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*Complete Bridal Guide*



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# Luverne bridal store offers more than just “The Dress”

Jill Fennema

First Comes Love, a bridal boutique in Luverne, opened about a year ago on Jan 6, 2022. Owner Mary Brown has created a beautiful and romantic store where brides and their friends and family can go to find just the right dress for that oh-so-important day.

Brown took her love for ball gowns and passion for sewing and has developed it into a niche business for our area. She has over 75 dresses on hand in her store for brides-to-be to try on. From full skirted ball gowns to fit and flair dresses, she has some of every style of wedding dress that today's brides are looking for. From elegant dresses to lacy, romantic and sparkling - she sells every style and shape of dress to every style and shaped women. She carries all sizes - from zero to 36.

“Every bride, whatever her size or age - every single bride - is worried about her figure and wonders how she looks,” Brown said. She likes to remind all the brides who come into her store that they are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14)

When she says that, some brides respond, “Yes, I am!” while others seem surprised to hear it, but are relieved to be reminded. “I’m telling them a little truth,” Brown added.

Shopping for the perfect dress for the perfect wedding

day is something that every bride looks forward to. “It’s a celebration,” Brown said. “They make a day of it.”

She enjoys showing women several styles and assisting them as they see what works and what doesn’t. “Usually a theme starts to emerge,” Brown said. Her customers are asked to make an appointment so that they can have one-on-one service for an hour-and-a-half to two hours. “We give them the space and support they need to make a good decision,” she said. “We can also help them when they want to customize.”

Brown is also an experienced seamstress, with over 30 years of experience. She learned to sew from her mother and grandmother and some of her first creations with needle and thread took shape when she was just a little girl. When she was 10 years old she was sewing ball gowns for her dolls! She has loved *Gone with the Wind* since she was young, especially the gowns that the women wore during that Civil War time period. She would use wire hangers to fashion hoop skirts for her dolls.

“I have had a lifelong love for dresses and gowns,” she added.



Brides come in all shapes and sizes. Mary Brown loves helping each woman find her unique look for her special day.

Brown also works in health-care. After COVID-19, she felt like Luverne needed something beautiful and happy on Main Street.

“This has exceeded my expectations. It’s definitely a happy place,” she said.

First Comes Love is located on the east end of Luverne’s Main Street, in the Mall on Main building on the corner of McKenzie St. and Main St. There is a suite of businesses inside - the Sewing Basket and ReBorn Home Furnishings are her neighbors.

Once a bride has chosen a dress, it can take several

cont. on pg. 3



The dress on the left is the original. The dress on the right is the same dress with a couple of alterations, including the addition of short sleeves and a modification to the bodice.



First Comes Love has a nice selection of veils and tiaras and other accessories.



This bride wanted a custom train added to her dress.






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# First Comes Love, cont.

cont. from pg. 2  
months for it to arrive. Wedding dresses typically take about five months, but occasionally they can be found in a shorter time period. If a bride is in a rush and needs a wedding dress really quickly, Brown does sell dresses “off the rack.”

She can also help a bride customize any dress until she gets exactly what she is looking for. Some customizations can include adding sleeves and trains, altering necklines, creating custom overskirts, and so much more. Brown does all the alterations and customizations right there at the store.

Brown also specializes in “bespoke” service, which is another way of saying that she offers tailor-made and custom dresses. “Bespoke means to speak into existence! The dress in your heart can be custom created here,” according Brown’s website, firstcomes-loveyourdress.com. She will also remake vintage gowns to work for today’s bride.



From romantic and whimsical to simple and elegant, First Comes Love offers dresses in all types and styles.

In addition to wedding dresses, Brown also sells bridesmaid dresses. She has examples in all sizes and in a huge array of colors. She noted that some brides are opting to find bridesmaid dresses online and that can seem

like an inexpensive way to go. However, she has found that many who go that route need to have their dresses altered a lot to fit each individual woman. The time and money that goes into the alterations can

Continued on Page 4



Ivory dresses are still the traditional favorite for wedding dresses, but First Comes Love does have this colorful wedding dress option.



Brown is excited to be entering the next prom shopping season. She has a full rack of prom dresses as well.



