

# WEDDINGS FAQ

Congratulations on your engagement! We at First Baptist Church Jackson (FBCJ) look forward to helping you in this most exciting time of your life. The staff at FBCJ and the Committee of Wedding Directors offer support and expertise as we focus on this service of worship. A wedding is a sacred, holy and serious occasion where solemn promises are made to God. It is sacred and holy because it was established by God Himself, serious because it will bind you together for life.

The frequently asked questions below will help you determine if First Baptist Church Jackson can meet your needs and create the wedding of your dreams. More information is included in the Wedding Plan Booklet given to brides as their wedding is confirmed and also available on this website.

**Is membership required to book a wedding at First Baptist Church Jackson?**

**What is the cost?**

**Is a deposit required to reserve the church?**

**Does the deposit go toward the fees?**

**What is included in the cost?**

**How do I schedule a wedding at First Baptist Church Jackson?**

**How far in advance can wedding date be reserved?**

**When do weddings take place?**

**What are the policies?**

**Can an outside minister perform the ceremony?**

**Do I have to use an FBCJ wedding director?**

**May real flower petals be thrown?**

**Can the screens in the sanctuary be used?**

**Can a video be shown?**

**Can poetry be used for a reading?**

**What is the policy regarding premarital counseling?**

**Where will guest park on the wedding day?**

**May existing church greenery be used for my ceremony? My reception?**

**May wreaths be placed on the exterior doors?**

**Is childcare available?**

**Is the FBCJ video equipment available for use?**

**Is there a reception facility?**

**Can a wedding reception only be booked?**

**Are we required to use the food service of First Baptist Church?**

### **Is membership required to book a wedding at First Baptist Church Jackson (FBCJ)?**

No. Membership is not required to book a chapel wedding. For couples wanting to marry in the sanctuary or marry on a holiday weekend, the bride or groom or one of their parents must be members of FBCJ.

### **What is the cost?**

The cost depends on the location of the ceremony and if a reception is held at FBCJ. The fees are outlined in our Wedding Plan Booklet.

### **Is a deposit required to reserve the church?**

The \$500 deposit is not required to begin the reservation process. Once the wedding is approved, the deposit is due within two (2) weeks.

### **Does the deposit go toward the fees?**

The deposit does not go toward the fees but is returned one month after the ceremony as long as all policies are followed.

### **What is included in the cost?**

Use of the facilities for the rehearsal and ceremony. Housekeeping and maintenance services. Security personnel. Wedding coordination, sound technician and lighting technician, where applicable.

### **How do I schedule a wedding?**

Contact FBCJ Wedding Coordinator, Terri Pigford, at [tpigford@fbcj.org](mailto:tpigford@fbcj.org) or 601-949-1925. The process for approval on the church calendar takes seven to ten days.

### **How far in advance can the church be booked?**

We do not book more than one (1) year in advance. Also, to allow time for premarital counseling, we do not recommend booking less than three months from desired wedding date.

### **What are the policies?**

The policies are in our Wedding Plan Booklet. The booklet can be viewed and printed through our website, [counselingministry.com](http://counselingministry.com) or [fbcj.org](http://fbcj.org). Once a wedding is booked, the bride is given a hard copy of the Wedding Plan Booklet.

**Can an outside minister perform the ceremony?**

Yes, outside ministers are welcome to officiate at FBCJ weddings. The minister will need to contact the Wedding Coordinator to confirm he is licensed and ordained.

**Do I have to use an FBCJ Wedding Director?**

Yes. The trained FBCJ wedding director is of invaluable assistance in planning your wedding. She will interpret all policies and direct the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

**May real flower petals be thrown?**

Yes. The aisles should not be covered in petals previously to seating of the guests but may be thrown by the flower girl.

**Can the screens in the sanctuary be used before or during a wedding?**

No. The screens are not available for use during weddings.

**Can a video be shown during the wedding?**

No. As the screens are not available, videos cannot be shown.

**Can poetry be used for a reading?**

Readings, other than scripture, will need to be submitted to the Wedding Coordinator for approval.

**What is the policy regarding premarital counseling?**

All couples marrying at FBCJ are required to go through premarital counseling. For more information, go to [counselingministry.com](http://counselingministry.com) and review Premarital Counseling FAQ.

**Where will wedding guest park?**

Guests may park along North President Street, College Street, or Mississippi Streets. There are also lots on Mississippi and College Streets. Parking in the Christian Life Center garage is not recommended.

**May existing church greenery be used for my ceremony? my reception?**

Yes. The greenery in the sanctuary may be used for the ceremony but cannot be taken out of the sanctuary. **my reception?** No. There is no greenery in the reception areas.

**May wreaths be placed on the exterior doors?**

Yes. Wreaths may be placed on the doors using existing nails/hooks.

**May the wedding gown be left at the church Friday evening?**

No. Nothing should be left at the church after rehearsal except florist hardware.

**Is childcare available?**

No. Arrangements for childcare should be made away from the church.

**Is there a reception facility?**

Yes. There are three areas normally used for receptions. Fellowship Hall East is used following sanctuary weddings and is for members only. Fellowship Hall West is ordinarily used after chapel weddings and some sanctuary weddings. The Chapel Dining Room is used for small receptions of no more than 100 guests.

**Can a wedding reception only be booked?**

No. Because of the number of events at FBCJ, we can only allow wedding receptions following an on-site ceremony.

**Are we required to use the food service of First Baptist Church Jackson?**

No. Outside caterers may provide the food for your reception.