



Wedding Details & Pricing

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LA GRANGE

Hello & *Welcome*



Contact Details

Jamie Dougherty
Building & Events Coordinator
(708) 294-3969 text/call
events@fcclg.org

You Are Welcome Here!

We welcome all; gay and straight, young and old...No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at FCCLG. Our goal is to help make your day special.

One of the oldest churches in La Grange, we are conveniently located at the corner of La Grange Road and Cossitt Avenue, just 3 blocks from the BNSF Metra train. Free parking is available 1 block away in a village garage. We hope that the following information provides answers to the questions you may have about getting married at FCCLG.

Our Spaces

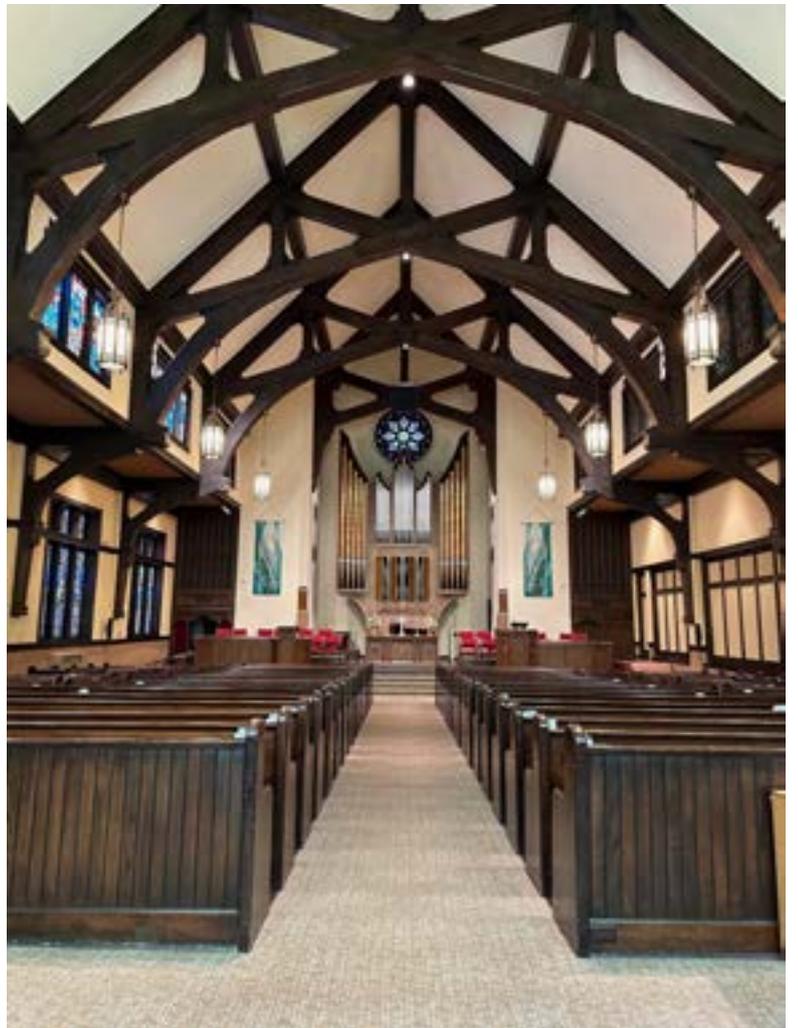
Chapel of the Beatitudes

Our chapel is a beautiful and intimate space that seats up to 75. The room has beautiful stained glass windows and a pipe organ.



Sanctuary

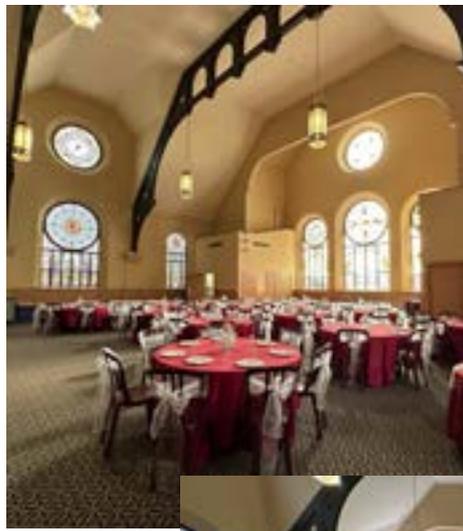
The 1906 gothic-style Sanctuary comfortably seats 325 and offers a long aisle, vaulted ceiling, and perfect acoustics for your musicians or our pipe organ.



