

**WHEN YOU MARRY AT  
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
1140 Claremont Avenue Ashland, OH 44805  
419-289-0507

The Service of Christian Marriage is a Worship Service in praise of Jesus Christ and all wedding planning should be done with this in mind. This service in The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) is found on pp. 864-869, and is the basic worship service used for weddings. The introductory paragraph states:

*This service of Christian marriage is provided for couples who wish to solemnize their marriage in a service of Christian worship, parallel in its structure to the Sunday service, which includes the proclamation of the Word with prayer and praise. Christian marriage is proclaimed as a sacred covenant reflecting Christ's covenant with the church. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.*

This reflects the United Methodist Church's Affirmation of Marriage as expressed in our "Social Principles":

"We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. . . ."

The Book of Discipline of the  
United Methodist Church 1996,  
Paragraph 65, C), p. 87

We at Christ Church are happy to work with you in planning your church wedding and helping to create a joyful and memorable day in your life and faith journey.

**WHERE DO WE START?** You call the church and request a date for your wedding. Your date and time will be entered upon the church calendar when a \$50.00 deposit is received. The policy & deposit forms are available either from the church office or by downloading from the church website. Please read this in its entirety, then call the pastor for an initial meeting (419) 289-0507 x101.

Please remember: your wedding ceremony is a service of the church and final decisions on any part of the service rest with the minister. Final wedding plans, including setting the date, should never be made until after conversation with the minister at the church office.

**WHO IS THE OFFICIATING PASTOR?** The current pastor at Christ Church will be present and in charge of every wedding. If you would like to invite another minister to assist in the ceremony, contact the Christ Church pastor and let him/her extend the invitation. Do not invite another minister to assist prior to consultation with your Christ Church pastor.

You will arrange meetings with the pastor well in advance of the ceremony to help you look at your marriage relationship and to plan a meaningful service. At the pastor's discretion you can expect a minimum of three counseling sessions.

**MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE CHURCH?** Policies and fees vary for members, non-contributing members and non-members. These are found on the accompanying fee schedule. The appropriate policies and fees will apply.

**MUSIC** All music used at your wedding should be appropriate for a worship setting. The music selected must be approved by the church organist in consultation with the officiating pastor. Recorded music is not permitted, including accompaniment recordings. It is expected that the Christ Church organist play for the service unless another musician is approved by the pastor. Popular/secular music is more appropriately used at the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.

**CHILDREN IN THE SERVICE** Children younger than 5 years of age shall not be permitted to serve as flower girls or ring bearers in the service.

**FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS** The flowers and bows add to the beauty of the sanctuary. If you choose to leave your altar flowers for the worship service on Sunday, please mark the date and name on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board by the Claremont entrance. No tape or tacks may be used to attach bows or flowers to altar, pews or candelabra. Damage caused by not following this rule may result in your deposit not being refunded.

**CANDLES** The two altar candles use liquid wax and are provided. If planning to use a Unity Candle arrangement, it shall be provided by the couple. Any other extra candle holders/candelabras are required to use dripless candles and have a protective plastic runner under them. The church does not provide these candles. The candles should be extinguished by the ushers as soon as the picture taking is completed.

**AISLE RUNNER** The church does not provide an aisle runner. The florist will secure this for you and attach it in place for you. The carpeted area of the aisle is 70 feet long from the base of the steps to the narthex. An additional 20 feet would be needed to take the runner up to the

kneeling rail. The aisle runner is put down in advance of the seating of guests who will be escorted to their seats down the side aisles. The aisle runner is not a necessity.

**WEDDING BULLETINS** If you have a large and formal wedding we encourage you to have a bulletin. The bulletin can list the music being played, the soloist, order of service, bridal party names and their relationship to the bride and groom. The bulletins may be purchased at a religious book store. The church office will type them up and print them. The officiating pastor and church secretary will help you with the bulletin material if needed.

