

Faith Des Peres Wedding Q & A

I've just booked my wedding at Faith Des Peres, what do I do next?

First of all, congratulations! We are honored that you have chosen our sanctuary to be a part of your special day!

Here are a few guidelines:

2-3 months prior:

Minister: About 2-3 months before your wedding, you should contact the Church's pastor, Dr. Anne Epling, to arrange a meeting time to discuss ceremony plans. If you have any special readings/requests this is the time to present them to the minister. Dr. Epling officiates at all Faith Des Peres weddings and must approve all readings and special requests in advance. Please contact her at pastor@faithdesperes.org.

Music Director: This is also a good time to contact the Church's music director, Dr. Gay Holmes Spears, if you have not done so already. Dr. Spears must approve your music selections as well as your soloists or other special musical presentations at least 1 month prior to your wedding.

See pages 6 & 7 for further information about wedding music and a list of music selections. Please contact Dr. Spears at music@faithdesperes.org. Pre-recorded music is not allowed.

Three weeks prior:

The final balance payment of \$900 for your wedding is due in the church office no later than 21 days before your rehearsal. Your check should be made payable to Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church. It may be mailed to the church address: 11155 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO, 63131.

Two weeks prior:

Approximately two weeks before your wedding, please mail or email your completed *Wedding Information Form* to the Church Administrative Assistant, Suzanne Mays. She will then forward the form to the Wedding Director. If the Wedding Director has any questions, she will contact you at that time.

I have so many questions about decorations, etc. Who do I ask about that?

The Wedding Director, Donna Bilkey, is happy to answer any questions you may have. It's best to contact her by email at dsbilkey@gmail.com. If you want to speak by phone, please wait until after 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday to contact her at 314-609-3673.

What days of the week and times can I schedule my wedding?

Most of our weddings take place on Saturday. We have, however, had a few Friday night or Sunday afternoon weddings.

If you're planning a Friday wedding, the wedding must begin no earlier than 5:30 p.m. This allows plenty of time for people to leave their place of employment and navigate traffic. Saturday weddings may have a start time as early as 11:00 a.m. or as late as 6:00 p.m. A Sunday wedding must begin no earlier than 2:00 p.m.

What time can my wedding rehearsal begin?

Rehearsals can begin as early as 5:00 p.m. but no later than 7:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. Please give your wedding party a start time 15 minutes earlier than the time you've scheduled. This ensures the rehearsal starts on time and allows plenty of travel time to your rehearsal dinner.

NOTE: Only the Wedding Director attends the rehearsal. Neither the minister nor the music director will attend.

Do I need to bring anything to the rehearsal?

YES!!! You will need to bring two items:

- Marriage license
- Programs (if you have them)

(This would also be a good time to bring your Guest Book and Ring Bearer pillow if you're using them.)

One wedding can be different from another, so a program gives the Wedding Director a good idea of the kind of ceremony you're having. The Wedding Director also places a program on the organ for the Music Director.

We are having a rehearsal dinner afterwards. How long will the rehearsal take?

A lot depends on two factors:

- If everyone shows up on time
- The size of your wedding party

Generally, if the Bride and Groom, parents, Maid/Matron of Honor, and Best Man are there, we can start the rehearsal without the rest of the wedding party. It's always best to practice with everyone, but we know that doesn't always happen. The most important thing is that the wedding party/parents need to remember where to be and what time to be there on the day of the wedding. We'll walk you through the rest.

On my wedding day can I get dressed at the Church?

Absolutely! It's always easier if everyone is dressed and ready when they get to the Church, but we understand it doesn't normally happen that way.

The Church has two rooms that the Bride and her wedding party can use: the Bride's Room just off the Church foyer or a larger room upstairs, near the Church Offices.

Larger Room Upstairs: If you have a large wedding party, the room upstairs would suit your needs better. However, there is not a window and therefore no natural light; photographers prefer to have some natural light in a room for photos. If you would like photos of the Bride getting dressed, we suggest that everyone else dress in the larger room and the Bride dress in the Bride's Room off the Church foyer. There is a window in that room, and it's a much lovelier room for photos.

Approximately 35 minutes before the wedding, the Bridal party will be moved to the smaller Bride's room. There is enough seating for 7 people. It can get cramped and can get warm (we do have a fan), but moving the bride before guests arrive ensures that the Bride isn't visible to any guests before the ceremony. If you dress in the larger room, we have to move you from that room, down the steps, through the basement and back up to the foyer. It's much easier to do this prior to the guests arriving so the Wedding Director can focus on keeping the wedding on schedule.

