



CHURCH CEREMONIES

Church ceremonies are gorgeous in their own special way! Communion, prayer, and worship are wonderful things to partake in on your wedding day. If you are getting married in a church, please make sure we know the church guidelines in advance. Some churches request that we minimize our movement at certain parts of the service, while other churches only let us take photos from the balcony. No matter what the case is, we want to make sure we are on the same page about what is possible during your ceremony! It's also helpful if you let us know about any special traditions that will be taking place during the ceremony.

OUTDOOR CEREMONIES



TIME OF DAY

Ceremony lighting is really important. I suggest planning your ceremony 1.5 or 2 hours before sunset to ensure that you will have plenty of time for all of your portraits afterwards. For outdoor ceremonies, the lower the sun, the better. The ideal placement of the sun is BEHIND the altar. (You don't want your future husband squinting into the harsh sun as you walk down the aisle!) You also want to avoid standing in harsh sunlight during the middle of the day because there will be shadows on your faces. If you are getting married outside under trees, make sure to check out the ceremony site sometime before the wedding at the exact time you will be having your ceremony. Try to avoid splotchy shadows from the trees if possible!







FIRST STEPS AS NEWLYWEDS

After your officiant says, “You may now kiss your bride!” and you’ve officially been announced as the new “Mr. and Mrs.,” you walk back down the aisle as everyone cheers. It’s always a good idea to kiss again at the END of the aisle for a photo, like Taylor and Randy did! One fun way to make that moment even more special is to have ushers hand out confetti or petals to guests before they sit down. Ask guests to toss the confetti whenever you get announced as husband and wife!



UTILIZING YOUR CEREMONY SITE

One thing we love about outdoor ceremonies is that the ceremony backdrop can be utilized for portraits throughout the day! Dara and Matt chose to get married under a gorgeous tree on their family property, and they draped the tree with stunning floral arrangements. It called for a breathtaking backdrop to their vows and a great spot for portraits before and after the ceremony. This same concept can be done with floral arches and other decor as well.



post ceremony

1) FAMILY FORMALS

Alex and I absolutely love meeting our couple's families on the wedding day! Family formals are normally our first interaction with them, so we like to have a game plan for this part of the day! 2 months before your wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire from us that will ask you to list out the family formals you want us to capture. On the right, you'll find a sample family formal list to help you start preparing what shots you need. We do try to limit the family formals to 20 minutes in order to keep cocktail hour to a true hour. We recommend around 10 family groupings to stay within 20 minutes, but we can also take casual large group photos during the reception! Suggested groupings are immediate families on both sides, siblings, parents, and grandparents. If you are wanting extended family photos with many family members, we may need to allow for more time during family formals. The best way to make sure family photos run smoothly is to tell family members about the portraits beforehand AND have the officiant ask them to stay for photos before he or she releases guests to cocktail hour.



SAMPLE LIST

AFTER THE CEREMONY:

B&G with Bride's Immediate Family

B&G with Bride's Parents

B&G with Bride's Siblings

B&G with Bride's Grandparents

B&G with both sets of Parents

B&G with Groom's Immediate Family

B&G with Groom's Parents

B&G with Groom's Siblings

B&G with Groom's Grandparents

B&G with extended family members if desired

(ex: aunts, uncles, cousins, and their families)

BEFORE THE CEREMONY:

Bride with her Parents

Bride with Parents + Siblings

Bride with Mom, Bride with Dad

Groom with his Parents

Groom with Parents + Siblings

Groom with Mom, Groom with Dad



2) BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS

If you did not do a first look, this is the first opportunity we have to take the big group bridal party photos. The bridal party will sit in the back during family photos so that we can take their group shot last. During this time, we include the bridesmaids, groomsmen, and any junior bridal party members in the photos. Once we are finished with group shots, the bridal party usually goes with the wedding coordinator to get lined up for the grand entrance into the reception.

3) BRIDE AND GROOM PORTRAITS

All of the wedding day images are important, but the portraits of just the two of you will be the images that you frame in your house and that fill your album for generations to enjoy. For this brief moment in time, you will be alone with your groom on your wedding day. You will have a chance to love on each other and really take in the first moments as husband and wife! These portraits are taken just after family and bridal party portraits conclude.

