

# You and Your Wedding



## Wedding Policy

*First United Methodist Church*

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# CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

## Guidelines for Your Wedding

A wedding in this church is a service of worship. All details of the ceremony should reflect that understanding and are subject to pastoral acceptance and approval. The pastor will endeavor to work with each couple to make this day a happy and meaningful one within our understanding of worship and practice.

A marriage is regarded as valid whether or not it takes place within a church. A Christian marriage or “Church Wedding” is one that takes place within the fellowship of the Christian Church, has the blessing of that fellowship, and has the promise of the continuing concern and support of that fellowship. It is expected that at least one of the persons being married is a professing Christian.

In order to give expression to the reality of Christian marriage, it must be remembered that the “solemnization of marriage” is one of the rites of the church. As with baptism or communion, one does not have a church wedding as a matter of course, but as an expression of faith.

Couples planning their wedding in this church are usually married by a pastor of this church. If the couple wishes, the pastor may invite another pastor to assist in the service.

The following information is designed to help you in the planning of your wedding.

### **I. Because of the scope and magnitude of marriage, premarital counseling sessions must be held with the presiding pastor prior to the wedding.**

- A. The pastor schedules counseling sessions with the couple. Counseling may include a focus on the past and present life of the engaged couple. You’ll be asked to talk about your past life, how you and your fiancé met. You’ll be asked to reflect on vital questions, such as why do you love each other, why get married, why get married in the church? The last session is used to plan the actual wedding ceremony.

### **II. Planning ahead. It is helpful to plan for the service well in advance of the marriage date.**

**A.** Clear all dates and details with the pastor. This will assure you of having your date of preference for the service.

**B.** Each couple is urged to consult a doctor.

**C.** If there will be a wedding rehearsal it is normally held early on the evening prior to the ceremony. All persons who will participate in the service in any way should be present (including the bride’s father, ushers, etc.). It is not necessary for the soloist to be present if that person has already met and practiced with the organist. Please ensure that everyone is

prompt.

**D.** Apply for your license at a County Clerk's office about 30 days prior to your wedding date. You will need birth certificates. You will need to wait five days between the time you apply and the day you can pick up the license. The license is valid for 30 days once you receive it. You must give the presiding pastor the marriage license before the wedding.

### **III. Your relationship to the church**

**A.** Dates are reserved on the church calendar on a first come, first serve basis. Be sure you discuss the date with the pastor as far in advance as possible in order to avoid disappointment. The trustees require the return of a Church Use Form. It should be returned to the church 30 days in advance of the wedding. A \$100 security deposit must accompany the form. There are fees for the use of the church by non-members. See pages 4-5 for details.

**B.** Payment for janitorial/custodial services should be received no later than five working days before the scheduled event. See pages 4-5 for details, Receptions may be held in the Fellowship Hall. There are fees for the use of this area. See page 5 for details. NO alcoholic beverages may be served. NO smoking is permitted. Facilities may be used for catered receptions served by professional caterers. Nothing on the walls of Fellowship hall may be removed or added without asking the pastor's permission.

### **IV. To help you with details connected with the service:**

**A.** If you wish the pastor to be present at the picture taking, please extend an invitation or the pastor will not be at that activity.

**B.** Because of the pastor's demanding schedule, it may not be possible for him or her to attend your reception. However, if you would like to have the pastor present, remember to send an invitation as you would for your other guests, well in advance.

**C.** The service normally used is "The Service of Marriage of the United Methodist Church." The pastor will work with the couple in making revisions or developing their own service.

**D.** Decorations may be simple or elaborate. One floral piece on the altar may be sufficient or you may prefer more.

**E.** If a wedding program is desired, the couple is responsible for it.

**F.** A runner may be used if desired. It should be at least 50 feet long and can be rented from the florist. Inexpensive plastic runners are dangerous. Often high heels will pierce the runner and create a tripping hazard.

**G.** Music to be sung is to be cleared with the pastor. Instrumental music must be planned in conjunction with the organist.

**H.** Members of the wedding party are of the couple's own choosing. They need not be members of a church.

**I.** It is helpful to take as many photographs as possible prior to the service and keep the number of pictures after the ceremony to a minimum. NO flash pictures may be taken during the ceremony. The service may be videotaped but please mention this to the pastor during premarital counseling for special instructions.

**J.** Church furniture and other appointments shall not be moved without permission from the pastor.

**K.** Should the couple choose to have a unity candle, they may do so and accept the responsibility for providing it.

**L.** No rice or birdseed or soap bubbles are allowed inside the church. We encourage birdseed outside the church.

## **V. In General:**

**A.** The consumption of alcoholic beverages on church property is prohibited at all times. Every bride and groom should insist that all members of their wedding party be sober and attentive for both the rehearsal and the wedding. If any member of the wedding party is intoxicated at the rehearsal or wedding ceremony, the pastor may choose not to officiate.

**B.** No church furniture is to be moved.

**C.** No smoking is permitted in any part of the church.

**D.** The marriage license should be given to the pastor on the rehearsal evening. The pastor will fill it out and return it with signatures following the marriage ceremony.

