

**WEDDINGS**  
**AT THE**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**OF RIVER EDGE**



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***YOUR WEDDING  
AT THE  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF RIVER EDGE***

This pamphlet provides guidance for your wedding at the First Congregational Church of River Edge. It focuses on the ceremony; the more important dynamics of the marriage relationship will be addressed in pre-marital counseling sessions with the Pastor.

**THE FIRST THING TO DO**

Call the church's Administrative Assistant suggesting the wedding date you would like to have considered. At the same time, set a date for an interview with the Pastor. The Pastor cannot commit to performing a marriage ceremony until the initial interview; thus it is wise to meet with the Pastor before any public announcement is made of a wedding at the First Congregational Church of River Edge.

**PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING**

We believe the wedding ceremony should be tailored to the particular couple. As long as the essential Christian content of the service is preserved, general procedures will be carried out as the bride and groom desire, in consultation with the Pastor. The couple should be willing to spend three (3) or four (4) sessions in counseling with the Pastor, and to engage in a marriage course such as Prepare/Enrich, or another option mutually agreed upon with the Pastor.

**INVITATIONS**

You will want to consult with your printer and have the invitations prepared. The suggested form of the address of the church is:

First Congregational Church of River Edge  
109 Continental Ave  
River Edge, NJ 07661

## **CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**

A license from the state of New Jersey should be obtained at least one week before the wedding. The license is normally obtained from the Registrar of the town in which the bride lives. Please bring the marriage license to the church office by the Wednesday prior to the wedding rehearsal. In New Jersey, the Pastor completes the license and is responsible for returning it to the state. The church will issue the married couple a special certificate after the ceremony. Please note that your marriage cannot be performed until 72 hours have elapsed from the time that application is made for the certificate.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

Approximately one hour should be allowed for the rehearsal. All who will participate in the wedding, including attendants, parents and ushers, should be present.

## **DECORATION OF THE CHURCH**

Arrangements for floral decorations should be made through the florist of your choice. Florists unfamiliar with our church should be told that it is not permissible to put nails, tacks, or tape into or on the woodwork, nor to use wire or string in fastening bows or flowers to the pews. Florists are expected to supply flower containers. Please advise the church administrator if you wish to leave the flowers for worship the following Sunday. No decorations shall be used which will hide from clear view the worship symbols in the Chancel such as the Cross, the Bible, communion table, pulpit and lectern. No chancel furnishings are to be moved or rearranged.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY**

Since the wedding service is a religious service, all photographers (amateur and professional) are asked to honor the ceremony and the place. Photographers are requested to refrain from taking flash pictures during the wedding ceremony. Ample time and opportunity will be given after the actual ceremony for the posing of as many pictures as desired. Videotaping may be done only from the balcony without artificial lighting. There is an audio jack in the balcony for use in videotaping services.

## **MUSIC**

Organ music is to be rendered by the Minister of Music of the First Congregational Church of River Edge. Please contact the Minister of Music immediately upon reserving the church. Meet with her at least two (2) months before the wedding date to discuss the selection of music. Otherwise, she will choose a program that will be suitable. The wedding is a service of worship, and the music selected must be part of the praise and prayer of the event. Music must be of a liturgical nature; other music of a non-religious nature may not be used. Recorded music may not be used. The organist will assist in choosing hymns and additional musicians, if desired.

## **THE WEDDING DAY**

Normally the bride and her attendants will want to arrive at least fifteen minutes in advance. They can make their last minute preparations in the church parlor. Ushers, groom and groomsmen should arrive one hour before the appointed hour of the wedding. Due to maintenance and environmental concerns, we request that you do not throw rice, birdseed or flower petals in the church or on the church grounds. Because of the amount of work required to make the building ready for Sunday worship, the church must be cleared by 6:00 pm, Saturday.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There is a non-member fee for sanctuary use of \$600.00.

When either the bride or the groom or their immediate family are active members of the First Congregational Church of River Edge, there is no charge for the use of the church. But there are the following fees for special services provided by the Church Staff:

Pastor	\$350.00
Organist	\$325.00*
Soloist	(Variable)
Wedding Coordinator	\$50.00
Preparation & Cleaning Fee	\$80.00

(\*Variable, based on what is requested.)