

Your Wedding at Sandy Springs Christian Church

A wedding is one of the most joyous celebrations in life. Your wedding, if properly executed, can be a genuine worship experience, inspiring both to the participants and to the gathered congregation. Such a wedding will always have happy memories and be a good beginning in establishing a deep spiritual family relationship. We are thrilled to be a part of this grand occasion in your life and in the life of the church

General Information

Our Wedding Coordinator is Hannah Gunter and our Administrator is Sharon Hanna. You will need to contact Sharon well in advance of your wedding date to confirm availability of the facility. Our Sanctuary, constructed in 1971 and renovated in 2000, seats 350 with a unique mix of a modern and traditional feel. You can contact Sharon at 404-256-2582 or Sharon@SandySpringsCC.org or to reserve your date

Dates and Times

Weddings are generally not scheduled on Sundays, on Easter Weekend, Palm Sunday weekend, or during the week before Christmas. Your ceremony time is highly encouraged to be scheduled at either 11 AM, 2 PM, or 5 PM. A Friday wedding should be scheduled sometime between 7 PM and 8 PM. All Saturday weddings will have a Friday Rehearsal at 6 PM, while a Friday wedding will have a Thursday rehearsal at 6 PM.

Wedding Coordinator

Our Wedding Coordinator is Hannah Gunter and she can be reached at Hannah@SandySpringsCC.org. Her role is to make your special day come together the way you want it to be. If a bridal consultant is used, the consultant will only be in charge of dressing the bride. The Wedding Director will handle all other details, arrangements and procedures. Please do not ask the Wedding Coordinator to waive any of these guidelines.

Officiating Minister

Sandy Springs Christian Church boasts a gifted staff of Ordained Clergy. Our Wedding Coordinator will schedule a meeting between you and our Senior Minister, Rev. Danny Gulden. In special circumstances, an ordained minister serving in a place other than Sandy Springs Christian Church may be allowed to perform your ceremony, with approval from the Senior Minister. As you are making a special and sacred commitment, we require that pre-marital counseling be completed before your wedding at Sandy Springs Christian Church. There are three pre-marital counseling sessions required and they must be scheduled between 9 AM and 6 PM, Monday thru Friday.

Organist and Music

Sandy Springs Christian Church boasts a talented organist and pianist, Ms. Ella Lewis to play at your ceremony. If you desire other types of music or soloists for your service, we will work with you on this. We require that all music for the ceremony be live as no recorded music is allowed. Our organist has the right to refuse music chosen if it is not appropriate for a religious ceremony.

Sound System

Sandy Springs Christian Church has a state of the art sound system that will be used for your wedding ceremony. A sound technician is required for every wedding ceremony.

Fees

Fees cover both the rehearsal and the ceremony. Sanctuary and dressings areas use, officiating minister, wedding coordinator, organist/pianist, sound technician, custodial and janitorial fees, candelabras, unity candle stand, kneeling bench, communion service.

\$1,850 non-members

\$1,150 members

Reserving Your Date

You may reserve our date by contacting Sharon Hanna at 404-256-2582 and putting a deposit of 50% down. The deposit is fully refundable until 30 days before your wedding date, then no refund will be given. You will receive an invoice in the mail, approximately six weeks before your wedding date. The balance due for your wedding will be due two (2) weeks before your wedding date.

The Wedding Service

Rehearsal

The date and hour of the rehearsal will be scheduled along with the wedding. The rehearsal is an integral part of the wedding and should proceed in a manner respectful of the bride, groom, and the place of worship. When we honor designated times, we show respect for the people involved. Only one hour will be set aside for the rehearsal. The rehearsal shall begin promptly at the time scheduled. Promptness is essential. Delay in beginning consumes the time of the minister, wedding coordinator, organist, and the custodial staff, and adds to the expense of the utilities.

