



# Your Wedding at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

*Finding the right place is a good place  
to start planning your wedding!*

## **Guidelines**

We honor the love and commitment of all couples, regardless of their religious background or sexual orientation.

You need not be a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA) to celebrate your marriage in our sanctuary or hall.

You are free to write your own vows and observe your own, unique religious traditions.

Any clergy person you choose may officiate at your wedding or commitment ceremony.

Photographers and videographers are welcome in the church.

In addition, you may:

- Provide your own musicians, or you may use our modern, state-of-the-art sound system for recorded music.
- Use our Carlson organ (in the Sanctuary) or the Steinway grand piano (in Emerson Community Hall); both are available to the musicians of your choice.
- Use a caterer of your choice, who may work in our kitchen, or you may bring your own, home-made food. We do not provide dishes, silver, or glassware.

## **Facilities**

FUUSA's facilities are available to rent for weddings and commitment ceremonies, both for members of the congregation and for non-members.

Our sanctuary seats 196 people, and Channing, our social hall, will accommodate 150 people standing or 100 seated at tables. Emerson Community Hall, our newest addition, seats 299 on the ground floor and 42 in the balcony (or 150 at tables.)

Both Emerson Community Hall and Channing Hall are available for your reception, and several classrooms are available should you need a gathering place for members of the wedding party.

We can refer you to a minister if you are seeking a Unitarian Universalist officiant, and our Music Director may be available to play either piano or organ. You would contract directly with either minister or musician, and pay them separately from the rental fees.

**Accessibility:** The entire building is wheelchair accessible with entry ramps at both the front (Washington Avenue) and rear (West St.) An elevator that will provides access to all floors, and a small lift serves the stage in Emerson Community Hall.

**Parking:** Situated in downtown Albany, parking is on the street. On special occasions and only when classes are not in session at the University at Albany (across the street) we can request permission to use their two parking lots. Four to six weeks lead time is needed to gain this permission. There is also a municipal lot two blocks east of the church on Washington Avenue.

**Insurance:** All renters will provide a certificate of insurance for their event. Typically this is provided by your homeowners' or business' insurance company. If you hire a caterer or DJ they will also need to show proof of insurance. In addition, if you serve alcohol at the reception it must be served by a licensed and insured caterer.

## ***Room Descriptions***

**You can view these rooms on this site. Click on home page link to Virtual Tour.**

Our **Sanctuary** is known for its excellent acoustics and has a piano and a Carlson organ. Built in 1925 in Colonial style, the Sanctuary has a barrel vault ceiling and tall arched windows. The room is light and airy in the day and glows softly at night. Up to 196 can be seated in the cushioned pews, plus another 14 in the choir pews at the front right. It has a sound system. Food and beverages are not permitted in this space.

Entering from the columned portico, one first enters a vestibule, and from there goes into the Sanctuary facing the chancel. The room is 30' wide and 52' long. The chancel is raised 2', and is 16' wide at the front, 11.5' wide at the back, and 8.5' deep, with a moveable pulpit and a door to the sound room. The organ loft is located over the entry vestibule, and has enough space to accommodate several musicians or photographer/videographer. At the front left is the door connecting to the social hall and the rest of the building.

**Emerson Community Hall**, in the wing opened in September 2007, is a modern contrast to the 1925 Sanctuary. The room is light and soaring, yet intimate because of the warm woods and natural materials. Flexible seating (comfortable chairs!) can be set up to accommodate 30 or 330. The hall has excellent acoustics, a Steinway piano, and an adjacent area for refreshments. It can be used for wedding ceremony, reception, dinner, or dancing.

**Channing Hall**, located between the Sanctuary and the Religious Education/Administration wing, is 30'x 45' and has a hardwood floor suitable for dancing. This social space can seat 100 for a meal, or 150 lecture-style in flexible seating. It has a sound system, and connects to the pantry, kitchen, and lobby. One end has a south-facing bay window and comfortable seating; the other has large panels on which are displayed art shows throughout the year.

**Mix and Match:** You can use one, two or all three spaces. For example have the ceremony in the Sanctuary, the reception line in Channing Hall, and dinner in Emerson Hall. Or the ceremony in the Sanctuary, the dinner in Channing Hall, and dancing in Emerson Hall.

## ***Booking Your Wedding***

To inquire about available dates and request additional information, please contact our church administrator, Amy Lent, at 518-463-7135.