

INVITATIONS: For printed invitations, we recommend this designation and address:

The Meeting House of
The First Parish of Westwood, United Church
Nahatan & Clapboardtree Streets
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

FEES: The following charges apply to weddings at First Parish:

FEE	PARISH MEMBERS	OTHERS
Use of Meeting House	none	\$300
Clergy	\$450	\$450
Organist	\$150	\$150
Sexton	\$125	\$125
Use of Parish Hall	\$175 (includes sexton fee)	\$300

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- The fee for the use of the Meeting House (if applicable) is to be paid as soon as the date and time of the wedding are arranged. The date you specify will be reserved specifically for you only upon receipt of this fee.
- All other fees are to be paid at or before the rehearsal.
 - Checks for the use of the Meeting House and/or Parish Hall should be made payable to “First Parish of Westwood”.
 - Other checks should be made payable to the individuals and given to them personally at the rehearsal:
 - Pastor: Rev. Christopher L. Dodge
 - Organist: Karen Westerfield Tucker
 - Sexton: Denis Wholey

Once again, we thank you for including First Parish of Westwood in your plans for your wedding ceremony. We will do all we can to help you make your wedding special and memorable. Please feel free to call the church office (781-326-5344 or “parish1st@firstparishwestwood.org) between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM, Monday through Friday if we can help you in any way.

WEDDINGS
AT
FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UNITED CHURCH

340 Clapboardtree Street,
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090



Rev. Christopher L. Dodge, Pastor

Study: (781) 326-0135
Email: revchris@firstparishwestwood.org

YOUR WEDDING AT FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UNITED CHURCH

INFORMATION FOR THE BRIDE & GROOM

The Service of Holy Matrimony is a solemn and joyous rite of the Christian Church. Therefore, the First Parish of Westwood welcomes your interest in being married in its Meeting House and is pleased to be a part of your wedding plans. We are eager to help you make your wedding a sacred and memorable occasion, and even more importantly, your marriage a success and a blessing!

If you and your fiancé do not worship at First Parish regularly, we earnestly invite you to do so. If one or both of you live at a distance, then worship wherever you are – and together whenever you can. You will find that worshipping together will make both your wedding ceremony and your marriage truer expressions of your faith.

PREMARITAL CONFERENCES: The most important preparation for marriage takes place in your hearts and minds. To help this happen, a pastor normally meets with you at least two times before the wedding. These appointments will provide an opportunity for a discussion of the nature and meaning of Christian love and marriage, and planning for the ceremony itself. In order for these conferences to serve their purpose, a period of three to six months is usually necessary. *It is suggested that you contact the church office or the pastor as soon as you have decided to get married, even before a date is set.* The pastor needs to be a part of your planning, and in this way can be of more assistance.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME: As soon as you have a date in mind, check with the secretary in the church office to be sure the church's calendar is clear. *Please note that no date can be firm until you have your first appointment with a pastor.* If there is another wedding scheduled for that date, at least a two-hour interval is necessary. *Members of First Parish have priority up to six months prior to the reserved date.*

ARRANGEMENT OF THE SERVICE:

Though these matters will be discussed in one of the pre-marital conferences, you should be aware of certain policies from the outset.

- *The pastor of First Parish officiates at all services held in our Meeting House.* At his/her discretion, other clergy may be invited to participate and assist in a service. The pastor is also responsible for the content of each service, and although he/she desires the service to be expressive of your taste, the service must also conform to the standards of Christian faith and worship. Thus, your own preferences in music, readings, etc. will need to be approved in advance by one of the pastors.
- *Our Organist* will gladly consult with you regarding music selections. If his schedule permits, he plays for all weddings. A substitute organist will be necessary in his absence.
- *Floral Arrangements:* A pair of matching bouquets usually provides sufficient floral decoration. Ribbons, if used, must be tied or taped – *not tacked or nailed* – to the church furnishings.
- *Candles/Aisle Runner:*
 - *Candles:* Aisle and altar candles will be provided by the church. Unity candles should be provided by the bride.
 - *Aisle runner:* If a runner is desired, the bride should plan to arrange it through the florist. (Our aisle is 75 feet long, with 14 rows of pews on each side.)
- *Photography:* All photographers and videographers must consult with the officiating pastor in advance for guidelines regarding what is permissible during the ceremony.

THE REHEARSAL:

A rehearsal is required for a formal wedding and is normally scheduled a day or two before the ceremony. The church's sexton and organist are present with the pastor. *If not provided earlier, the marriage license should be presented to the pastor at the rehearsal.*

THE RECEPTION: The Parish Hall, immediately across the street from the Meeting House, is available for receptions.

- The hall, with adjoining kitchen, is very suitable for catered functions.
- Both the Meeting House and our Parish Hall are handicapped accessible. There is ample parking space available on both sides of the street.
- Please note – The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on church premises.