**E.** Witnesses who sign the license must be at least 18 years of age according to state law.



Your pastor seeks to be of help to you in any way possible. If you have questions, the pastor will be happy to answer them for you.



A good marriage is not a contract between two persons but a sacred covenant between three. Too often Christ is never invited to the home after the church wedding. Therefore, make sure Christ is a part of your marriage.



## Fee Schedule

Janitorial/Custodial/Utilities costs	\$60.00 \$25.00 and \$15.00 per hour	For Sanctuary Only For a reception
Use of Sanctuary	\$250.00 No charge	For non-members For members
Use of Fellowship Hall	\$50.00 No charge	For non-members For members

## Honoraria Guidelines

### Organist

The suggested minimum honorarium for wedding and rehearsal is \$150.00 for a church member and \$200.00 for nonmembers. If a soloist needing accompaniment is used, the amount is \$25.00 per solo. This should be paid directly to the organist.

### Pastor

The suggested minimum honorarium for a member of the congregation is \$250.00. For a non-member the suggested minimum honorarium is \$350.00.

## Repertoire

Organ/piano selections for prelude music are usually chosen at the discretion of the organist, and include familiar classics and music that the guests would enjoy hearing. Special requests by the bridal party are most definitely considered. It is also appropriate for the congregation to sing one or more hymns as part of the service, if so desired. The hymnal used is "The United Methodist Hymnal." Below is a brief list of suggestions that have worked well in many weddings in past years. This is just a "suggested" list and other titles may certainly be considered.

### PROCESSIONAL MUSIC (For the Attendants)

<i>Canon in D (and Bride)</i>	Pachelbel
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach
<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	HYFRYDOL
<i>Serenade</i>	from The Secret Garden
<i>O Perfect Love</i>	Barnby

### PROCESSIONAL MUSIC (For the Bride)

<i>Canon in D (and Attendants)</i>	Pachelbel
<i>Trumpet Voluntary</i>	Clarke
<i>The Processional (and Attendants)</i>	Larson
<i>Bridal Chorus (from Lohengrin)</i>	Wagner
<i>Wedding March</i>	Limbaugh

## **RECESSIONAL MUSIC**

<i>Ode to Joy</i>	Beethoven
<i>Trumpet Tune and Air</i>	Purcell
<i>The Rejoicing</i>	Handel
<i>Jubilation</i>	Handel
<i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Young

## **VOCAL SOLO MUSIC**

<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Malotte
<i>Pie Jesu</i>	Webber
<i>The Prayer</i>	Sager/Foster
<i>O Lord, Most Holy (Panis Angelicus)</i>	Franck
<i>The Gift of Love</i>	Hopson
<i>Wedding Prayer</i>	Dunlap
<i>I Am Loved</i>	Gaither
<i>In This Very Room</i>	Harris
<i>I Will Be Here</i>	Chapman

## **Guidelines for use of the organ**

The organ at First United Methodist Church is an instrument of beauty and complexity. To insure that the organ is maintained in the best possible condition, it is recommended that it be played only by the resident (regular) organist. The resident organist shall have the right of first refusal for all weddings. If unavailable, a substitute should be approved by the pastor and resident organist. Other instrumentalists may be used.



# First United Methodist Church

West Allis, Wisconsin

## Who We Are . . .

When a newly married couple begins their life together it is important for them to worship together and become a part of a faith community. Please consider making First United Methodist Church your church home.

Sunday Worship is at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. You are invited to join us.

For more information please contact the church office or a church staff member.



We are a community of faith where people care about each other. We provide an environment where each person can grow spiritually through worship, service, and study of God's Word. We are concerned about the whole person. We believe that Christ does meet people's needs and that He unites Christians regardless of church background. We are open to anyone who wants to belong.

## A place for children . . .

We love children at First United Methodist Church. We have Sunday School classes for every age. We have youth groups. We plan monthly activities for children and our youth groups. Our children and youth are included and participate in worship and service.

## And adults . . .

Warm friendly relations between caring adults are an exciting part of our church fellowship at First United Methodist Church. We worship, study, and serve God together. Our trademark is genuine love. We are a growing and caring group of people who take Christianity seriously.



## What We Offer . . .

At First United Methodist Church we offer everyone an opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to grow in a committed relationship to God. We are a church for all ages but we think young.

## Children are important . . .

We offer children the gifts of love, acceptance, and participation. Children learn about the love of God in their Sunday School classes. Children learn to read music, sing, and play chimes and hand bells. Children have a special time during worship just for them when an adult volunteer shares a children's sermon.

## So are youth . . .

Our youth participate in Sunday School, worship, and our music ministry.

### **So are adults . . .**

We offer weekly Bible studies, small group meetings, fellowship events, and opportunities to serve and grow.

### **Everyone matters . . .**

We support each other in prayer. We celebrate each other's joys. We bear each other's burdens. We challenge each other to grow and mature in our faith. We enjoy gathering together as God's people to worship, work, and fellowship. We try to put a face on God's love. Why? Because everyone matters.



### **Our Mission . . .**

Making new disciples for the transformation of the world.