

A bouquet of white roses is the central focus, with two gold wedding rings resting on a white card in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Weddings

at Alpharetta First United Methodist Church

The honour of your presence
is requested at the marriage of

The Sanctuary



The Sanctuary is predominantly wood, with arches supporting the structure and rising to a vaulted ceiling. A large wood chandelier in the form of a three-dimensional cross is suspended from the center of the ceiling.

The cross at the front of the Sanctuary is hand-carved Elderberry by Jens Krough that took over a year to finish. It decorated the original red brick church.

The building is topped by a 55 foot steeple crowned by a 13-foot three-dimensional ball Gothic cross.

The bell, which can be rung at the culmination of your wedding, was bought in 1889.

The Sanctuary includes 11 stained glass windows telling the story of God and God's people. They incorporate both opaque and clear glass, illustrating that the Church wanted its sanctity and faith protected, but at the same time extends its missions to the whole world.

The kneelers were hand embroidered by members of AFUMC. The first kneeler on the left portrays creation. Moving around the chancel area toward the east, each symbol recalls an event leading to the promise of the Messiah, the birth, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Seating on the main level comfortably accommodates 400 people, with additional seating available in the balcony. The Sanctuary is ideal for large affairs or smaller, intimate weddings. There is a center aisle.

Vinebranch Chapel



Dedicated in 1940, the Vinebranch Chapel was AFUMC's sole Sanctuary until 1983. The red brick building replaced the original white frame church.

The Chapel seats 200 people. There is a center aisle. The screens at the front and back of the Chapel can be used to display photos and videos.

Now home to AFUMC's contemporary worship service, Vinebranch, the chapel has a modern and clean look.



Wedding Ministry

Alpharetta First United Methodist Church

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding!

We invite you to be married at Alpharetta Methodist Church. At AFUMC, a wedding is a religious ceremony. It is the Christian celebration of your love and commitment to each other and to God.

Your wedding is a worship experience, involving family and friends who want to participate in your joy. We encourage you to include responsive readings, prayers and congregational singing in your ceremony.

Information on the following pages will help to answer some of your questions.



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Membership

Membership at Alpharetta Methodist is not a requirement for a wedding ceremony, but belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is. We encourage all brides and grooms to be faithful and regular attendees of some worship community. If you don't currently have a church home, we invite you to worship with us on Sunday mornings. To find out more about our worship services, visit afumc.org.

Reserving the Church

Church members may schedule weddings up to 18 months in advance. Non-members may schedule nine months in advance. To receive member scheduling and rates, the bride or groom (or their parents) must have been a member for two full years before scheduling a ceremony. To request a date for your wedding, please call the Events and Connections Coordinator at 678-867-7509 or email facility@afumc.org.

No weddings are scheduled New Year's Day, Holy Week, Memorial Day weekend, Labor Day weekend, the weekend before and after July 4th, Thanksgiving weekend or during the month of December, unless otherwise approved by AFUMC staff. Sunday weddings are limited to small, private ceremonies and require approval by AFUMC executive staff. Weddings are scheduled no later than 5:30 p.m.

A deposit is required to book a wedding ceremony on the church calendar (see deposits and fees). Once the deposit is received and the date is confirmed, a contract will be sent. Please mail an original copy to the church and retain a copy for your records. It is important to receive written verification of your date before proceeding with further plans.

Deposits and Fees

Our Sanctuary, with its warm colors and traditional feel, is a lovely place for wedding ceremonies. Seating on the main level comfortably accommodates 400 people. Vinebranch Chapel, with its contemporary feel, is a great venue for a wedding with a modern look. The Chapel seats 200 people. Both spaces have a center aisle.

