



WEDDING PLANNER

First United Methodist Church of Seal Beach
148 10th Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740-6421
Office: 562-431-0494
Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Monday - Friday
Office@FirstChurchSealBeach.org
www.firstchurchsealbeach.org



2024 BROCHURE

BASIC INFORMATION

- *ABOUT FIRST CHURCH*
- *HOW TO MAKE YOUR WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS*
- *GENERAL WEDDING INFORMATION*
- *FEES*
- *AGREEMENT*



A Message from Rev. Tia Wildermuth



We at First Church in Seal Beach are happy to help make your wedding beautiful and to give it Christian significance. Like all important events in your life, the wedding service needs careful planning. This brochure and our staff wedding coordinator will assist you through the process. Congratulations on your engagement and please let us know how we can help with your wedding plans.



Arrangements for the Wedding

First United Methodist Church is dedicated to the glory of God. It is maintained by its members and friends to serve the community. The church is happy to make its facilities available to all who desire a wedding service which emphasizes the sacredness of Christian marriage. In keeping with its mission, the church does not rent its facilities for weddings. There are, however, fees involved in the use of church facilities, equipment and personnel.

This brochure has been developed to guide couples of our church and community in preparing for their wedding ceremony. For more information, please contact the church's Wedding Coordinator.



STEP ONE: Set The Date & Make the Deposit

When a church wedding is desired, it is necessary to schedule the date and time through the church office. This should be done as far in advance as possible, preferably three to six months before the ceremony. When the date is cleared, a non-refundable deposit of \$100 (for non-members) is required to officially place the date on the church calendar.



STEP TWO: Make an Appointment with the Pastor

Make an appointment with Rev. Tia Wildermuth for premarital counseling. This is a time to go over with the Pastor the wedding service, the meaning of the vows and an opportunity to find helpful tools for communication. The first session should be scheduled when you reserve the church for your wedding. It is the couple's responsibility to make this appointment.



STEP THREE: Make an Appointment with the Wedding Coordinator

Make an appointment with the wedding coordinator to review the wedding ceremony and the church facility. The wedding coordinator can assist you in many of the details involved in the ceremony.



**Important
Information**

1) The Pastor

The pastor of First United Methodist Church will officiate at all weddings (other United Methodist Church pastors may officiate at the discretion of the resident pastor). It is necessary to make preliminary arrangements with the pastor before detailed arrangements are made.

2) Wedding Coordinator

The services of the wedding coordinator are required for all weddings. After first consulting the church office, the office will contact the wedding coordinator, who will in turn call the bride. The coordinator will assist in the church details of the wedding. The wedding license must be given to the coordinator at the rehearsal. Arrangements regarding decorations, flowers, etc. are worked out in advance. At the rehearsal and wedding ceremony the coordinator will assist the bride and her attendants and provide direction for the wedding party. If have a personal wedding planner their duties end when you walk into the church.

3) Marriage License

Please obtain your license in time to bring it to the rehearsal. If you need assistance in knowing where to get your license, consult with the Wedding Coordinator, Pastor or Church Administrator.

4) Parking

There is a small lot behind the church. Parking is also available on the street with parking passes. If needed, passes will be distributed on the day of the wedding. Maps to our church are available from the Wedding Coordinator.

5) The Wedding Music

The Wedding Ceremony in a Christian Church is foremost a spiritual celebration. Your selections of music ought to be done with this in mind. Please discuss your music selections with the Wedding Coordinator. Our accompanist is an experienced professional who plays a variety of music that will add special beauty to your wedding day. Other musical options are available upon request and availability. If you wish to have your own accompanist there will be a sitting fee of \$100.00.

Music Selections for Your Wedding Service

The services of the wedding coordinator are required for all weddings over 6 people. After first consulting the church office, the office will contact the Accompanist, who will in turn call the bride. The coordinator will assist in the church details of the wedding. Please contact the Accompanist as soon as possible to go over the music selections for your wedding. Also, if you would like a soloist at your service, contact one as soon as possible and discuss your music selection. Then let the Wedding Coordinator know what the music selection will be.

Accompanist: Eric Anderson (562) 431-0494

Soloist: Anjanette Navarro (714) 305-2313



6) Photographs

The church is open for taking pictures one hour before the service is scheduled to begin and will be open for one hour after. We ask that no flash pictures be taken during the wedding ceremony. Please advise your guests of this policy. Details about when and where pictures are to be taken should be discussed in advance with the photographer. An instruction sheet for the photographer is included in the contract and fee schedule.