Bride's Room: This is a small room off the Church foyer. This is where you will "hang out" until the Wedding Director announces it's time to begin.....

Special Note: *We do ask that the wedding party pack up all their makeup/clothes, etc. before they walk down the aisle. In the rush after the wedding to take photos, etc. it's one less thing to worry about and usually nothing is forgotten if it's already packed.*

NOTE: No alcohol is allowed on church premises.

Where does the Groom wait until the wedding begins?

We have a small "Groom's Room" (also our Teen Room) right below the larger upstairs room. To avoid a "run-in" we instruct the Bride and her party to use the bathrooms in the Gathering Space area and the Groom/Groomsmen to use the bathrooms on the lower level. We still encourage "look-outs" just in case.

We ask that the Groom and Groomsmen come dressed and ready to the Church.

NOTE: No alcohol is allowed on church premises.

What time can my vendors (florist, photographer, videographer, etc) get into the church on my wedding day?

Per Faith Des Peres' wedding contract, the wedding party and vendors are allowed into the church 1 ½ hours prior to the wedding. *This is firm.* However, if the couple plans to take photos PRIOR to the wedding, in the Church, time after the wedding devoted to this can instead be used before the wedding. This would allow an extra hour on top of the 1 ½ hour entry time.

For example, the wedding start time is 2:00 p.m. but the couple wants to do photos before the wedding and none after the wedding. The wedding party and vendors would then be allowed into the Church at 11:30 but must be out of the Church immediately following the recessional – typically by 2:30, with no receiving line at the Church.

How long does the typical wedding ceremony last?

You can expect anywhere from 15-25 minutes from the time the processional begins until the end of the ceremony. This depends on the size of your wedding party, readings, solos, etc.

How much time do I have after my wedding to take photographs?

Faith Des Peres allows one hour after the end of your wedding to do receiving line/photographs. For example, if your wedding begins at 2:00 p.m., generally the ceremony is over in 20-25 minutes (depending on wedding party size, readings, music selections, etc.). You would then have until 3:30 to do the receiving line and photos.

How much time should I allow for my receiving line?

Receiving lines generally move quickly. If you have between 150-200 guests, you should allow at least 30 minutes for the receiving line. During this time your photographer can be in the Church setting up for photos.

Or, you can opt to skip the receiving line at the Church and use the entire hour for photos. Some Brides prefer to receive guests at the reception. If this is the case, the Wedding Director will inform guests as they exit the Church. We'll be happy to accommodate either way.

Can we throw rice or petals?

We do not allow rice, birdseed, petals or any form of confetti.

What if I would like to have more time in the Church for photos?

Most photographers work quickly and can finish in ample time, even with large wedding parties. But, if you would like more time this will have to be worked out with the Church and the Wedding Director. There most likely will be an hourly fee involved.

I love your new Gathering Space area, and I'd like to have a small reception there after the wedding. Can I use the space?

The Gathering Space may be rented for an additional fee. Please contact Suzanne Mays, administrative assistant at Faith Des Peres, for more information.

I'm meeting with the florist. What information will they need to know?

Pews: There are 12 rows of pews and a front rail. The center aisle is 5'7" wide and 53' long from back to the front chancel steps.

Flowers/bows may be secured to the pews. They may be secured with ribbon (this is best) or plastic hooks specially designed for pews. No nails or tape are allowed.

Flower arrangements: Two pedestals near the altar are available for flowers, as well as the communion table. The use of candles is permitted as long as the carpeting and altar are completely protected from wax drippings. Dripleless candles are highly recommended. These must be provided by the florist or bride. The Church does not provide these.

Aisle runners: We recommend the use of canvas aisle runners. Paper aisle runners are not allowed because they tend to rip easily and do not stay in place, increasing the risk of accidents and falls. It is best to tack the aisle runner down to the front of the chancel steps with large, sturdy straight pins. Double-sided tape tends to not work as well. It is also recommended that the florist tack the aisle runner down prior to guests arriving. In this case, guests are escorted through the side doors but the main doors remain open with a ribbon across to block guests from walking on the aisle runner.

The florist is much better at placing an aisle runner down than ushers. This ensures that it's straight and without wrinkles.

Corsages/boutonnieres: It's important to ask your florist if they are servicing your wedding. Often, there is an additional fee for this. By "service the wedding" we mean that the florist is pinning the corsages and boutonnieres on your wedding party. Our Wedding Director does not handle this. If your florist is not servicing the wedding, you will need to find someone who will handle this for you.

Flower petals: We do not allow flower petals, fresh or silk, on the aisle.