Always anticipate delays when traveling on the streets of Atlanta. Please give yourself extra time when traveling to the Church. The bride and groom should encourage all members of the wedding party to arrive 30 minutes before the rehearsal. When a person is prompt and honors the scheduled times for a rehearsal and wedding, respect is given to all involved

The marriage license should be presented to the presiding minister at the rehearsal. She or he will sign the license during this time.

Day of the Wedding

We know that decoration is a big part of the wedding ceremony. Please be advised of the following guidelines in the Sanctuary. Please advise the Wedding Coordinator ahead of time of any of these changes you would like to make

- The pulpit and lectern may be requested to move off the chancel area in advance of the rehearsal
- The communion table may only be moved to the side of the sanctuary or onto the chancel area for those couples wishing to celebrate communion as a part of their ceremony. These are the only places the table may be moved
- Any liturgical paraments in the Sanctuary must remain where they are prior to the ceremony
- No rice or birdseed may be thrown inside or outside the church
- No liturgical symbols (cross, etc.) in the Sanctuary, Narthex or Centrum may be covered or altered in any way.
- All decorations must be removed no later than one (1) hour following the conclusion of the ceremony.
- There will be dressing rooms provided for both the bride and groom, as well as bridesmaids and groomsmen. The church will open three (3) hours prior to the ceremony for the wedding party.

Photography and Videography

You may select your own photographer and videographer or our Wedding Coordinator will be happy to select one for you. We ask that you hold the reverence of the service and place in high regard. This is a service of worship and we expect any photography and videography to reflect this. During the ceremony, photographers can take pictures not requiring flash photography, as long as they are not interfering with the ceremony. The church will be open three (3) hours prior to the ceremony for photography and for 1 (one) hour following the

ceremony for photography. Photography should be complete 1 (one) hour before the ceremony begins.

Planning Your Wedding

1. How many attendants will you have? Also, you may or may not choose to have ushers in addition to groomsmen.

It is helpful to have 2-4 ushers if you are having a large wedding (150 guests or more) to assist in seating the guests. The ushers will not stand with the wedding party but will be seated at the beginning of the ceremony.

2. Will there be a memory candle for a deceased loved one or friend? The church does not provide the memory candle

3. Will the unity candle be included in the service? Do you have another other symbol of unity you would like to use in the ceremony? The church provides the unity candle candelabra.

4. You will also talk with your officiating minister about whether or not you would like to receive Communion at your service. It can be served to only bride and groom or the whole congregation. Sandy Springs Christian Church practices an open communion table, meaning that all are welcome to share in the meal at Sandy Springs Christian Church

Suggested Order of the Wedding Ceremony

Prelude

Seating of the Grandmothers

Seating of the Mothers

Bridal Procession

Words of Welcome and Greeting

Prayer

The Declaration of Intent

The Presentation of the Bride

(Musical or Solo Number)

Scripture

The Homily

Exchange of Vows

The Blessing and Giving of the Rings

The Blessing of the Unity Candle

Communion

The Blessing of the Covenant

Presentation of the Bride and Groom

Recessional

Postlude

Suggested Scriptures

New Testament Epistle Lessons

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 The life of a Christian.

I Corinthians 13 The greatest of these is love.

II Corinthians 5:14-17 In Christ we are a new creation.

Ephesians 2:4-10 God's love for us.

Ephesians 4:1-6 Called to the one hope.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 Rules for the new life.

Philippians 2:1-2 The Christlike spirit.

Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord.

Colossians 3:12-17 Live in love and thanksgiving.

I John 3:18-24 Love one another.

I John 4:7-16 God is love.

Gospel Lessons

Matthew 5:1-10 The Beatitudes.

Matthew 7:21, 24-27 A house built upon a rock.

Matthew 22:35-40 Love, the greatest commandment.

Mark 2:18-22 Joy in Christ as at a wedding.

Mark 10:42-45 True greatness.

John 2:1-11 The marriage feast of Cana.

John 15:9-17 Remain in Christ's love.