



WEDDING POLICIES and INFORMATION July 1, 2024

Greetings!

The members and friends of the New Castle Congregational Church extend congratulations to you on your engagement and plans to marry. We are pleased to work with you to create a unique and meaningful wedding ceremony. The following information is meant to give you a quick overview of what you might expect. Please contact us if you have other questions.

Who We Are

New Castle Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ, a mainline, protestant denomination serving more than 800,000 people. We are a diverse community of people from different faith backgrounds who strive for unity in God's spirit as followers of Christ.

The New Castle Congregational Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *With this distinction comes an obligation to steward this resource. Please respect our guidelines for use of these facilities.*

Officiant

It is the policy of the New Castle Congregational Church for the minister of this church to conduct all weddings held in our historic church. Other celebrants may participate with our minister by prior arrangement with the minister.

Setting the Date

Contact the church office to check availability, then complete a Wedding Application form and return it to the church with a check for \$100 (non-refundable deposit) to reserve your date. Please make checks payable to New Castle Congregational Church.

Meeting with the Minister

Once you book your wedding date, our minister will contact you to schedule a planning meeting. This normally takes about an hour and will cover your specific plans and ideas. The minister will then be able to create a custom wedding ceremony that is uniquely and beautifully yours.

Marriage License

Please bring your license with you to the wedding rehearsal. The minister will complete it and return it to the registrar to be recorded after the ceremony concludes. You may then obtain a certified copy from your town clerk. Please allow thirty days or so for processing.

Music

After you meet with our minister, please contact our Director of Music, Charles Blood to arrange music for your ceremony. He is available to serve as organist or pianist and will coordinate any other special music you plan. His contact information is included below.

New Castle Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
POB 395, New Castle NH 03854

Church Details

The church will be open two hours before the ceremony begins to allow time for decorating. Please do not attach anything to the walls or pews using tape, adhesives, or tacks.

No pets other than service dogs. No food or beverages other than water, except for communion.

Please do not blow bubbles, throw rice, toss confetti or bird seed, or scatter anything inside or outside the church. (Exception: Flower girls may use flower petals during the ceremony.)

Photography

Photographs and videos may be taken throughout the ceremony if captured discreetly. Additionally, the church will remain open for one hour afterward to allow more time for photos in and around the church.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals are typically scheduled on the evening prior to the wedding and last about an hour. Those who need to attend the rehearsal are: the wedding couple, all members of the wedding party and any other participants in the ceremony, including readers and musicians, if applicable.

Police Detail

Weddings with more than 75 guests require a police detail. Please contact the New Castle Police at (603-436-3800) to make arrangements. (NOTE: There is a fee for this service.)

Fees and Honoraria

The church has established the following schedule of fees:

Non-refundable deposit	\$ 100	Paid by check to the church when event is booked.
Church Use Fee*	\$ 500	
(minus pre-paid deposit)	<u>- \$ 100</u>	
	\$ 400	Paid by check to the church at least 30 days ahead.
Minister's Honorarium*	\$ 350	Offered in cash or check at time of rehearsal
Director of Music	\$ 250	Offered in cash or check at time of rehearsal
Custodial Fee	\$ 100	Offered in cash or check at time of rehearsal

**Fees for Church Use and Minister's Honorarium do not apply for church members and their immediate families*

What To Bring With You To Rehearsal:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marriage license ○ Unity candles (or other items to be used during the ceremony) ○ Your wedding rings ○ Programs (if any) ○ All remaining fees and honoraria.

Contact us for more information:

Minister: Rev. Meg Watson – revmeg@yahoo.com
Director of Music: Charles Blood – blood4910@aol.com
Office Administrator: Beth Patti – secretaryncchurch@gmail.com

New Castle Congregational Church