
Weddings at the Meetinghouse

*The union of two people,
in heart, body and mind
is intended by God
for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort
given one another in prosperity and adversity;
and, when it is God's will,
for the procreation of children
and their nurture
in the knowledge and love of God.
Therefore, marriage is not to be entered
into unadvisedly or rightly,
but reverently and deliberately.
—Book of Common Prayer, revised*

A marriage ceremony in the Meetinghouse is an act of worship. It is an occasion in which two persons exchange commitments and seek God's blessing through the wisdom and counsel of scripture and the power of prayer.

We are delighted that you are considering being married at the Meetinghouse. Your wedding day is one that you will never forget, and we are eager to help make that experience meaningful and special.

We want to do all we can to make your preparations as informed and simple as possible. This flyer provides an overview of what to expect.

When you are ready, the first step is to contact the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Rundlett at 203.748.2806. She will then schedule a time to meet with you to discuss your relationship, explore a sacred understanding of the meaning of marriage, and to plan the wedding service.

What is required?

- **A completed wedding application.**
- **A non-refundable deposit (applied to final balance) of \$150.**
- **Premarital Counseling with officiating pastor.**
- **Final Payment two weeks prior to your wedding date.**

FAQ

Do you have to be baptized? There is no baptism or membership requirement.

Is pre-marital counseling required? Yes, two premarital counseling sessions are required with the pastor; one of which is used to plan the service.

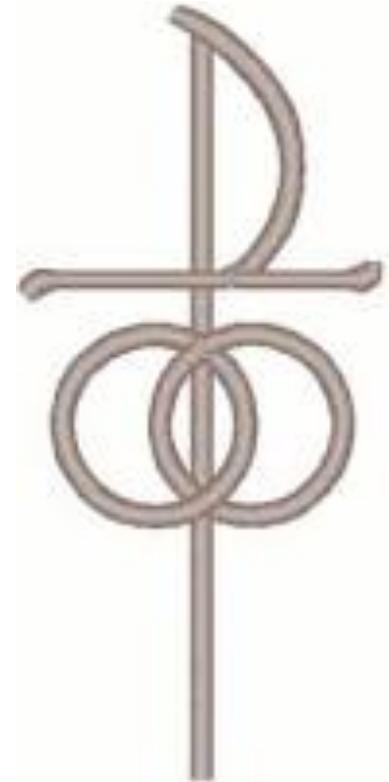
Who can serve as the officiating minister? All weddings at the Meetinghouse are performed by the pastor or designee. However, with prior approval, a visiting minister may perform or assist in the ceremony.

Do you marry same-sex couples? Yes. Performing a wedding for any couple, regardless of gender, is always at the discretion of the pastor.

Does the Meetinghouse have facilities suitable for a reception following the ceremony? Yes. Shields Hall is available, with full kitchen.

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I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.
—Song of Songs 6:3



Setting the Date

Couples who wish to be married at the Meetinghouse should make their plans as far in advance as possible. When you are ready to schedule, you will be asked to complete and return an application, along with a non-refundable deposit.

Meeting with the Pastor

The couple will meet with the pastor twice—once for premarital counseling and once to plan the service.

Planning the Service

The pastor will guide the couple through an understanding of the sacred covenant of marriage, the form and shape of the service, and the couple's desires about the service.

Music

Our Music Director will provide music for the ceremony (or secure a substitute). Vocal soloists or additional instrumentalists can also be arranged, if you desire. Musical selections should reflect an understanding that weddings in the Meetinghouse are services of worship.

The Meetinghouse

Our sanctuary can hold up to 150 people. No wedding will be scheduled on the following days: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, or during Holy Week.

The Rehearsal

A date and time for the rehearsal will be set when you meet with the pastor for the first time. Typically, they are scheduled a day or two before the wedding. The rehearsal, itself, takes about one hour. Please be sure your entire wedding party is on time for the rehearsal.

The Day of the Wedding

The church will open one and a half hours before the wedding is scheduled to begin. The wedding party should arrive at the church a minimum of 40 minutes before the wedding.

Deposit & Fees

The fees for non-contributing members and friends are as follows:

- Honorarium for Pastor: \$400
- Music Director: \$225.
- Soloist/Instrumentalist (if used): \$125.
- Custodial fee: \$150; if Shields Hall is used, \$300.
- Shields Hall: \$500
- Donation to Ridgebury Congregational Church for use of the Meetinghouse: \$200.

Photography & Videography

A wedding ceremony in the Meetinghouse is a service of sacred worship. As such, all photographs should be taken before or after the service. Videotaping is permitted from the balcony only.

All Couples Welcome

In keeping with our long legacy of social justice and inclusivity, the Meetinghouse proclaims the equal rights of all people, including the legal right to marry the person of their choice.

Hospitality to All Faiths

While typically a Christian service, the Meetinghouse extends hospitality to interfaith, inter-religious, and ecumenical couples and will work to support your needs.



**The Meetinghouse
Ridgebury Congregational church
602 Ridgebury Road
Ridgebury, CT 06877**

203.748.2806

www.RidgeburyCongregationalChurch.org

**The Rev. Dr. Deborah Rundlett, pastor
Ms. Sara Vokes, Music Director**