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## Tips to help master your wedding guest list

Weddings are such momentous occasions that it's no wonder couples want to share their big day with as many people as possible. Though a wedding where all friends, family members and acquaintances are in attendance may be a dream scenario, reality often calls for a more carefully curated guest list.

Data from The Wedding Report indicates that the average cost of a wedding is slightly more than \$20,000, though that figure could be substantially higher, or even lower, depending on where couples tie the knot. Both The Wedding Report and The Knot report that a wedding venue and catering make up a significant percentage of the overall cost of a wedding, with some figures indicating that these expenses account for around 65 percent of the final price tag. The number of guests couples will host on their wedding day will affect which venue they book and how much food and beverages they'll need to satisfy guests. Couples who hope to stay within budget can consider these tips as they try to build a guest list that won't break the bank.

- **Accept input.** Parents may no longer foot the entire bill for their children's weddings, but couples who are accepting some financial help from parents must also accept Mom's and Dad's input regarding the guest list. Even if parents' desired guests do not ultimately make the cut, it's best to respect their wishes and consider who they want to invite. Couples who are financing their own weddings without outside help need not feel beholden to invite anyone who does not meet their invitation criteria.

- **Make a preliminary list without regard to budget.** Couples can have fun making preliminary guest lists without considering their budgets. A preliminary list can serve as a solid starting point, and couples may even realize that their list is within budget. Once the preliminary lists have been created, couples can categorize guests (i.e., distant cousins, coworkers, etc.) and then work together to determine if any categories can be eliminated from the invitation list. For example, couples who may be going over budget with their guest lists can each agree to remove distant cousins from their prospective invitees.

- **Seek advice.** Many couples face difficult decisions regarding their wedding day guest lists, so it can be helpful to speak to a recently married friend or relative to see how they handled paring down their guest lists. Some might have done it by category, while others might have limited guest lists to local friends and family. When taking this approach, couples can speak to friends about how they approached handling people who were surprised that they were not on the final list of invitees.

- **Throw a less formal party down the road.** A less expensive backyard barbecue within weeks of tying the knot can serve as a less costly alternative to a large wedding reception. Couples who take this approach can keep their wedding day guest lists to a minimum, but invite everyone they hope to see to a post-wedding day backyard barbecue or pot luck picnic so they can celebrate with everyone they love.

Curating a wedding day guest list is no small task. However, couples can try various approaches to keep a guest list more manageable and less expensive.

## First Comes Love, cont.

*continued from page 3*

make the savings by buying online a moot point.

Typically, bridesmaid dresses can arrive in two to three months.

Recently, Brown expanded her inventory to include dresses for mothers and grandmothers. She found that when groups of women came in shopping, the mothers and grandmothers were always looking for a dress, too.

"The mother's line has been really exciting," she said. "Every weekend a mom will come and say, 'Do you have mother's dresses?'"

Now she does. She has a nice selection of formal wear for mothers and grandmothers, in a variety of colors and styles. There is sure to be something for every palate. She can get more dresses, too, depending on what each customer is looking for. These dresses can arrive in just a few weeks.

She pays a great deal of attention to how well the dresses are made. Because she has sewn gowns herself, she knows what she is looking for.

"The mechanics of the dress have to work, too. It has to look good, but also function," Brown added.

Shopping for dresses should commence at least six months before the big day. Brown said she has helped a couple brides who were on a much more truncated timeline, but it's ideal to have plenty of time for the ordered gown to arrive and be altered.

"I really try to be open and honest and supportive of brides," Brown said in conclusion. "Marriage union is the most important relationship we have this side of Heaven. I like to help that."

Call for an appointment. Check her out on Facebook or visit her website.



Here are a few examples of mother's dresses that Brown has for sale at her store.

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# Popular wedding hairstyles

Much goes into being photo-ready on your wedding day. After months of planning, the wedding day is the couple's time to really shine, and many go to extraordinary lengths to look their best. Gowns and tuxes may garner their fair share of attention, but hairstyles also can help couples look their best.

Couples can wear their hair how they see fit, but certain hairstyles have exhibited some serious staying power and can look timeless in photos and videos for years to come.