Founders Room

The historic Founders Room is a flexible space, with ample natural light and gorgeous stained glass windows. It also has an attached catering kitchen for receptions.

This space can accommodate up to 125 seated at tables, or 175 using chairs only.



Drawing Room

The Drawing Room is a large room with a wonderful, cozy living room feeling. This room is suitable for standing receptions, wedding pictures and small seated gatherings.

There is both adjustable mood lighting and plenty of natural light. The adjacent full kitchen can be rented as well.



What You Need to Know



Why Be Married In the Church?

A wedding is a religious ceremony. Traditionally in the Christian faith, the service of marriage has called attention to the fact that it is a sacred occasion when a couple covenants to spend the remainder of their lives together, and when they vow publicly to love and cherish each other for as long as they both shall live. It is, therefore, fitting that marriage be solemnized in the setting of a church and by an Authorized Ordained Minister of the Christian faith.

Preliminary Arrangements

As soon as you determine that you wish to be married in First Congregational Church of La Grange, you must confirm the availability of your chosen date with the Events Coordinator. Once you receive confirmation of availability, a non-refundable deposit of \$250 (cash, check or online payment) must be made to reserve the space(s) on the Church's calendar.

The Marriage License

Because marriage is a civil matter as well as a spiritual one, a license from the State of Illinois, County of Cook, must be secured and presented to our pastor before a ceremony can be performed. We suggest that you bring the license to the pastor as soon as you have obtained it, so you don't have to worry about it in the busy hours immediately preceding your wedding day. In Illinois, the pastor completes the license and is responsible for returning it to the state. No wedding ceremony can be performed without presenting a valid marriage license.

For locations and further information, contact the Cook County Clerk's Office at <https://www.cookcountyclerk.gov/>.

About Your Officiant

After you have set the date for your wedding, you will need to set up your meetings with our pastor. Here at FCCLG, our minister will take the lead in your service. If you desire another Ordained Minister to participate you will need to inform our pastor during your first mentoring session. Our pastor will then reach out and make the invitation for your pastor to be a part of your special day.

Premarital Mentoring

It is our belief that preparation for marriage provides a solid foundation on which marital relationship can be built. Therefore, premarital mentoring sessions are required prior to any ceremony being performed. Our minister will meet with you 3-4 times. Your mentoring sessions should begin as early as possible, and must be in progress no later than 60 days prior to your wedding.

Music for Your Wedding

Music is an essential piece of your wedding ceremony. After your initial session with our pastor, you will be placed in contact (if necessary) with our Music Staff to set up the music for your wedding service. If you want the organ to be played at your wedding ceremony, it is the policy of FCCLG that the church's organist (or suitable replacement picked by our music staff) plays the organ. Our pianos can be played by an outside musician with prior approval from our music staff.

Because the wedding service is a worship service of the church, the music chosen for the service should be reflective of worship. Similarly, vocal selections should reflect the scriptural view of love and marriage.

Recorded music can be played over the sound system in either the Sanctuary or Founders Room, or in the Chapel with a portable sound system. A sound technician (provided by FCCLG, see last page for fees) will be required to assist you with recorded music and/or microphone usage during the ceremony.

A final music plan must be submitted for approval a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of your event.

Vocalists and Soloists: Should you want a soloist or vocalist at your wedding, our Music staff can assist in securing them for you - or you can suggest/provide your own. We also have a list of instrumentalist musicians you can contact, if the need arises.

Photography

Because weddings performed in our church are sacred occasions, and in fact are services of worship, the following policies have been established for wedding and event photography:

1. Any desired photographs of members of the wedding party and their families may be taken prior to the beginning of the service. These photographs must be completed no later than 30 minutes before the wedding is scheduled to begin.
2. The wedding officially begins with the seating of honored guests/family members (grandparents, parents, etc.). Photographs of anyone being honored may be taken as they are about to enter the sanctuary or chapel. In sanctuary weddings, you may stand no more than halfway down the main aisle to photograph the processional.
3. Any of the above photographs may be taken with flash equipment.
4. During the ceremony itself, photographs without flash can be taken from the rear of the center aisle.
5. Following the benediction, as the wedding couple recess, photographs may be taken as desired, with or without flash.
6. After the congregation has left the ceremony site, you may pose for photographs as desired in the Chancel area. Photographs are not to exceed one hour past the conclusion of the wedding ceremony.
7. In the sanctuary, videotaping is permitted if the camera is mounted on a tripod at the rear of the center aisle, or if in the chapel, done from the organ balcony.

