



Your Wedding

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We are excited that you have chosen to have your wedding here at Floris United Methodist Church.

Often those marrying at Floris UMC have a special request for a particular clergy to officiate at their wedding. When possible, we try to accommodate that request. But due to the large number of weddings here at Floris UMC it is not always possible to accommodate every request.

I am proud of each of our pastors. They are among the most gifted clergy I know. We all use the same order of worship for weddings and we each prepare and personalize every ceremony. I have provided training and guidelines for all of our clergy so each wedding ceremony is a beautiful and sacred experience for all involved. Further, I have spoken to couples who were married by each of our clergy and heard them talk about how meaningful and special they made the ceremony.

Occasionally a couple will request a clergy based upon gender — typically wishing to have a male clergy rather than a female clergy. The challenge in assigning clergy based upon gender preference is that it subtly communicates a message to all our clergy that male clergy are deemed more desirable than female clergy. At Floris UMC we are committed to the value of both male and female clergy. There are some Christian traditions, denominations, and churches that do not ordain women or see them as valid leaders in the church or society. Floris UMC is not that church. We believe in the integrity of women in leadership and in their calling in the church.

Having a male or female pastor at your wedding will in no way affect the beauty or quality of your ceremony. It will be a subtle witness that you are a part of a church that is proud to value the role of women.

I celebrate that you have reached a point of love and confidence in your relationship that you want to unite in Christian marriage. I am confident your wedding will be a beautiful, sacred and meaningful service regardless of which of our clergy is officiating.

In Christ,

Rev. Tom Berlin
Lead Pastor