



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2416 W. Cloverdale Park • Montgomery, Alabama 36106 • 334.834.8990 • www.fumcmontgomery.org

Wedding Policies: Guidelines for Florists

Both our sanctuary and chapel are of dignified and exquisite beauty and neither requires elaborate decorations for effectiveness. All decorations should enhance the spirit of worship and strict adherence to the policies set forth by FUMC is required. **Restraint in the use of flowers is expected. First Methodist reserves the right to restrict the privileges of any florist to decorate who violates these regulations.**

- Artificial flowers are not permitted at the wedding and/or reception.
- The ceremony must not be impeded in any way by plants, greenery, or floral arrangements. One or two arrangements may be used on the altar, and must be restricted in height so that they are no taller than the arms of the cross on the altar (28 inches). The cross is not to be elevated by any means in order to accommodate a larger arrangement.
- The church has brass vases that may be used, if desired. They are equipped with liners that may be picked up by the florist the day before the wedding and taken to the shop for arrangements. **In no case are the brass vases to be removed from the premises.** Contact the Wedding Coordinator to get the sizes of the vase liners, or to make arrangements to pick them up. Disposable vases may be used, if desired.
- First Methodist has several candelabra and cross options available to use during the ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will discuss these options with the bride. The church supplies oil filled candles for the church owned candelabras only. The church does not have floor length candelabras. If these are desired, they must be provided by the florist and **must be picked up on the day of the ceremony.**
- Only dripless candles may be used. Even so, there must be adequate protection from candle drippings for floors, pews, and other furniture.
- For safety reasons and by order of the Fire Department, no candles may be used down the aisles, in the windows of the sanctuary or chapel, or in the narthex.
- No decorations should be put outside the chancel area, except for pew decorations.
- No decorations are to be used in the narthex except for the arrangements on the two tables.
- No decorations may be used outside the church except for an arrangement fixed to the stair banisters. No decoration of any type is to be placed on the stonework, or on the figure of Christ over the entrance. Decorations are permitted on the front doors of the sanctuary **if the existing hooks are used to secure the decorations.**
- Absolutely no tacks, nails, pins, screws, wire, clamps, or tape may be used to secure any decoration. Decorations may be tied in place with ribbon.
- Due to the danger of slipping on the marble floor, aisle runners, artificial or natural flowers, confetti, rice, bird seed, and potpourri are not used in weddings at FUMC.
- Any seasonal decorations already in the sanctuary are not to be moved.
- Florists are not to bring any materials to be stored by the church prior to the day of the wedding. The church will not be responsible for any florist's belongings.
- **The florist should check with the Wedding Coordinator the Thursday prior to the wedding to ensure there will be no conflict in the availability of the sanctuary or chapel at the time the arranging is to be done.** This is extremely important because occasionally a funeral or another wedding may be scheduled on the same day. The florist is guaranteed access to the sanctuary/chapel five hours prior to the wedding ceremony. If it is determined more time is needed, there will be an additional charge for a staff member to open the church earlier.
- If approved by the Wedding Coordinator, the florist may be granted access to the sanctuary/chapel on Friday during business hours. A fee of \$500 will be assessed to the florist if Friday access to the church is required. A check made payable to FUMC can be given to the business office upon arrival on Friday.
- **The florist must decorate within the allotted time.**