- **Classic low bun or chignon:** This is one hairstyle that certainly has withstood the test of time. A bun can be as sleek as a bride desires, or tendrils can be pulled out to frame the face, and the bun can be anything from minimal to messy. Pulling hair back may be more comfortable on warm days and there's no frizz to worry about if Mother Nature fails to cooperate.

- **Vintage curls:** Brides whose dresses harken back to a bygone era may want to complement that style with a hairdo that also speaks to that moment in time. For example, the intricate pin curls of the 1920s likely will tie into a gown with an umpire waist.

- **Fancy ponytail:** Like a bun, a ponytail can pull hair away from the face for comfort and style. It's a bit less formal than a bun and can be styled in many different fashions, even incorporating braids.



Letting a few tendrils fall out of an up-do can make it more romantic.



A "half-up" hair style full of waves will go good with many dress styles.

- **Side-swept waves:** Evoke movie-star drama with a hairstyle that features hair pulled to one side and cascading waves down the length of the face.

- **Loose waterfall braids:** Carefree boho looks run the gamut of styles. One to consider is loosely plaited waterfall braids that add whimsy. Additional braided options also work well for less formal weddings.

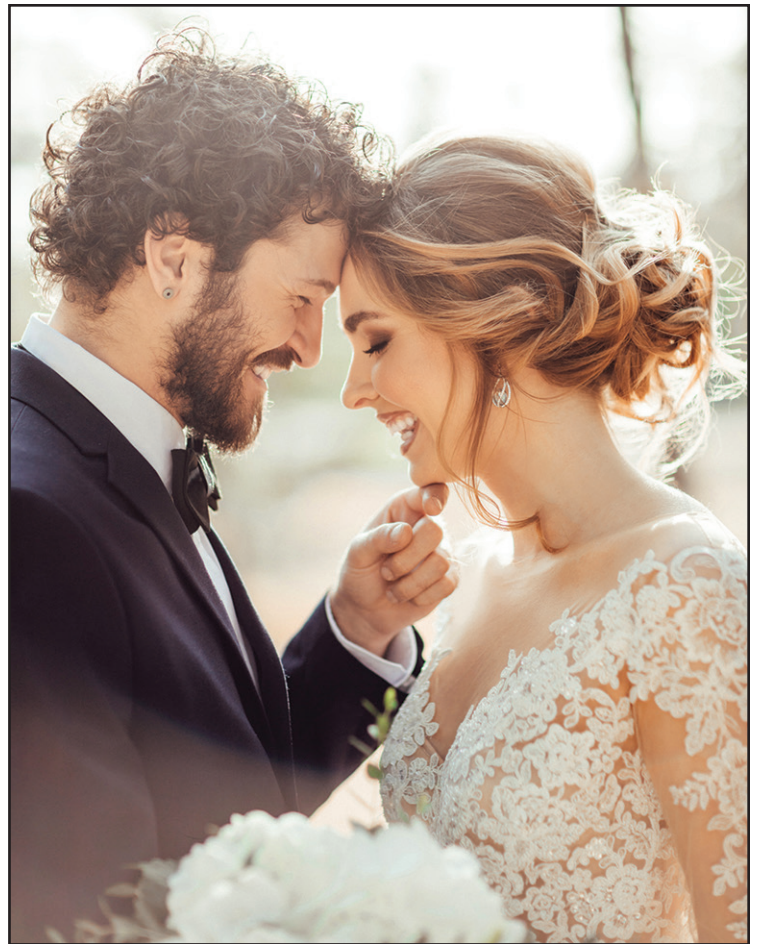
- **Half-up, half-down:** This hairstyle offers the best of both worlds. It enables the hair to be pulled back on top, and then the bottom is left loose, whether straight or in curls or waves.

- **Ballerina top knot:** This is a take on the bun. But rather than pinned at the nape, it is high on the crown of the head.

- **Short bob or pixie with accents:** Shorter hair also can look stunning. A bob or pixie cut can be enhanced with sparkling barrettes or woven-in flowers.

- **Halo braid:** This braid is fashioned so that it goes over the top of the head and mimics the look of a crown or halo. It may negate the need for a tiara.

Men also have plenty of options to get their hair wedding day-ready. Classic shorter cuts feature close-cut sides and more length on top, which can be spiked, tousled or even slicked back depending on personal preference. However, any length hair is in fashion, and grooms can don buns, ponytails, natural texture, and much more.