During this time, we encourage you to not be in a rush to take your veil off and bustle your dress! These details look SO pretty in photos! Stay focused! I know it's tempting to want to rush through photos to get to the reception, but I promise the party isn't going to start without you! We've carefully planned your timeline to prioritize your bride + groom photos in the best lighting, and I promise these 20 minutes will fly by and be well worth it!



SCHEDULING EXTRA SUNSET PHOTOS

If at all possible, I like to take bride and groom portraits after the ceremony AND again during the reception. If you have an earlier reception start time, then I can steal you away from the reception (just for 5-10 minutes!) to take photos whenever the sun starts setting. The picture on the right was taken during sunset at the reception. I snuck away with Kaylee and Stephen for a couple minutes, and it was well worth it! We were able to take photos in areas that had been too sunny at the beginning of the day, and we captured an amazing “glow” from the sunset. Their final photo gallery contained portraits of the two of them from the beginning of the day AND from later in the evening. I always recommend scheduling time for sunset portraits!







RAIN ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

One of the most frequently asked questions that we receive during wedding season is “Soooo, what do you do if it RAINS?!” I want to reassure you that even if it rains, you will still have beautiful portraits and bright colors in your images. Overcast skies mean vibrant colors! I know that rain isn’t ideal, and no bride would wish for rain on her big day, but even if it happens, it’s still your wedding day! Here are a few things to remember:

1. All I need to create natural light portraits on a rainy wedding day is a porch. Just one porch! That ensures that the bridal party won’t get rained on.
2. Let me worry about the pictures. You have enough to think about. If there is a chance of rain, I’ll be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location or two for us to use for your first look, bride and groom portraits, and bridal party portraits. We always bring cute clear umbrellas just in case!
3. Have a rain plan for your venue, but then let your vendors do the work of handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast. Focus on enjoying the day like you normally would!
4. This is the GOOD news about a rainy day wedding! I like to offer what I call “rainy day insurance” for your bride and groom portraits. If your bride and groom portraits get rained on, I will gift you a complimentary Anniversary Session that you can redeem up to a year after your wedding. You can get dressed back up again in your wedding attire so we can take even more “bride and groom” images for you to have as a keepsake!





The reception





ESTATE/MANSION

YOUR DREAM DECOR

When I was planning my own wedding, I dwelled over all of the details! Can you blame me? I wanted the day to be perfect- down to the last detail. However, I also had to realize that I needed to prioritize certain elements of the day in order to stay in my budget. When it came to decorating the tables at the reception, my wedding photographer had great advice for me. She told me that even if I could not decorate each and every table the way that I had hoped, I should make my HEAD table my dream table. Deck out your head table with special centerpieces, plates, and name cards even if you cannot do that to every table. I will focus the majority of my photos on the head table in order to capture all of the little details. No one will ever know that the other tables were not as decorated! But remember, the most important thing about the tables at your wedding is the friends and family members that will be gathering around them!







FARMHOUSE



SPECIAL EVENTS

- Bridal Party Introductions
- Welcome Speech
- Blessing
- First Dance
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Mother-Son Dance
- Anniversary Dance
- Money Dance
- Traditional/Cultural Dances
- Cake Cutting
- Toasts
- Bouquet and Garter Toss
- Large Group Portraits with Friends
- Grand Exit of the Bride and Groom







RECEPTION TIPS

The party has begun! It's time to relax, dance, and celebrate! Your reception should be a BLAST! The last thing you need to be worrying about is your timeline. Your coordinator and DJ should take care of making sure that everything stays on schedule so that you can enjoy your night. Here are some tips that will help your reception photograph and fl w well:

- INVEST IN DANCE FLOOR LIGHTING: As a rule of thumb, your dance fl or photos will have the same type of ambience as the actual environment itself. For example, if your reception takes place in an all wooden barn, the background of the reception images will be a tad oranger in nature. Receptions with white walls tend to have a cleaner look and feel. That's because the flash bounces off the walls and picks up on its color! Either way, I highly recommend adding some type of colorful DJ or strobe lights to help give the room more dimension. Colorful lights make the images look more glowy in the background which also makes it look like you are dancing at a PARTY!

- MAKE IT YOUR OWN: If you want to have a special dance with your grandparents, do it! Make your reception a refl ction of who you are and don't feel tied to traditions. Also, make sure you give your DJ or band a "Do Not Play" list if there are some songs you really don't want to hear during your reception!

