

8. The church has two white wrought-iron seven-candle candelabra available for use. Any candles (unity candles, candles for the candelabra, etc.), other decorations, and aisle runners are provided by the couple

9. Since the wedding ceremony is a worship service, no flash photography is permitted during the ceremony itself. Photographs may be taken during the processional and recessional, and before and after the ceremony. Video taping and non-flash photography by professionals is permitted from the balcony or the rear of the sanctuary during the ceremony.

10. The wedding license is obtained through the office of the county recorder. The license should be delivered to the church office no later than the beginning of the week prior to the wedding ceremony.

11. No alcohol is permitted on church premises.

12. All wedding fees should be paid at or prior to the time of the wedding rehearsal. Arrangements and fees for holding a wedding reception at the church are made separately. Fees are as follows:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-member</u>
Use of Building		
Sanctuary	0	\$300
(or chapel)	0	\$150
Custodian	\$100	\$100
Music		
Organist	\$200-250	\$200-250
Church soloist	\$75-100	\$75-100
Minister	Honorarium	\$300

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

608 W. 4th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702
319-234-8927



WEDDING POLICY

(Revised 9/2022)

What We Believe about Marriage

Marriage is a covenant, a human relationship initiated by the making of unconditional promises and sustained by the faithful keeping of those promises. A covenantal relationship is unusually fragile because it comes with no guarantees. But, at the same time, a covenantal relationship is unusually powerful because no limits are set to its possibilities, its growth, its depth.

We believe the covenant of marriage is God's gift to humankind. Through God's grace, we enjoy in marriage, at its best, a secure environment which permits an unparalleled opportunity for the growth of companionship, trust, and intimacy. In marriage, God offers us a picture of what God's own faithful love for us is like. In marriage, God offers us a model of the intimacy God intends between Christ and Christ's church.

For all these reasons, we take marriage seriously. As a church, we offer more than simply "a place to be married." We seek to help couples prepare for marriage, not just for a wedding. We are delighted to share with a couple in the total process of covenant-making and covenant-keeping. We do our best to make the wedding ceremony itself beautiful and meaningful, and we stand ready, after the wedding, to offer our counsel, our support, our encouragement, and our blessing.

We believe in marriage, permanent marriage. But we do understand that sometimes marriages are dissolved because of infidelity or broken promises or any number of other reasons stemming from our human frailty. In such cases, we believe that God's kindness and love for us continues undiminished, and that God acts to heal our brokenness. Remarriage can be part of that healing process, and when it is, we are glad to participate in it.

Our Wedding Policy

1. We are a Christian church. It is expected that the wedding be a Christian ceremony and that the couple demonstrate a willingness to respect the faith orientation of the congregation.
2. Our church is a congregation, not a building. It is expected that our pastor will officiate at all weddings. If the couple wishes, other clergy may participate at the discretion and invitation of our pastor.
3. In providing weddings, our first responsibility is to members of our own congregation. We will, however, at the discretion of the pastoral staff, provide weddings for couples who have no congregation of their own or who, for other reasons, wish to hold their wedding here.
4. A minimum of two months advance notice is required to schedule a wedding.
5. The couple is expected to meet with our pastor for premarital counseling. Marriage preparation will normally involve a series of four to six counseling sessions. In special circumstances, alternative arrangements for premarital counseling can be made.
6. The various elements of the wedding ceremony itself are planned in consultation with the officiating pastor. Our goal is to assist couples in planning a wedding that reflects their individuality, that highlights the great joy of the occasion, and that honors the God in whose presence we gather.
7. Wedding music is planned in consultation with the officiating pastor. Our church organist is available for help in choosing and providing music for the ceremony. Other musicians may be invited to participate.