This "simple elegance" style hair is a classic look for many brides.



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# Mohlenkamp and Coleman married at Dell Rapids

## Traditional ceremony follows elopement

Jill Fennema

Pastor Brogan Mohlenkamp and his wife Katherine Coleman took a non-traditional path to marriage. The couple was young and in love, and rather than simply moving in together like so many couples do these days, they decided to elope on the Sunday after Thanksgiving in 2021.

Brogan grew up near Trosky. He is the oldest son of Dave and Wendy Mohlenkamp. He graduated from the University of Sioux Falls with a degree in theology and went on to Sioux Falls Seminary where he earned his Masters in Divinity. He has three younger siblings.

Katherine grew up in Rochester, Minn. She has one brother. She went to college in Spokane, Wash., for youth ministry and moved back to Rochester a few years ago.

Brogan became the pastor at the Reformed Church of Dell Rapids in July of 2020. He was officially ordained in April of 2021. He and Katherine had been dating for 10 months. He and Katherine started chatting through an online dating site and officially met a month after they started talking. Their first date was in Dell Rapids at the local restaurant.

On October 15, 2021, they were on their way out of Sioux Falls and Brogan told Katherine that he wanted to marry her, but he didn't have a ring purchased. He said, "How about a crisp high five?"

Katherine's response was mostly laughter as this was not what every little girl dreamed of, but it was perfect for their story.

Once Brogan had the ring purchased, he proposed in a more traditional manner. Down on one knee, he said, "Katherine Coleman, you're the love of my life. Would you do me the honor of being my wife?" Of course, she said yes!

But rather than plan a big wedding many months in the future, they opted to get married quickly and quietly.

"We both knew that we wanted to be married but did not want to continue the commute between Dell Rapids and Rochester. We wanted to take the verse 'better to get married quickly than to burn in passion' seriously," Brogan said.

Another reason for the small ceremony was due to the fact they didn't have any of their friends available to stand up in a traditional wedding during that busy holiday

season.

"We talked to our friends and family and everyone was on board with the plan," Brogan said.

Their elopement was very simple. On November 28,



Katherine and Brogan Mohlenkamp at their wedding celebration six months after their elopement.

2021, after the morning church service, they closed the doors on their intimate ceremony. Brogan and Katherine wore their regular Sunday attire. Brogan's pastoral mentor, Pastor Kevin Schneider, performed the ceremony and a couple who is special to both of them served as witnesses. The pastor's wife, Jeannie,

took pictures of the ceremony. Once they were married, Katherine moved in with Brogan and was ready to help him serve the church. She also works full time at Sanford as a medical secretary in the emergency department.

Six months after their elopement, the couple held a traditional wedding ceremony

cont. on pg. 7



Ken and Holly Veltkamp (left) were the witnesses for Katherine and Brogan's elopement.

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Friends and family shared in the Mohlenkamp's special celebration on their six-month anniversary. Pictured are (from left) Isabella Poeffel, Riley Mohlenkamp, Matea Mohlenkamp, Rachel Bornhodt, Eyla Poeffel, Lauren Piraino, Katherine Mohlenkamp, Brogan Mohlenkamp, Ethan Vander Woude, Syllas Coleman, Benjamin Coleman, Tyler Teunissen, and Derek Claar.