-THINK ABOUT RECEPTION COVERAGE: If you haven't purchased enough coverage time for your photography to last until the exit, no worries; we have several options! I recommend planning your timeline so that you can have at least one hour of dancing photographed. The guests who dance during the fi st hour will still be dancing in the third hour! One hour of dancing will be enough time to capture the joy of your reception. You can also plan to do a mock exit which I talk about in a few pages!

MOMENTS THAT MATTER



As the night goes on, we follow the flow of events from toasts to cake cutting to special dances. When you eat, we eat! When you walk around to greet guests, we follow from a distance! While the reception is candid in nature, we do offer suggestions about where to stand for the best lighting and photo opportunities. For example, we always like for you to stand, as opposed to sit, during the toasts. We can capture your reaction and get the speaker in the same frame if you are standing side by side. For cake cutting, we recommend standing on the backside of the table so we can capture both of your faces!

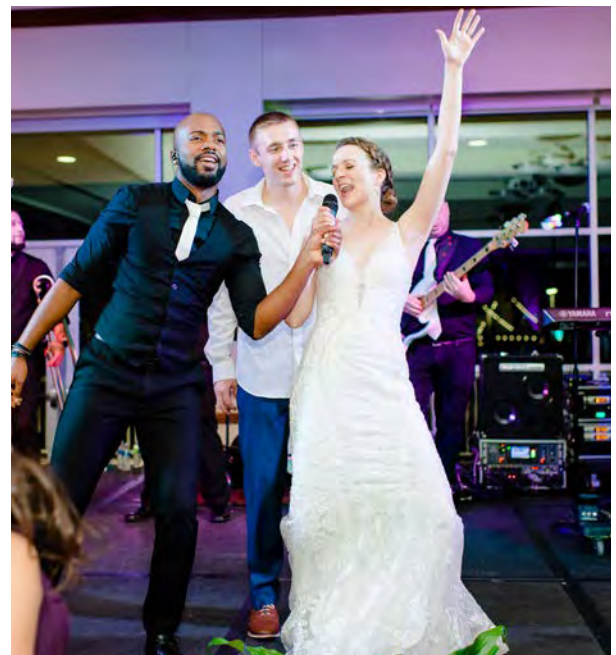


It might be tempting to shorten your first dance song because you are nervous about being the center of attention, but the longer you dance, the more chances we have to capture kisses on the dance floor and stolen glances at each other. We also have more time to be creative with a variety of tight shots and wide shots. If your first dance is choreographed, please let us know so we are positioned correctly to capture the dance from the “front.”

DANCE FLOOR LIGHTING TIPS



“Do we need additional lighting on the dance floor?” This is one of the most frequently asked questions that I receive. Ah, such a great question! My answer is YES! You might think your DJ is trying to upsell you some uplights (pun intended) that you don’t need, but from a photographer’s perspective, the more uplighting the better! Dance floor lighting comes in many shapes and forms, but I most commonly see colorful strobe lights used to light up the dance floor. I recommend dance floor lighting for several reasons. First, it creates a fun ambience for the crowd and helps make the transition between dinner and open dance floor time. Second, it adds more dimension and color to your dance floor photos. Your guests will look like they are at a rockin’ party when you add dance floor lights. This helps a LOT especially if you already know your reception venue is darker in nature, like a barn or a space that is composed of mainly wooden walls. If your reception space has a black ceiling, I recommend additional lighting to brighten up your images. Tip: If you have a live band, you may need to rent lighting equipment from a third party since not all bands provide their own lighting. Check with them first!



A GRAND EXIT

There are so many fun options for Grand Exits! We most commonly see sparkler and confetti exits at the end of the night. If your venue has certain restrictions you need to follow, you can opt for a bubble exit instead!

If your photo coverage ends before your exit, you can plan a mock exit with just the members of your bridal party and a few family members. This allows us to have more control over the exit photos, and the party never has to stop. No one even notices that the bride and groom are missing for a few minutes!

Or, you can add a “Bubble Photo” or “Sparkler Photo” to your list of reception events so that guests view it as another fun wedding activity instead of your actual exit. We take the photo outside, and then everyone goes back to partying inside! These alternative exit options allow our couples to limit their photography coverage but still have all of the shots that they dreamed of. If you are interested in adding more photo coverage, please let me know at least one month before your wedding day.