There are associated fees, as shown below:

- Deposit: \$300 (member and non-member, refundable)
- Member Fee: \$600
- Non-member Fee: \$1,525

Fees include:

- Use of the Sanctuary or Vinebranch Chapel for your wedding and rehearsal
- Dressing rooms for the bridal party and groom's party
- Audio/sound technician
- Custodial fee
- Wedding coordinator for rehearsal and wedding
- Any equipment (ex: kneeling bench, candelabra) used for the ceremony

Fees do not include:

- Musician's fee
- Flowers
- Photographers
- Reception hall rental/fees
- Premarital counseling fees
- Minister fee (It is customary for the pastor to be compensated for his or her time.)

An invoice of your financial responsibility will be mailed to you six weeks before the wedding. Final payment is due four weeks before the wedding in a check marked payable to AFUMC, Attn.: Events and Connections Coordinator. Wedding date and bridal names should be noted on the check.

The Wedding Guild

The Wedding Guild is a ministry of Alpharetta Methodist to assist the bride and groom, wedding party and families at the rehearsal and the wedding ceremony. Two members of the Wedding Guild will be assigned to your wedding weekend and will meet with the bride and groom four to six weeks prior to the ceremony to finalize details.

At this meeting it is important to discuss all plans that are being considered in order to ensure consistency with church policies and customs. You may expect the following assistance from the Wedding Guild:

At the rehearsal they will:

- Organize the procession and arrangement of the wedding party
- Coordinate the seating of honored guests and family
- Inform ushers of their specific duties
- Assist the pastor as needed

At the wedding they will:

- Greet the wedding party and show them to dressing rooms
- Synchronize time with the pastor and organist
- Seat honored guests in the proper order at the proper time
- Make sure that the processional begins on time

Please note that any outside wedding consultants you employ will have no responsibilities at the church, either at the rehearsal or on the wedding day. A wedding consultant is welcome to be present, but all decisions will be made by the Wedding Guild. The Wedding Guild at AFUMC exists to not only coordinate the many details of your wedding ceremony, but to minimize the stress of what should be a joyful, spiritual event.

Pastor

If you wish to have a particular AFUMC pastor do your wedding, you may ask him/her directly. Otherwise, you will need to contact the church office to speak with a pastor about performing your ceremony. You may have a visiting pastor; however, it is customary for that pastor to contact AFUMC for permission to perform the ceremony. Call the Senior Pastor's Secretary: 678-867-7520.

Premarital Counseling

Prior to being married at Alpharetta Methodist Church, couples are required to attend and complete premarital preparatory sessions with either the pastor performing the ceremony or with our staff counselor. These sessions will help equip you with support and resources needed to build a strong Christian marriage. If the pastor asks that you see our staff counselor, it is the responsibility of the bridal couple to schedule sessions as soon as possible. The fee for this will be \$150. You may reach our staff counselor by calling 678-867-7506. Our pastors may be reached by calling 770-475-5576.

Receptions

Alpharetta Methodist Church makes Trinity Hall available for receptions, subject to the same date restrictions as the Sanctuary and Chapel. Trinity Hall can accommodate 250 people. Please remember that no alcoholic beverages are allowed on the AFUMC campus.

Members are not charged for the use of Trinity Hall. Members do pay a custodial fee, which is \$250 for the first two hours and \$100 for each additional hour.

Non-members are charged \$650 for the first two hours and \$175 for each additional hour.

Anyone using Trinity Hall for a reception must hire a wedding coordinator at \$50 an hour. Anyone using the Trinity Hall kitchen must hire a kitchen coordinator at \$50 an hour with a two hour minimum

Thank You

We thank you for your interest in having your wedding ceremony at Alpharetta Methodist Church! If you have further questions, please contact our Events and Connections Coordinator: 678-867-7509, facility@afumc.org.

If you decide that AFUMC is where you wish to begin your married life, please email or call to reserve your date. Once your deposit is received you will receive a contract to return.

May God bless you as you embark on this exciting journey of marriage!

Alpharetta First United Methodist Church | 69 North Main Street, Alpharetta GA 30009
afumc.org | 770-475-5576 | *fb.com/alpharetta.methodist*
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