

Get Connected at LCPC
to help your marriage to thrive!



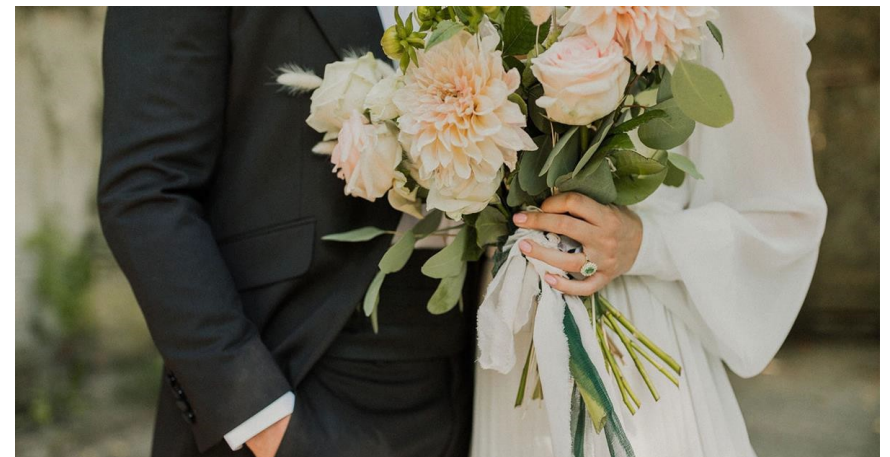
Small groups – to strengthen your bond
Re:Generation – to heal past hurts or current habits
Starting Point – to explore faith
Fellowship Groups – for good, clean fun!
Worship – to help you connect to God

libertycorner.org



45 Church Street, PO Box 55
Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07938
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Planning Your Wedding



at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church

Notes and questions:



Conclusion

Again, congratulations! Planning all the details can sometimes be stressful (and joyful!). As you begin this new life together, we invite you to meditate on Jesus' words in Mark 10:6-9:

From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one separate.



Congratulations!

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! We share your excitement and happiness as you make your wedding plans and begin the beautiful adventure of marriage. We at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church believe that marriage is a gift from God. In Genesis, God created one man and one woman to have a holy, loving, committed relationship for life. We will do our best to make your wedding a joyous and God-glorifying day.

In addition to planning a ceremony, we want to support you to plan your life together. We take this preparation process very seriously and hope you will too. We encourage you to take advantage of Christian pre-marriage counseling, with one of our pastors or a certified counselor. We want to set you up for a lifetime of loving faithfulness that points the world to God's love.



Reservations

If you would like to have a wedding at Liberty Corner, the first step is reserving a date and time. Simply complete the Wedding Registration Form, and turn it into the church office. When we receive your Registration Form, the office staff will confirm the building's availability with you, and our church Wedding Coordinator will reach out to you to manage all the details.

If one of our pastors will be officiating the ceremony (whether at the church or off-site), please do complete the Wedding Registration Form, and a pastor will reach out to you to discuss both the ceremony and pre-marriage counseling. To allow adequate time for the counseling, we recommend at least 3 months' notice.

Wedding Ceremony Reservation

Weddings at Liberty Corner may be in our classic Sanctuary, outside, or in Center Court. The sanctuary holds up to 300 people, and Center Court can hold up to 500. Weddings may be scheduled during the following days and times:

- Fridays: generally available
- Saturdays: 6:00pm or earlier (worship spaces must be vacated by 8:00pm for worship setup)
- Sundays: 2:00pm or later
- Other days: by request, depending on building availability

Reception Reservation

If your wedding is at Liberty Corner, you may choose to hold the reception in Douglas Hall or Center Court. Douglas Hall holds up to 250 people (up to 150 around tables), and Center Court up to 500 (up to 300 around tables). Both are suitable for dancing. Please note that alcohol use is not permitted at the church.

Scheduling an Off-Site Wedding

If you would like a Liberty Corner pastor to officiate your wedding at another location, please do complete the relevant parts of the Wedding Registration Form. Naturally, the only cost would be that pastor's honorarium.

Costs

Liberty Corner wants to celebrate weddings! It is not our intention to earn income from weddings. Instead, we do ask the couple to cover our actual costs for people and building maintenance. If you need financial assistance with these costs, please speak to a pastor or the Wedding Coordinator.

For your convenience, you may give one check to the church for all of these together, or you may pay individuals separately.

The Wedding Ceremony

As a worship service, a wedding ceremony usually follows a natural flow, such as:

Processional (entrance of the wedding party)
Welcome & Opening Prayer
Scripture Reading
Wedding Message
Exchange of Vows
Signs of unity: Rings, Unity Candle, etc.
Prayer for the Couple
Pronouncement of Marriage (and kiss!)
Recessional (exit of the wedding party)

This a general outline. Elements can be added or moved to make your wedding unique. The only required elements in the service are scripture, prayer, and the vows. The pastor is responsible for the Bible passage, message, and prayers, but welcomes suggestions if you have favorites!

Vows

The entire ceremony focuses on the vows the couple takes before God. You may use a traditional vow, modify a traditional vow, or write your own. One traditional vow is:

*I (name) take you (name) to be my (wife/husband),
And I promise before God and these witnesses
To be your loving and faithful (husband/wife) –
In plenty and in want,
In joy and in sorrow,
In sickness and in health,
As long as we both shall live.*

If you choose to write your own vows, the essential element is that you promise to be loving and faithful for life. If you craft your own, they will need to be approved by the pastor—who will be very glad to provide guidance.