## Elopement, cont.

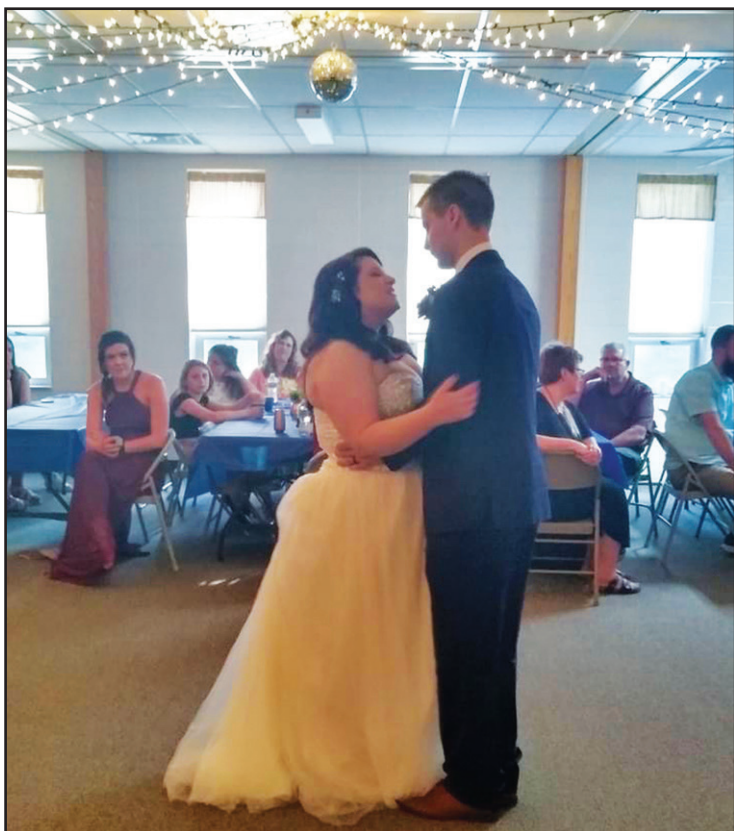
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with all their friends, family, and church family.

They sent out "save the date" postcards and invitations in advance. They each had four attendants and Katherine's father walked her down the aisle on May 28, 2022. The men wore black tuxedos and the bridal attendants wore burgundy gowns in a variety of styles suited for each woman. The bride wore an elegant ivory gown and carried a bouquet of burgundy, ivory, and navy roses.

The main colors for the wedding were navy and burgundy. But Katherine also chose pearl and rose gold for their accent colors, as a tribute to her parents' 30th anniversary that year. The decorations were designed by Wendy's Flowers. "Many folks commented on how beautiful the whimsical decorations were," Katherine said.

The wedding text they chose was Ephesians 5:21-33 which is a text about the roles of husbands and wives in marriage and how marriage is a picture of Christ and his church. Pastor Schneider was scheduled to perform this ceremony as well, but at the last minute his wife came down with COVID-19. So Pastor Ryan Feltman from Good News Church performed the ceremony. "That was very fitting," Brogan said, "because Ryan was the one who had told him about the Reformed Church in Dell Rapids needing a pas-



After their wedding celebration, the Mohlenkamps had a traditional reception and dance.

tor."

After the ceremony, the couple and their families hosted a large dinner in the church fellowship hall and a dance afterwards.

With two weddings behind them, the couple continues to make their home in Dell Rapids. Brogan keeps busy with his pastoral work and Katherine is his "suitable helper" in all things. She assists by going over his sermons on Saturday nights and they pray together before Sunday services. Katherine also leads Wednesday night children's activities and works with the church youth.

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# Winter wedding

by CM Noding

Warm weather tends to be the time of year when people prefer to get married. There is something romantic and timeless about the warm, flowing, gentle weather starting your marriage off right. My husband and I got married in 2013, and with him being a farmer whose schedule is erratic, I demanded he choose the date. So, of course, he chose December 28. No sheep-shearing, livestock-owning farmer has anything big going on at the end of December (cough, cough)! It was the perfect date!

From a bride's perspective, the day was frozen, yet beautiful. We shivered our way to town, loaded with all of our gear and still tired from our last-minute scramblings to finish up finite details the night before, to start the beautifying process. My soon-to-be husband was in a bigger town at the hotel, where he had spent the night with the groomsmen. He made it work to his advantage, though, and hauled a load of lumber for his building project home before doing chores that morning. He still made it to the church in plenty of time! I think his favorite part about that day was being able to say he worked on his wedding day. That's what I get for marrying a farmer!

The morning was cold, but clear and beautiful. By noon when we took our bridal pictures, it was warmed to the mid-thirties and we were able to take some stunning outdoor photos with our specially-purchased winter wedding gear (me in my white satin princess cape, he in his snazzy black dress coat). The air was just cold enough to give a slight pink to our cheeks, but not cold enough to shorten the photo session.

Guests even from far away made it to the wedding with no hitch, the church was full and we were able to see some of our favorite people on our favorite day.