SPARKLERS



CONFETTI



A SECOND LINE

BUBBLES



GETAWAY CAR



WEDDING ALBUMS

4x4 inch “pocket” album

8x8 inch album (wedding or engagement guest sign-in book)

10x10 inch album

12x12 inch album

It's exciting to receive your online wedding gallery with hundreds of photos from your wedding day, but it's a lot harder to remember to print out those photos than you'd think! Don't just let your most special memories live online on Facebook and Instagram. When you order a luxury wedding album, you are guaranteed a gorgeous tangible reminder of your wedding day that will stand the test of time. One day, your album will be passed down to future generations, so it's something that will always be cherished!

Alex and I didn't have any trouble picking out our parents' Christmas gifts the year we got married! Our parents did so much to make our wedding a dream come true, so we decided to surprise them with their very own albums on Christmas morning! A parent album is typically a size smaller than the bride and groom's album with a duplicate layout of the bride and groom's album.

Album design usually takes 2-3 weeks, and production and shipping take an additional 3 weeks.

UPGRADE OPTIONS:

Each album comes with a linen cover, a photo cut-out on the cover, and a linen dust jacket. Album upgrades include engraving or debossing on the cover, extra spreads, album boxes, and leather covers.

VISIT ALBUMS.KATHEWITT.COM FOR PRICE SHEET AND ORDER FORM



CHAI

NATURAL GRAY



YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago, you had to order prints of the images that you wanted to have forever. That isn't how we work around here! We want you to have ALL of your memories in your possession forever and ever! We also want you to share your images freely and without any hesitation. That's why we deliver your images via an online photo gallery. That means that you'll have the rights to download the images, save them, and share them wherever you'd like. I've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do on the next page.

DOWNLOADING PHOTOS:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery, and they will be high resolution. This process is very simple! All you have to do is click the “downwards arrow icon” on an enlarged photo to download it. Or, you can download the entire gallery at one time. To do this, use the downwards icon that appears at the top right immediately under the gallery’s cover photo. Your photos will download directly to your “Downloads” folder on your computer. If you opt to download the entire gallery at one time, you can either stay on the page waiting for the download to be prepared, or you can wait for the email notification when your entire download is prepared. (It takes a few minutes to prepare for hundreds of images to be downloaded!) Once you receive the email saying your download is prepared and ready, make sure you click to start the official download process to your computer. There’s also an option to save the images to Google Drive, so we recommend both methods as extra backup.

ACCESSING YOUR PHOTOS ON YOUR PHONE:

The online gallery system that we use allows you to download images to your phone as well. If you pull up your gallery in your browser on your phone, you can click the same download icon mentioned above and then follow the on-screen instructions.

ORDERING PRINTS:

