candles. A kneeling bench is available if it is desired. Please check with the church office as to the time the florist may deliver flowers or other items ordered. No adhesive or scotch tape, nails, tacks or other devices may be used on the walls or pews in either the Chapel or Sanctuary. Your florist will have pew hooks available for your use. Due concern for the church property must be exercised at all times. Any contemplated extraordinary arrangements, such as decorations, moving furniture, additions, etc. should be discussed with the Office Manager and approved by the church's Property Committee. Rice, confetti or similar products shall NOT be thrown on church property.

**Photographs** - Flash photography or motion picture photography is not normally permitted during the service. Special arrangements may be made in consultation with the minister who will be officiating. A picture taking session may be scheduled either before or after the service.