I was so nervous before walking down the aisle! My dad was so wonderful and calm, a steadiness to balance my jitters. To keep myself from falling apart, I did the one thing that made sense: I told my dad a classic blonde joke. To be politically correct, I'll skip the joke, but the punchline went, "Breathe in, breathe out." The vows, of course, had the biggest hiccups. We grabbed the wrong rings during the ring exchange, each grabbing our own rings instead of each other's! It made for a good laugh to ease our nerves, and the wonderful photographer even got the moment on camera. (Shout out to Studio Z Photography in Fulda, Holly is wonderful and did an amazing job!)

By the end of the ceremony, the weather had turned horrid. The guests adjusted beautifully, taking their bubble sticks and cheering us out in the church entryway. I had forgotten to grab my bouquet from my maid of honor, but it seemed to work as I then had a free hand for lifting my dress off of the snow. We ran out to my husband's freshly-washed pickup and headed the two blocks to the reception. We enjoyed wonderful food that my mom and sisters had prepared, ate the best cake that I still dream about (I'm not sure the baker even makes cakes anymore!), and had fun visiting, laughing, and dancing. The weather ended the party early, and we loaded into the party bus at eleven. Long story here, but that bus only showed up be-

cause my husband took care of it. We still sort jobs today based on whether they are a "bride issue" or a "groom issue"! Arranging the party bus was a bride issue, but actually getting them to show up that day ended up being a groom issue. He did wonderfully!

My husband and I have drastically different taste in music, and the goof seemed to have it stuck in his head that giving his opinion about anything wedding related was a cardinal sin. He refused to help choose the song for the first dance, leaving me to choose it solo. I don't even remember what song we danced to, just that I had to spin him because he was busy watching the wedding video as it played on the wall in the background. He did find his voice to request the song for the last dance, though, and we went with it. It was the most fun we had dancing that night! The wedding party came together to dance to the spunky rock number, a tune I never would have picked and that ended up being the perfect song to end our night.

I have a mind that reflects and regrets many of my past actions, down to feeling guilty that I might not have had enough party favors for everyone in attendance to the reception that night. There are many details about our wedding that I wish I had done differently. Three things I don't regret are the man I married, the perfect dress that fit me off the rack for \$99, and the cake. I think I'll die trying to recreate that perfect cake. Here's to you and your wedding adventures! Good luck, and God bless.

~C.M.Noding



Peter and Chelsea Noding on their wedding day. (Photo courtesy of Studio Z photography.)

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# Eat, drink, and be MARRIED!

Tara Wiekeraad

There are few milestones in your life quite like that of getting engaged and married. Us gals have usually begun to mentally plan our big day long before we meet the suitor that will eventually become our husband. The anticipation and excitement are absolutely second to none.

The dress, the colors, the venue. So much planning! Part of the fun and excitement are the events leading up to the big day! Showers and bachelorette parties are all part of the excitement!!

While the bride is of course the main focus, the food is usually a main event, as well. Charcuterie boards have grown in popularity in recent years. So much so, that most of us can now even pronounce the word (shar-koo-tur-ee).

When you think of charcuterie boards, you may think of a spread meats and cheeses, spreads, and fruits but there are so many fun options out there, don't let 'the norm' scare you away from trying something different.

Here are some great options that would be great for a shower, girls night in, or any other event where you want a pretty presentation for your food.

Another great thing about these boards, is they look so elegant they can double your centerpieces as well. If you have fancy boards or platters that's great, but if you don't, no worries!! You can use any wooden cutting board, cooking sheet, or serving platter.

## Breakfast Boards

These options would be excellent for a morning or 'brunch'. But honestly, I'm a firm believer that pancakes can't tell time and can be served any time of the day! Your first step is to decide what food item will be the star of the show. Pancakes, waffles, French toast are all great options. You'll then want to decide what items you want to serve with them. So maybe different flavored syrups, whipped creams, cream cheese, fruits etc. you will also want to find some smaller bowls or dishes to place your those items in. Second hand stores, antique stores, and dollar stores can all be great places to find unique serving dishes. After you have chosen your items, it's time to assemble your board!

## Instructions

Prepare toppings and cold sides: Gather and prepare toppings. Place into small bowls or dishes if needed. Cut and prep any cold sides or ingredients like fruit and veggies.

Prepare hot dishes: Cook or reheat any hot components.

