

Weddings
at Prairie Lakes Church



prairie lakes
CHURCH

Congratulations

While we believe accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important, life-changing decision you make, choosing the person with whom you will live within the sacred covenant of marriage closely follows. Now that you have chosen to commit yourselves to each other, we encourage you to center your engagement, marriage and home on Christ.

At Prairie Lakes Church, we commit ourselves to helping you develop your vision for your wedding day into a God-focused, unforgettable ceremony. We also commit ourselves to helping you prepare for a God-honoring, love-filled marriage lasting a lifetime.

Required Steps

Below is a brief outline of the wedding planning process.

- Complete application
- Submit contract and deposit
- Complete premarital counseling
- Plan your ceremony

The Application

6-18 Months Prior to Wedding

The first step to planning a wedding performed on a Prairie Lakes Church campus or by a Prairie Lakes Church pastor is to complete an application which is available online at prairielakeschurch.org.

Submit Contract and Deposit

6-18 Months Prior to Wedding

After your application has been reviewed and accepted, you may submit your contract and deposit to secure your date. We book only one wedding per weekend. Please note when determining a date and time:

- The following weekends are unavailable: New Years, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Other campus-specific dates may be unavailable.
- Weddings are only performed on Friday or Saturday.
- Friday ceremonies must begin by 7 p.m. (Cedar Falls) or 5:30 p.m. (Waterloo)
- Saturday ceremonies must begin by 1 p.m. (Cedar Falls) 5:30 p.m. (Waterloo)
- Your party will be allowed in the church 2.5 hours before your ceremony time.
- All rooms used must be cleared no later than 90 minutes after your ceremony time.

Complete Premarital Counseling

6 Months Prior to Wedding

Prairie Lakes Church is committed to providing comprehensive preparation for you and your fiancé as you approach your wedding day. It consists of the following:

Premarital Inventory

This assessment will be used by the counseling team to focus on a couples strengths and help them develop communication and conflict resolution skills.

4-6 sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist

Focus on sexual relationship, family of origin, finances, as well as areas featured in the premarital inventory

4-6 sessions with a mentor couple

Offering male and female perspectives, mentor couples teach communication, conflict resolution and couple's prayer. Couples are paired based on common interests, vocations and personalities.

1-2 sessions with the pastor

The pastor will focus on what scripture says about marriage and planning the ceremony.

To begin your counseling, contact Ari Henderson at (319) 830-4476 or ari.henderson@prairielakeschurch.org.

Plan Your Ceremony

1-3 Months Prior to Wedding

Your pastor will guide you through outlining a ceremony that keeps God at its center and allows your personalities to shine through. This includes selecting the order of events, choosing scripture readings and conveying the significance of each element.

Room Selections

Cedar Falls

- Worship Center (Seating for 1,000)
- Chapel (Seating for 225)
- Room 210 (Seating for 175) (Fridays only)

Waterloo

- Worship Center (Seating for 350)

Wedding Coordinator

After you have met with your pastor, make an appointment with the wedding coordinator. She will review the day, answer any questions you have and convey the pertinent information to facility teams and technical staff. Your coordinator will be present at the rehearsal and on your wedding day to ensure everything goes smoothly.

The Wedding Day

Submit the Balance

Submit the balance no later than one week prior to your wedding. Also bring any recorded music or slideshows on DVD.

Rehearsal

The evening before your wedding will be reserved for your rehearsal. Consult with the wedding coordinator for available times. Everyone involved in the ceremony should attend. Note that there will be no technical support; musicians or soloists must practice offsite. Prairie Lakes Church is unavailable to host rehearsal dinners or receptions at any location.

Wedding

Bring the marriage license and deliver it to the wedding coordinator. If you are planning for live music, a sound check will be arranged. Plan to have someone remove all your decorations, gifts and personal items from the church immediately following the ceremony.

Financial Responsibilities

Security Deposit - \$250

The security deposit is required for on-site weddings only to reserve your date on the church calendar. This will be refunded after the wedding provided no damage was done to the property. The couple forfeits the deposit should a cancellation occur.

Off-Site Wedding Fees - \$200

Due no later than one week before the ceremony, this amount includes your pastor fees.

On-Site Wedding Fees - \$500 (Cedar Falls), \$550 (Waterloo)

Due no later than one week before the ceremony, this amount includes:

- Pastor
- Wedding Coordinator
- Building usage
- Technical staff*
- Custodial support*

*Plans that include technical or custodial staff for more than 4 hours will be billed at \$35 or \$25 per hour, respectively.

Premarital Counseling - \$250

Bring your check made payable to Ari Henderson to your first session.

Frequently Asked Questions

What pastors are available to perform my wedding?

Prairie Lakes Church is home to several licensed pastors. You may indicate your preferred pastor on your application. We are happy to accommodate visiting pastors. Proof of their credentials must be submitted to the church at least one week prior to the wedding. Regardless of whether a visiting pastor officiates the wedding, a Prairie Lakes Church pastor will be present.

Pastor John Fuller is unavailable to perform weddings.

When can we decorate?

Check with your wedding coordinator for available times. If no other events are scheduled, you may be allowed to decorate before the rehearsal. When planning your decorations, please consider the following:

- The church has no wedding decorations available
- No pins, glue, nails or tape of any kind may be used
- Only dripless, enclosed candles may be used

We would like to renew our vows. Is the process different?

All of the same steps are required with the exception of the counseling program. An abbreviated program must be fulfilled at a reduced cost.

Can we get dressed at the church?

Two dressing rooms will be available for your bridal party. You are welcome use them within the reserved time frame. Hair appointments must be held offsite. Groups may NOT bring items or clothing to be stored overnight.

Can we hold the reception or rehearsal dinner at the church?

No, due to the demands on the space and staff for weekend services, we are unable to accommodate receptions or dinners of any size without exception.



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