Flowers

There are several excellent florists in the area. If your wedding is on a Saturday, and you wish to leave the altar flowers for use in our Sunday worship, please let us know ahead of time - we will make a note in Sunday's worship bulletin to recognize you. If you would like to drop flower petals down the aisle, we ask that you use artificial petals as real flower petals can damage the floor.

The Rehearsal

Unless yours is to be a small wedding attended only by your immediately family, a rehearsal will be scheduled for the day prior to the actual event. Rental for this session (lasting no more than 60 minutes) is included in your wedding rental fee. All members of the wedding party should be present. The rehearsal time is limited, so please tell your wedding party to arrive 15 minutes early to avoid being late due to traffic or parking difficulties. The rehearsal itself will last approximately 45 minutes.

Handicapped Accessibility

The Chapel is accessible through the Sixth Avenue entrance. The Sanctuary and the Founders Room are accessible through the Cossitt Avenue entrance. Prior notification of the expected attendance of a handicapped individual is required, as an elevator operator must be arranged.

"Grand Exit" Materials

For environmental and safety reasons, we do not allow rice, birdseed and/or confetti to be thrown following a wedding. Bubbles are now commonly used, but they must not be brought into the building. Please hand them out to guests as they exit, or after they have left, the building.

Wedding/Event Hosts

An event host (or hosts) from the Church will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to coordinate the event, and assist the Pastor and wedding party. The host will give particular care to the couple, attendants, and the immediate families in addition to coordinating flowers, food deliveries, facilitating the ceremony processional and handle any day-of emergencies. You are also welcome to have a separate wedding coordinator who can assist alongside the FCCLG Event Host.

Payment Schedule Details

At the time you reserve the date for your wedding, a \$250.00 non-refundable deposit is due. Our events coordinator will send you a final bill four (4) weeks prior to the date of your wedding with remaining balances, itemized. The balance can be sent at any time but is due no later than two (2) weeks in advance of the wedding service(s).

Church members will not be subject to pay for the ceremony or reception space, and their fee for the Pastor as officiant will be an honorarium.

Non-Member Rental Rate Details

Sanctuary

PRICE:
\$900

- Seats up to 325
- Includes dressing rooms for the couple & attendants
- Includes Drawing Room (with Kitchen use, if needed)
- 4 hours

Chapel

PRICE:
\$250

- Seats up to 75
- Includes dressing rooms for the couple & attendants
- 4 hours

Founders Room

PRICE:
varies

- Seats up to 125 for dinner/seated reception, 175 with only chairs
- Rental includes dressing rooms for the couple & attendants
- Flexible, Multi-Use Space
- 4 hours
- Rental without Kitchen use is \$400, Standard Kitchen use rate is \$475, Catering Use of Kitchen is \$595

Musicians & Support Personnel Fee(s)

PRICE:
varies

- FCCLG Organist Fee (paid in cash directly) \$300, if Organist works with additional musicians \$400-450
- Outside Vocalist (optional/paid in cash directly) \$200
- Outside Musician (optional/paid in cash directly) Fee varies by musician
- Audio Technician (required in some cases, paid in cash directly) \$175
- Live video stream available upon request \$200

Officiant Fee

PRICE:
\$350

- Paid in cash directly to Pastor

FAQ

01. Is there a limit to the number of attendants I can have?

The only limit we have is the amount of space in the ceremony spaces - we're happy to adjust the processional as needed, or help coordinate an alternate seating arrangement that accommodates your loved ones.

02. What will be covered in our pre-marital meetings with the Pastor?

Your preparatory meetings will cover matters of the heart and spirit - what calls you to want to be married in the Church, as well as what you and your partner want out of the ceremony itself. Musical and scripture selections will be decided on during these sessions.

03. How can we/I pay for the rental costs?

We can take payment in cash, by check/money order, or via our online portal. All online payments will incur a 3% fee to cover processing charges.

04. Why are some portions of my payment made in cash? I'm confused.

An outside musician or event host, for example, is known to the Church but not a Church employee...which means they cannot be paid through Church accounts. Our Events Coordinator will collect any cash payments on the day of your rehearsal, so you don't need to worry. They will make sure everyone gets paid so you can relax and enjoy!

05. Can we pay by the hour to lengthen our event past the 4 hour mark?

In some cases, yes - it depends on the time of day your event is occurring. For evening receptions, we require an event end time of 9:00pm, so that the building is clean and clear by 10pm. We do this in order to comply with Village noise ordinances, as well as to show respect to our residential neighbors. Thank you for your understanding!