7) Flowers and Candles, etc.

Arrangements for flowers are the responsibility of the couple. Included in the contract and fee schedule is an instruction sheet for your florist. Alternating pews have rings for attaching decorations. The use of candles is limited by the fire department to the Chancel area. Only the church candelabra may be used. The Cross, Bible and candles must remain in position, and must not be covered or hidden. The church will supply candles for your service for a fee.

8) Invitations

The name and address of the church is as follows:

First United Methodist Church of Seal Beach
148 10th Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740

EXPECTATIONS OF THE WEDDING PARTY

Because we believe that a Christian Wedding is unique from all other weddings we ask your cooperation. Your observance of these requests will insure that your wedding will be the meaningful occasion that you desire. You are responsible for informing all members of your wedding party:

- A. No smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages anywhere on the church premises.
- B. Rice, confetti or seeds are not to be thrown.
- C. The party arranging for the wedding shall be responsible for any damage to the building or furnishings by guests, florists, photographers and wedding party.

**“... Faith, hope, love abide, but the greatest of these is LOVE”
1 Corinthians 13:13**



GENERAL INFORMATION

- * The suggested arrival time is one hour before the ceremony.
- * You will probably want an attendant who will be in charge of guests signing your wedding book. We also suggest you have an attendant receive your wedding gifts and be responsible for transporting them away from the church following the ceremony.
- * It is a good idea to have a friend be responsible for taking the bridal party's personal items of clothing, handbags, etc. and locking them in the trunk of a car before the start of the ceremony. This way nothing is left behind in the excitement of the day.
- * Please note that the bride is responsible for 3 Unity candles; two 8" tapers and one 3" base column candle. These candles will be brought to the wedding rehearsal.
- * It is suggested that one member of the wedding party be responsible for distributing parking passes on the wedding day. This same person could be designated as directing your guests to the reception after the ceremony.
- * All members of the wedding party should be present at the rehearsal including parents of the couple.

MORE FEE INFORMATION FOR WEDDINGS

WEDDING CEREMONY:

Please see contract and fee schedule for fees.

The following items are included:

The Rehearsal	Kneeling Bench
The Sanctuary	The Minister
Dressing Rooms	The Wedding Coordinator
The Accompanist	
Candelabras, Unity Candle Holder	
Parking Passes/Lot Maps (2 1/2 hours)	
Sanctuary seats 80 people	

Except for the non-member \$100 deposit to confirm the date and time for the wedding all payments should be at the Wedding Rehearsal.



SPECIAL NOTES

BRIDE NOTES:

GROOM NOTES:



First Church History

The year was 1915 and a little California beach resort community would not be the same because the Methodists had come to town. Why had they come? Probably because Seal Beach was a town of gambling and sin and, wherever the gospel was needed, there you would find Methodists.

On Sunday August 20, 1915 @ 3:00 p.m., in a converted bungalow at 125 6th Street, the First Methodist Episcopal Church at Seal Beach held their dedication service. First Methodist was the first organized church in Seal Beach. This new church wanted to reach the beach people in the area so they set up a somewhat less than traditional approach to their outreach ministry. They became “the church open every day from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. as a kind of ‘drop in at any time’ place for the visitors of the resort.” It was a sort of community center with “rest rooms and reading rooms, with books and periodicals, and someone in attendance.” A series of evening socials were held to attract the people of the beach. And, of course, refreshments were served.

In 1926 an anonymous donor gave \$1,000 during a prayer meeting. This money was used to purchase two lots on 10th Street, the current site of the church. The bungalow was moved there. It was remodeled to include a belfry with a bell that could be heard on Sunday morning up until 1943. In 1943 the bungalow was remodeled once again to enlarge it with a towering roof and many of the features we see today in our existing chapel.

Then in the 1960’s the house in the rear of the church was torn down, and the Fellowship Hall and the classrooms were added to give us our present facility.





CHECK OFF LIST

PASTOR _____

ACCOMPANIST _____

SOLOIST _____

WEDDING COORDINATOR _____

FLORIST _____

PHOTOGRAPHER _____

BAKERY _____

INVITATIONS _____

RECEPTION _____

IMPORTANT DATES:

CONSULTATION WITH PASTOR _____

CONSULTATION WITH WEDDING COORDINATOR

REHEARSAL _____

WEDDING _____

NOTES:



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