**CHURCH GROUNDS ARE SMOKE AND ALCOHOL FREE** Christ United Methodist Church and its surrounding premises (including the parking lot) is smoke free and alcohol free. Everyone involved in the wedding service is expected to abide by this.

**RICE, BALLOONS AND BIRDSEED** We do not allow rice to be thrown or balloons to be launched after the wedding. Birdseed may be thrown outside after the ceremony and should be handed out as guests exit the church. Be sure to remove excess birdseed from your clothing before coming back for pictures. If it is raining we ask that birdseed not be thrown.

**CLEANUP** After the pictures are taken, be sure to extinguish the candles and be sure to remove all decorations from the sanctuary. **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE UNITY CANDLE WITH YOU.** Take all personal belongings from the dressing rooms before you leave too. Whatever is left behind will be disposed of at the janitor's discretion. If the reception is at the church, we ask you to remove all decorations that you wish to keep from the fellowship hall.

**PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOS OR AUDIO TAPES** Because we view weddings as worship services, we ask that no flash pictures be taken from the time the bride and her father reach the front of the church until the bride and groom recess. We also ask for the videotaping person(s) to be inconspicuous. They should be appropriately dressed and not change locations during the ceremony. There is an outlet in the balcony that will jack the recorder directly into the church sound system. You must provide the cable. We have facilities in our sound system to do an audio tape. You will need to provide the blank tape.

**PICTURE TAKING SCHEDULE** We suggest that as many pictures as possible be taken before the wedding ceremony. Work the details out with your photographer. We ask that all pictures are taken before you leave the church property. Going for rides before pictures are taken leaves an awkward period of time for the reception guests. If the pastor is to be included in posed pictures, these should be taken first.

**SATURDAY WEDDINGS** Saturday weddings should not be scheduled after 5:00 p.m. Music beginning at 4:00 and the service at 4:30 is the latest schedule. The fellowship hall and rooms close at 8:00 p.m. This gives the staff and volunteers adequate time to prepare the building for our regular worship experiences. Alternate times may be scheduled at the discretion of the pastor.

**THE MARRIAGE LICENSE/REHEARSAL NIGHT** Bring your marriage license to the rehearsal. The pastor in charge will fill it out and a portion will be returned to the bride and groom after the ceremony.

The rehearsal will be held the evening before the day of the wedding. The rehearsal will last approximately one hour. If the bridal party is large and there are young children involved, the rehearsal may take slightly longer.

If you desire the officiating pastor, organist, soloist or spouses to attend a rehearsal dinner, please invite them well in advance. Do not assume they will come to the dinner.

**DEPOSIT AND FEE PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS** A deposit of \$50 is required for the wedding date to be reserved on the church calendar. Please prepare all wedding fees in an enclosed envelope with the person's name on it using either cash or separate checks. These fees should be paid by the wedding rehearsal. The deposit will be returned to you by mail following the wedding, so be sure we have your correct mailing address.

Member fees also apply to sons and daughters of contributing members.

Non-member weddings are scheduled at the discretion of the pastor.

**RECEPTIONS IN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL** Arrangements for a church wedding reception may be made with the church women. Please call the church office to obtain the name of the person to contact about this. Policies regarding smoking and alcohol apply to our Fellowship Hall as well.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Commission on Worship, 8-17-98; the Council on Ministries, 8-25-98; and approved as church policy by the Administrative Board, 10-22-98.

It was updated on 05-04-2015.

**CHURCH STAFF RELATED TO WEDDING**

Church Phone -----419-289-0507

Pastors: -----Rev. Jonathan Priebe----- ext. 101

-----Rev. Mike Namy----- ext.105

Organist: -----David Roepke -----Cell Phone: 567-203-3231

-----opera@bright.net

Secretary: -----Barb Raudebaugh----- 419-289-0507 ext. 100

-----braudebaugh@zoominternet.net

Custodian: -----Stephanie Knowlton-----419-289-0507