Sexual Purity

Sexuality is part of God's *good* creation. At the same time, this good gift can be used in unhealthy ways. The closer we live to God's plan, the more joy and abundance we will experience in our lives. In God's plan for healthy sexuality, sexual intercourse belongs within the covenant of marriage (see Hebrews 13:4). Living by God's plan prevents all sexually transmitted disease, pregnancy outside marriage—plus a lot of heartbreak.

We realize that not every couple has lived by (or even known) God's plan. We want to lead people toward God's goodness, and we also want to show God's grace. We do not prohibit couples who are sexually active or cohabiting to marry; instead, we hope that marriage is a positive step toward God's best for their lives! God walks alongside us wherever we are, and calls us to follow more and more closely to receive abundant life.



At the same time, the Bible is clear that God created marriage, in Eden itself, as a faithful partnership between one man and one woman, so this is the only marriage that we celebrate at Liberty Corner. Because we want the best for all people, we bless only what God says is healthy.

Marriage License

For your marriage to be legal, you will need to obtain a marriage license. In New Jersey, see <https://www.nj.gov/health/vital/registration-vital/marriage-licenses/>. On the day of the wedding, the pastor who officiates will sign and send the form, so the couple can focus on each other.

If you would like a religious wedding ceremony independent of a state marriage license, please speak with a pastor. (This is most common in "destination" weddings overseas.)

Wedding Ceremony Costs

Please consider the people you will need for your wedding:

• Pastor (includes premarital counseling)	\$300	_____
• Wedding Coordinator (required if on-site)	\$200	_____
• Church Organist (optional)	\$250	_____
• Cleaning fee (waived for LCPC families)	\$50	_____
• Office Staff (if you would like a service bulletin)	\$25	_____
PEOPLE TOTAL:		_____

If you would like other service participants (such as soloists, instrumentalists, photographer, videographer, or an outside wedding coordinator), please arrange with those individuals and share their contact info with the Wedding Coordinator.

Reception Costs

Receptions vary greatly in size and scope. Liberty Corner does not offer catering, but we are able to work with a variety of caterers, who offer different services. The following estimates include room setup, opening, cleaning, closing, and a person who will be available for any facility needs. Choose from several options:

• Douglas Hall	\$100	_____
Standing reception with cake and finger food (up to 75 people)		
• Douglas Hall	\$150	_____
Standing reception with cake and finger food (up to 250 people)		
• Douglas Hall	\$200	_____
Seated meal (up to 75 people)		
• Douglas Hall	\$250	_____
Seated meal (up to 150 people)		
• Center Court	\$300	_____
Standing reception with cake and finger food (up to 500 people)		
• Center Court	\$400	_____
Seated meal (up to 300 people)		

On Saturdays, the reception will need to be vacated in time for worship setup the next day. Also, please note that alcohol is not permitted.

Planning

Our church Wedding Coordinator will consult with you on your wedding plans, and will be on hand during your rehearsal and ceremony. Because of her knowledge of Liberty Corner's building, staff, guidelines, and beliefs, she is deemed essential to make sure your wedding preparation runs smoothly—even if you hire an outside wedding coordinator. She will work with you to consider things like:

Music

A wedding ceremony is a worship service, as we celebrate God's covenant of love with us and the couple takes sacred vows of love and faithfulness. Therefore, wedding music should be appropriate to the place and occasion, contributing to the beauty and sanctity of this moment. Music that would not fit in a worship service would be appropriate during the reception.



Liberty Corner has an excellent organist, and connections with other musicians. You may also arrange for your own soloists or instrumentalists.

Flowers and Decorations

Flowers, pew ribbons, and other décor can add to the beauty and sanctity of a ceremony. We welcome decorations within reasonable limits that the Wedding Coordinator can share with you or your florist. (For example, please use a tape that comes off!) We have an excellent florist we have used, or you may select your own.

Photography and Videography

Naturally, you will want photo and/or video memories of this celebration! We do have reasonable guidelines to ensure that the photography does not distract from the ceremony itself. Your photographer and/or videographer will need to connect with the Wedding Coordinator well before the ceremony to understand our guidelines, and to ensure that conditions (such as lighting) are conducive to great images.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is a simple walk-through of the entire wedding ceremony, and takes about one hour. It finalizes all details of the ceremony, and ensures that each participant is familiar with the ceremony and their role in it. For that reason, it is important for the entire wedding party to be present, and on time. All fees should be paid and the marriage license obtained by the time of the rehearsal.

Pre-Marriage Counseling

In addition to preparing for the wedding, do not neglect to prepare for the *marriage*! We utilize an effective, research-based curriculum called Prepare-Enrich (see www.Prepare-Enrich.com), which begins with an online inventory and includes 4-6 sessions with a pastor. Topics may include:

- Communication skills
- Resolving conflict
- Financial planning
- Spiritual growth as a couple
- Exploring how your family of origin can affect your marriage expectations
- Understanding and appreciating personality differences

The cost of the inventory is currently \$35-\$40, paid to Prepare-Enrich. The pastor's time is included in the honorarium for the wedding.