What does my photographer need to know?

Please make your photographer aware of the following:

- No flash photography during the ceremony; flash may be used during the processional and recessional only.
- The photographer is allowed no further than the 2nd pew during the processional. Once the bride has reached her groom the photographer must move to the side aisles or balcony for photos. Our Wedding Director recommends that the photographer place their equipment along an aisle pew to "reserve" their spot.
- An un-manned camera is allowed in the choir area (altar area). This includes video. A photographer/videographer would need a remote to operate.
- The photographer has one hour after the end of the ceremony to take photographs.

I plan to have a young child participate in my wedding. What do I need to know?

We encourage you to think carefully before asking small children to participate in the wedding processional. Children ages 4 and under are not always ready to perform in such an important and timely role. With all of the careful planning and expense for your wedding day, please consider the risk of upsetting a small child right before the bride's entry!

Our Wedding Director will not force a young child to participate on the wedding day. We will not attempt to negotiate, talk, or work with the child in the middle of the ceremony because we have learned that this only makes things worse.

Some suggestions for young children in weddings:

- Consider finding a "non-processional" role for small children you would like to include in your wedding day. Can the child participate in some other way, such as helping to hand out programs, or a special place in your reception?

- If you choose to include a young child in your processional, have a small gift for the child waiting at the front of the church. When it is the child's turn to walk, have someone the child knows well lean out into the aisle with the gift, clearly visible in case the child is suddenly stunned or frightened at the experience.
- Use the rehearsal as a time to gauge a child's feelings about participation. If a child appears to be reluctant at the rehearsal, plan for someone the child knows well to walk with the child in the wedding.
- You might also consider bringing the child to the church for a practice walk a week or so before the rehearsal date. Please call the church office to arrange a time for this visit during our regular weekday hours, Monday through Friday.

NOTE: Each child who is in the processional will need to have a designated adult with whom he/she will sit during the wedding ceremony.

My wedding music – What do I need to know?

To assist you in your planning, the following page lists some very popular classical music selections often played at weddings. You can hear many of these online. Please choose one or more selections from each category. If there is something you want which does not appear on this list, you will need to contact our Music Director for his/her approval at least one month before your scheduled wedding date. You will need to provide sheet music if your choice does not appear on this list.

For the prelude, the organist will play a variety of subdued classical music.

If a Unity Candle is to be lit, the organist will play a short piece of music.

If you are planning to have a soloist or other special musical presentation, please contact our Music Director for his/her approval at least one month before your scheduled wedding date. You will need to provide sheet music.

The Music Director will contact you to confirm your selections approximately two weeks before your wedding. Please contact the Music Director at music@faithdesperes.org if you have questions.

MUSIC SELECTIONS LISTED BY TITLE AND COMPOSER

Selections for seating of family members.

_____	<i>Canon in D</i>	Pachelbel
_____	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J.S. Bach
_____	<i>St. Anthony Chorale</i>	Haydn
_____	<i>"Air" from The Water Music</i>	Handel
_____	<i>"Largo" from Xerxes</i>	Handel
_____	<i>Air on the G String</i>	J.S. Bach
_____	Other (Music Director's approval required)	

Selections for procession of the bridesmaids.

_____	<i>Canon in D</i>	Pachelbel
_____	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J.S. Bach
_____	<i>St. Anthony Chorale</i>	Haydn
_____	<i>"Air" from The Water Music</i>	Handel
_____	<i>"Largo" from Xerxes</i>	Handel
_____	<i>Air on the G String</i>	J.S. Bach
_____	Other (Music Director's approval required)	

Selections for the bride's processional.

_____	<i>Bridal Chorus ("Here Comes the Bride")</i>	Wagner
_____	<i>Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark's March</i>	Purcell/Clarke
_____	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Purcell
_____	<i>Psalm XIX</i>	Marcello
_____	<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	Stanley
_____	<i>Te Deum</i>	Charpentier
_____	Other (Music Director's approval required)	

Selections for the recessional.

_____	<i>"Hornpipe" from The Water Music</i>	Handel
_____	<i>Rondeau</i>	Mouret
_____	<i>Wedding March</i>	Mendelssohn
_____	<i>Ode to Joy</i>	Beethoven
_____	<i>"The Rejoicing" from Royal Fireworks Music</i>	Handel
_____	<i>Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark's March</i>	Purcell/Clarke
_____	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Purcell
_____	<i>Psalm XIX</i>	Marcello
_____	<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	Stanley
_____	Other (Music Director's approval required)	

Other music.

_____	(Music Director's approval required)	
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