

Weddings at Union Congregational Church, Amesbury

Congratulations on your engagement! Union Congregational Church is the perfect place to plan your classic “little white church” wedding in our 1835 Greek Revival meetinghouse (a national historic landmark) situated on the scenic Merrimack River in the Point Shore village of Amesbury. As an open and affirming congregation, we welcome all couples who are seeking God’s blessing on their relationship, including same-sex couples and those with a previous divorce. We can accommodate a small, intimate ceremony or larger service for up to 150 guests. We also have a social hall and kitchen facilities available as part of your rental.



Packages

| <u>Rental Only</u> \$100 / hour | <u>Intimate Wedding</u> \$500 | <u>Traditional Wedding</u> \$1000 |
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| Use of church, social hall and restrooms for up to 50 guests. Flowers, decorations and favors permitted (see below). Music arranged with organist (separate fee), outside musician or pre-recorded music. Outside food permitted in social hall. Use of kitchen by licensed caterer for additional fee. Does not include services of minister. Outside officiant must be authorized by the Secretary of the Commonwealth (see below). | Use of church, social hall and restrooms. For up to 50 guests. Flowers, decorations and favors permitted (see below). Music arranged with organist (separate fee), outside musician or pre-recorded music. Outside food permitted in social hall. Use of kitchen by licensed caterer for additional fee. Services of minister including ceremony planning, officiating at wedding and filing of license. | Use of church, social hall and restrooms. For up to 150 guests. Flowers, decorations and favors permitted (see below). Outside food permitted in social hall. Use of kitchen by licensed caterer (no additional fee). Services of minister including ceremony planning, officiating at wedding and filing of license. Ceremony music by organist or pianist. |

Planning a Service

Minister and Ceremony - Couples who are not members of the church should arrange to meet with Rev. Scott at least one month prior to the wedding date. We will work cooperatively to plan the ceremony, including the choice of vows, service elements and music. As a Congregational-Christian

church, this usually means following the traditional Protestant form of wedding service, though the service can be adapted to accommodate your cultural or family traditions and individual beliefs. Anyone you choose may participate in the ceremony by offering readings, blessings or prayers.

Couples must be legally permitted to marry in Massachusetts and must obtain a marriage license at least two weeks prior to the wedding date. You do not need to be a member of the church or to hold specific beliefs in order to be married. We affirm the dignity and the right of all persons to marry, including those in same-sex relationships.

Outside clergy from any tradition are welcome to participate. If you intend to have someone else officiate in place of our minister, that person must be authorized to perform marriages in Massachusetts, either by law, through registration with the Secretary of the Commonwealth for out-of-state clergy (including New Hampshire clergy) or by obtaining a one-day marriage designation. If you are unsure about this, you should arrange to have them speak to Rev. Scott.



Music - We offer several options for music. If organ or piano is desired, Jim Seger, the Union Church organist, has over sixty years experience with traditional wedding music. Outside musicians of any instrument and style are also permitted. Alternatively the church sound system can accommodate pre-recorded music on CD or an external device like a phone or tablet. The minister can access and operate these from the pulpit during the service.


Decorations and Favors - Outside flowers of any kind are permitted. You or your florist must coordinate with us about pew bows and other fixed decorations; these must not mark or damage our 19th century architecture and furnishings. Bubbles are permitted outdoors; otherwise confetti, rice and birdseed should not be thrown.

Photography and Videography - Outside photography and videography is permitted at all times as long as it does not disrupt the service. Our sanctuary also features full video recording and livestream capability including a pan/tilt/zoom camera, video operator console and

sound board. If you would like Deacon Bob to video-record or livestream your ceremony, this can be arranged for an additional fee of \$50.

Food and Beverage - Food is not permitted in the meetinghouse (sanctuary). Pre-prepared or externally catered food and drink may be served in the hall. **Beer and wine require prior approval of the church council and may require additional authorization from the City of Amesbury. Hard liquor is not permitted.**

Facilities

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|  | <p><u>Meetinghouse (Sanctuary)</u> The Church's historic sanctuary was built in 1835 and boasts antique wavy-glass windows which provide plenty of natural light and a twenty-foot-foot high stamped tin ceiling. The whole space was rehabilitated and restored to its 19th century appearance in 2014-2015, winning a Massachusetts historic preservation award. An elevated chancel (stage) and choir/music area are situated at the front. The Sanctuary seats 150 comfortably and is handicap accessible.</p> |
|  | <p><u>The Social Hall</u> The Church Hall is handicap accessible and was renovated three years ago with new walls, ceilings, fresh paint and lighting fixtures. In buffet/dining configuration it has seating for 50 and features folding tables and chairs that can be arranged as desired. It has an unseated capacity of 125. Two accessible restrooms are located at its far end. Pre-prepared or externally catered food may be served in the hall.</p> |



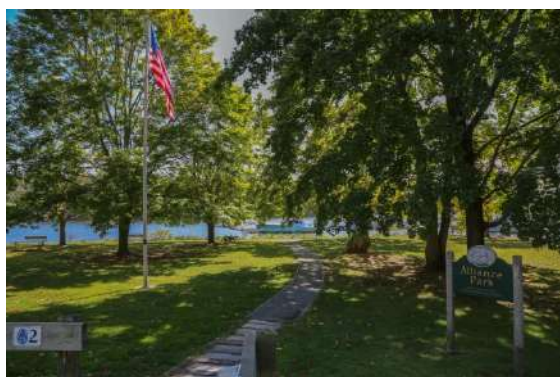
The Kitchen

The social hall includes a licensed commercial kitchen with gas range, dishwasher, three stall stainless steel sink and garbage disposal. It is well suited for a third-party catering service to work from. Due to health and insurance requirements the use of the kitchen is restricted to third party professional catering companies who will need to provide a certificate of insurance to the Church Council prior to the event and also requires an Amesbury Board of Health certificate of approval.



Music and Audio Visual

- Steinert electric concert organ
- Yamaha 88-key digital piano/keyboard
- Wired and wireless microphones
- Sound mixer system
- Integrated 5 disc CD changer and external AUX for phone/tablet
- Wall-mounted full HD PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) camera system
- Soundboard, computer and software for video recording and livestream broadcast



Alliance Park

Situated directly opposite Union Congregational Church at the confluence of the Powwow and Merrimack rivers, Alliance Park is an ideal scenic spot for relaxation, picnicking, photography and scenic views of an iconic New England coastal landscape. The park is owned and maintained by the Amesbury Improvement Association. The park is open to the public but permission is needed for parties and events.

For More Information

For more information or to schedule a meeting/visit, please call the church at (978) 388-0631 or email info@amesburyunion.org. An agreement and \$50 deposit is required to reserve your date.