Assemble: Arrange everything on the board or platter. There is no right or wrong way to do this. It's probably easiest to first place the small bowls of toppings down, followed by the large items and then fill in the gaps with fruit or small items.

You can also add a decorative touch to your boards by adding fresh herbs like cilantro or parsley or even real or artificial flowers.



## Ideas!!

In case your running stuck on some unique items to serve, this should help!!

## Waffle/Pancakes/French Toast Board

Waffles, Pancakes, or French Toast - homemade or store bought is fine! You can even have all three options, if you'd like!

Cream cheese - you can different flavored spreadable versions or a block sliced up around the board adds an elegant touch.

Butter - same things goes as the cream cheese you can whip it and place in small bowls or slice it into individual 'pats' of butter. You can even make flavored butter by adding some honey or cinnamon when whipping.

Syrups - you can stick with traditional maple or get a variety of different op-

tions. Small creamer 'pitchers' work great for this and add an elegant touch!

Meats - sliced ham, sausage links, or bacon all make great additions to your breakfast board lineup.

Fruits - blueberries, pineapple, strawberries and bananas all add a nice flavor and a pop of color.



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# ***Novel gifts for bridesmaids***

Brides- and grooms-to-be select people who are near and dear to their hearts to be special parts of their momentous days. So the chance to participate in a friend's or family member's wedding is a great honor.

A wedding party plays a key role in both the ceremony and reception. Participants do everything from helping couples make decisions to addressing invitations to providing emotional support. As so much is asked of the wedding party — particularly the maid/matron of honor and bridesmaids — it's customary to bestow gifts on those people who devoted so much time and effort to the wedding. These potential bridesmaid gifts can serve as a thoughtful and unique way to thank bridesmaids for all that they've done.

- **Photo books:** Gift the bridesmaids with photo books of carefully curated photographs taken throughout the wedding planning experience. Pepper the books with other photos, such as images of you with the bridesmaids at fun moments throughout your lives together.

- **Portrait wine or champagne glasses:** Beverage glasses customized with the bridesmaids' likenesses painted or printed onto them make for great gifts. Bridesmaids will enjoy sipping their favorite drinks in special glasses for years to come.

- Personalized phone cases: Who doesn't rely on their mobile phones these days? Treat your bridesmaids to something special with colorful phone cases with their names embossed or printed on the outsides.

- **Wellness or spa gift card:** After all of the running around for the wedding, bridesmaids may need a little extra pampering. Gift cards to a local spa can fit the bill.

- **Birthstone jewelry:** Necklaces, rings or earrings become that much more special when they're customized to the recipients. Purchase jewelry with your bridesmaids' birthstones so they'll be as unique as each woman.

- **Friendship bracelets:** Gift each bridesmaid with beaded friendship bracelets that features all of the ladies' initials. Be sure to keep one for yourself, and you all can enjoy nights on the town showcasing your special bracelets.

- **Monogrammed robes or purses:** A customized pocketbook, robe or another item bridesmaids will use every day can make for an extra-special item that will serve as a daily reminder of how much you appreciate them.

Bridesmaid gifts are a great way for brides to thank their bridesmaids for all that they've done to make a couple's wedding day special.

# UNIQUE

## Personalized gift Items

A silver tumbler with a green lid and a blue graphic of a person's head and shoulders.

- **Mugs & Cups**
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## Your Planning Timeline

Tick off these boxes as you complete your to-dos, filling in extra tasks as needed.

### Sixteen to Nine Months Before

- ☐ Start a wedding folder
- ☐ Work out the budget
- ☐ Build your wedding party
- ☐ Settle on a head count
- ☐ Hire a planner, if desired
- ☐ Book the date and venues
- ☐ Book the officiant
- ☐ Research photographers bands, florists, and caterers
- ☐ Insert vendor contact information into a master contact list
- ☐ Throw engagement party

### Eight Months Before

- ☐ Book the photographer and the videographer
- ☐ Book entertainment
- ☐ Register
- ☐ Purchase a dress
- ☐ Start meeting caterers
- ☐ Reserve block of hotel rooms for guests
- ☐ Launch a wedding website
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