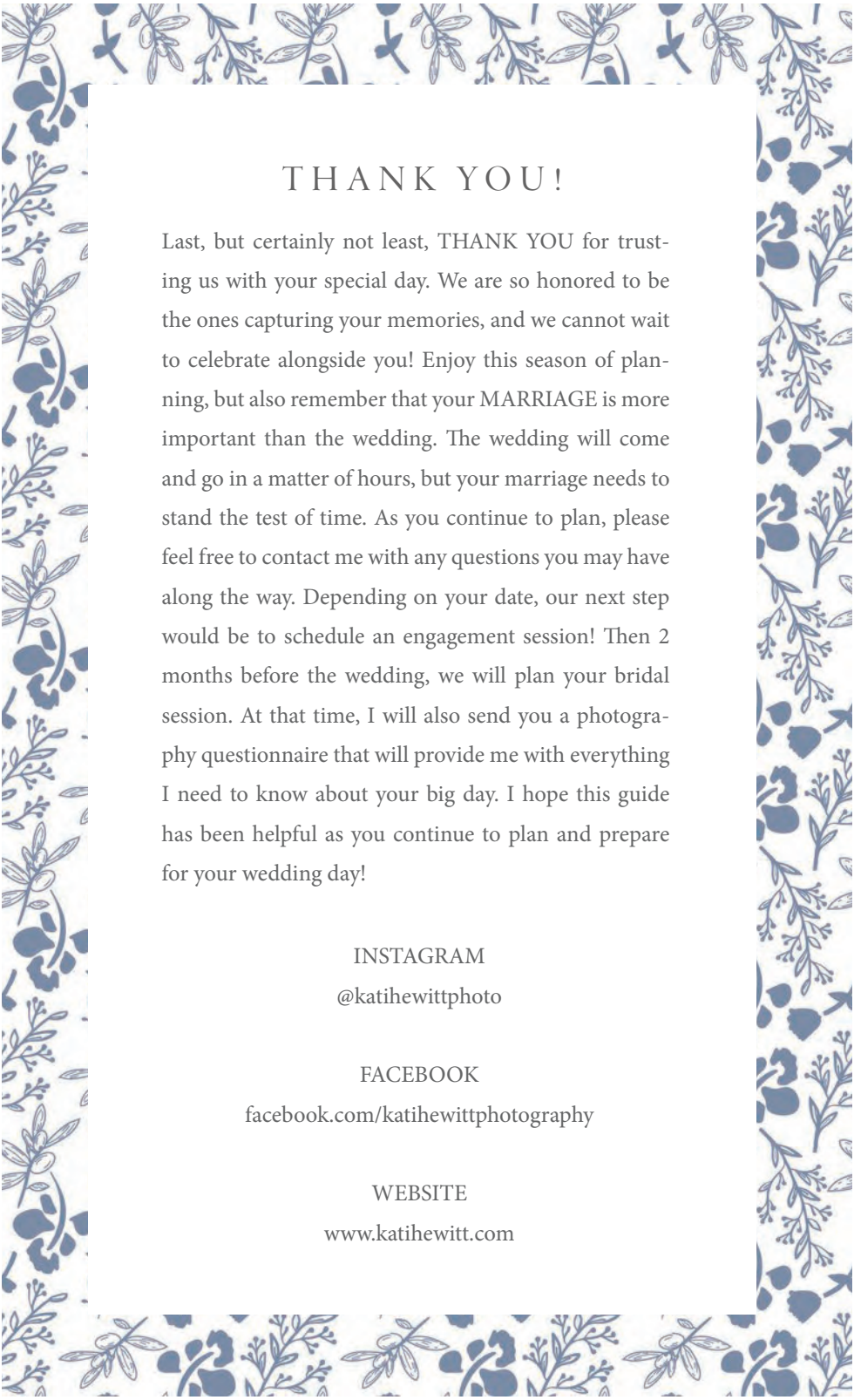
You can order professional and affordable prints from within your online gallery and have them shipped directly to your house. Traditional print sizes are all under \$10 and are printed in a professional lab to ensure color and contrast accuracy. You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would caution you to avoid Walgreens, Target, Costco, and the like. I cannot promise that your colors will print true-to-life if you choose to print at a third party location.

GALLERY EXPIRATION:

Your online galleries will be available for 6 months. Even though you have access to these online images for several months, I HIGHLY recommend downloading them and saving them in multiple places for safe keeping! Once your photos have been delivered, it is your responsibility to download ALL of the photos and store them before the gallery expires. Save your photos on your computer as well as a hard drive or flash drive in case your computer crashes, etc.

SHARING, WATERMARKING, & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images, and I want you to love them so much that you can’t help but share them! We don’t believe that it is necessary to watermark our images. We kindly ask for some type of credit whenever you use an image on social media. We only have one rule when it comes to what you can and cannot do with our work. We always encourage our clients not to re-edit their images since we have already done that hard work in our signature style! However, if you have an image or two that you want to print at a very large size, and you find an imperfection or blemish, we will gladly perfect it!



THANK YOU!

Last, but certainly not least, THANK YOU for trusting us with your special day. We are so honored to be the ones capturing your memories, and we cannot wait to celebrate alongside you! Enjoy this season of planning, but also remember that your MARRIAGE is more important than the wedding. The wedding will come and go in a matter of hours, but your marriage needs to stand the test of time. As you continue to plan, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have along the way. Depending on your date, our next step would be to schedule an engagement session! Then 2 months before the wedding, we will plan your bridal session. At that time, I will also send you a photography questionnaire that will provide me with everything I need to know about your big day. I hope this guide has been helpful as you continue to plan and prepare for your wedding day!

INSTAGRAM

@katihe Wittphoto

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/katihe Wittphotography

WEBSITE

www.katihe Witt.com



