Pierce Chapel

Wesleyan College

Pierce Chapel is a sacred space that serves as the center of religious life on the campus of Wesleyan College. While this is the primary function of the Chapel, the facility is available to the entire campus community for educational programming and events such as convocations, lectures, recitals, and meetings. Pierce Chapel may also be reserved by the wider community for weddings, baptisms, memorial services, and other gatherings that are appropriate for a college environment and the facility. Religious life at Wesleyan College is the responsibility of the Office of Campus Ministry; therefore, no religious programming (other than weddings, baptisms, and memorial services) may be scheduled in Pierce Chapel without the invitation and approval of the Director of Campus Ministry. This includes programming and events organized and sponsored by Campus Ministry organizations.

General Policies for Pierce Chapel

- Pierce Chapel is a sacred place and therefore should be treated with respect by all who enter.
- All who enter should adopt a posture of respect and reverence in word and in action.
- A Wesleyan Event Proctor must be present at all times during non-Wesleyan events.
- A Wesleyan Audio Visual Technician must be present to operate equipment in the Chapel.
- Smoking, alcoholic beverages, or intoxicants of any kind are prohibited on the Chapel grounds.
- No intoxicated persons will be allowed inside Pierce Chapel.
- No food or beverages are allowed in the Chancel. Food and beverages are only allowed in the Lovick P. Corn Center for Campus Ministry on the lower level.
- Candles must be dripless and are limited to the platform and altar areas of the Chancel.
- Chapel furnishings must be protected; no tacks, pins, tape, glue, wire, or any other substance may be used to affix any object or decoration to the furniture, walls, or building. Only approved pew clips may be used to attach ribbons and/or flowers to the end chair on a row.
- Chapel furniture may not be moved without prior permission.
- Nothing should be placed on the piano.
- Only authorized persons may operate or touch the audio visual and sound equipment in the Chapel.
- Only licensed service animals are allowed inside Pierce Chapel.
- All who use the Chapel should leave the space in orderly and clean condition, absent of any supplies or materials that were used for the service or event.

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Weddings/Commitment Ceremonies

Pierce Chapel is available for weddings and commitment ceremonies for students, faculty, staff, alumnae, as well as the wider Macon community. It is our joy to serve and celebrate with couples from all faith traditions and denominational affiliations on this special day; however, reservation priority will be given to those affiliated with the college. Accordingly, those with no Wesleyan College affiliation may make wedding reservations no earlier than six months prior to the wedding date. While we do not restrict ceremonies on the grounds of religious affiliation and practice, we do require that the ceremony be religious rather than civil and that the officiant be a credentialed minister approved by the Wesleyan College Chaplain/Director of Campus Ministry. We require officiants to file with the college a copy of the appropriate credential (such as an ordination certificate, license, or letter from a religious organization) that sanctions the officiant to perform weddings.

Additional policies specific to weddings/commitment ceremonies

- The contents of the ceremony, as well as the attire and behavior of the wedding party and guests, should reflect an attitude of reverence befitting a service of worship.
- A Wesleyan Event Proctor must be present at all times during the use of the Chapel.
- A Wesleyan Audio Visual Technician must be present to operate equipment in the Chapel.
- No intoxicated persons will be allowed inside Pierce Chapel.
- Candles must be dripless and are limited to the platform and altar areas of the Chancel.
- No rice, confetti, or birdseed may be used inside the Chapel. Real flower petals may be used inside if an aisle cloth is used. Birdseed and flower petals may be used on the grounds.
- Flowers and decorations may not be tacked or glued to pew chairs in the Chapel.
  - It is the wedding florist’s responsibility to clean the Chancel area once the arrangement has been placed, prior to the service.
  - The sanctuary must be cleared of all decorations by the florist immediately following the ceremony.
- Photographs may be taken in the sanctuary or on the grounds preceding and following the ceremony.

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• Because the wedding is a sacred worship service, no distractions will be permitted.
  • No photographs may be taken in the sanctuary during the ceremony.
    ▪ Photographs of the bride (and her attendants) entering the sanctuary and the couple exiting the ceremony are permitted.
  • Professional videotape recordings may be used to record the service using existing lighting.
    ▪ Once the prelude music begins, no video camera adjustments may be made.
• Ushers should refrain from loud conversation while in the narthex before and during the time guests are arriving.
• The bride and her wedding party should refrain from loud conversation upon arrival in the narthex.
• Guests should park in the designated parking area for Pierce Chapel with overflow parking behind Porter Auditorium.
• The renting party is responsible for the behavior of all wedding guests and for notifying any photographer, florist, and members of the wedding party of all regulations.