### Seven to Six Months Before

- ☐ Purchase invitations and hire a calligrapher
- ☐ Plan your honeymoon
- ☐ Shop for bridesmaids' dresses
- ☐ Meet with the officiant
- ☐ Send save-the-date cards
- ☐ Re-evaluate structural and electrical necessities
- ☐ Book a florist
- ☐ Procure transportation
- ☐ Start composing a day-of timeline
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Five to Four Months Before

- ☐ Book the rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venues
- ☐ Check on printing of wedding invitations
- ☐ Order the cake
- ☐ Send the guest list to the bridal-shower hostess
- ☐ Purchase shoes and start dress fittings
- ☐ Schedule hair and makeup artists
- ☐ Choose songs
- ☐ Plan welcome baskets
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Three Months Before

- ☐ Finalize the menu and the flowers
- ☐ Order favors, if desired
- ☐ Create a toast makers' list
- ☐ Finalize readings
- ☐ Purchase the rings
- ☐ Finalize order of the ceremony and reception
- ☐ Print menu cards and programs
- ☐ Purchase undergarments and visit dressmaker for second fitting
- ☐ Send schedule to vendors
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Two Months Before

- ☐ Discuss locations and shots with photographer
- ☐ Review playlist with the band or the deejay
- ☐ Send invitations
- ☐ Touch base with vendors
- ☐ Submit a newspaper wedding announcement
- ☐ Enjoy bachelorette party
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

## One Month Before

- ☐ Put RSVPs into guest-list database and phone invitees who haven't yet responded.
- ☐ Get marriage license
- ☐ Mail rehearsal-dinner invitations
- ☐ Have final dress fitting
- ☐ Stock the bar
- ☐ Send out as many final payments as you can
- ☐ Confirm times for hair and makeup and vendors
- ☐ Assign seating
- ☐ Purchase bridesmaids' gifts to hand out at the rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Write vows, if necessary
- ☐ Get hair cut and colored, if desired
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## Week of

- ☐ Reconfirm arrival times with all vendors
- ☐ Delegate small wedding-day tasks to friends and family members
- ☐ Send final timeline to bridal party
- ☐ Make arrangements for the dress to be delivered or pick it up yourself
- ☐ Supply photographer with a list of moments you want captured
- ☐ Set aside checks and tip envelope for vendors
- ☐ Book spa treatment
- ☐ Send final guest count to caterer and venues
- ☐ Break in shoes
- ☐ Assemble welcome baskets and distribute
- ☐ Pack for honeymoon
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_



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### Breakfast Sandwich Board

English muffins, toast, bagels and croissants all make a delicious sandwich!  
 Meat - bacon, sausage patties, and ham are excellent options.  
 Cheese - use a variety of sliced cheeses. Swish, American and cheddar are perfect.  
 Eggs - you can fry up several and keep them warm in a crock pot prior to placing on the board. Scrambled would work, as well.

If you're having a show stopper for your meal, you want an equally impressive beverage to go with it. A mimosa bar adds a flavorful addition and can be fun to put together. Simply set up your ingredients, provide pretty stemmed glassware and allow your guests to make their own sparkling sipper.



### Mimosa Bar

Champagne- you can use any variety you like. And If you are serving a younger crowd or would prefer a nonalcoholic version, sparkling white grape juice or even ginger ale are perfect dupes for the real thing. If you are using both alcohol and non alcoholic versions be sure to label everything clearly.

Fruit juices - pick a variety. Orange juice, pineapple juice, grapefruit juice, and cranberry juice are all great options. Use your imagination and get creative!

Fruit - berries are excellent choice, but pineapple chunks and pomegranate seeds work well, also!

Fresh herbs - mint, basil, and rosemary are all great options.

Gummy Candies - peach rings, gummy bears, and strawberry puffs can all add an unexpected texture and flavor to the drink.

*"A perfect marriage is just two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other."*



### Bagel Board

Choose a variety of bagels - some prefer sweet, while others enjoy a more savory style. You can even cut these into 1/4's or smaller in case your guests may want to sample a variety of flavor combinations.

Jelly - we don't always think of jelly when we think of bagels, but they can add a sweet touch as well as color to the board.

Cream Cheese - choose a variety of both sweet and savory.

Cold cuts - sliced ham and turkey make a delicious addition to a savory style bagel.



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