

MUSIC and PHOTO/VIDEO

THE WEDDING CEREMONY – When held in a church, the wedding ceremony is first and foremost an act of Christian worship. The music, therefore, should reflect dignity and joy, drawing attention to the everlasting nature of God’s love revealed in a new way in your marriage. Since the ceremony is a worship service, those in attendance are a worshipping congregation, not simply a gathering of witnesses. Hymn singing is entirely in order and is a good way to involve everyone too, and they appreciate an opportunity to participate in the ceremony.

THE ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC of the church must be contacted separately by the couple to inform organist of the wedding and rehearsal times and to arrange for a consultation if desired. Any other musicians such as soloists or instrumentalists must be approved by our Director of Music as well. The Music Office phone number is 856-222-9369 and the e-mail address is Donna@meetwithGod.com. Donna Banes is our Co-Music Director.

THE RECORDING OF YOUR WEDDING EVENTS in pictures or on video must be done with great care and good judgment. Flashbulbs going off or people standing up or moving around the sanctuary with cameras are distractions to the congregation, wedding party, and pastor, and could even result in an awkward interruption in the service.

THE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER or videographer shall consult with the pastor prior to the ceremony to be clear on procedure.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENT

THE DECISION TO MARRY and become a partner in the establishment of a Christian home is one of great importance. Your church wishes to help make the ceremony a joyful and significant beginning to your new life. To assist you in planning your wedding, the church suggests you consider the following:

THE PASTOR – All weddings in our church are to be conducted by one of the pastors of the church. If it is your desire to have another Pastor assist in the ceremony, arrangements must be made through one of the pastors of this church.

PASTORAL EXPECTATIONS – The pastors expect couples to have 6 months of engagement within the life of the church. (*This could be 3 months before and then 3 months after the wedding*). Participation either in-person or virtually in the life of the church through various connection points of worship, nurture and service (such as Bible studies, book studies, mission/outreach, small groups or community events we sponsor). *This will be self-reported. Additionally, to provide a strong spiritual base, there will be 3 sessions of counselling with the pastor (can include more if requested).

Membership is not required.

Crisis or Unusual Circumstances shall be discussed with a pastor regarding the above expectations and can be adapted as approved by one of the pastors.

FORM TO BE FILLED OUT – There is a detailed form to be filled out and returned to a pastor before the first counseling session.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WEDDING COORDINATOR – The church will provide a wedding coordinator to assist the wedding party at the time of the rehearsal and on the wedding day.

FLOWERS may be placed in the flower holder provided in the chancel. It has a 10” square opening and can be 6” or 9” deep. One large bouquet is adequate. Please request the florist to put the couples name on the flowers sent to the church.

AISLE RUNNER – Due to a tripping hazard, no aisle runners will be allowed.

DECORATIONS – Any decorations used to indicate seating shall be fastened to the pews with clips only. No tape, pins or tacks may be used.

RICE AND CONFETTI – No rice or confetti shall be used at any wedding! Bird seed may be scattered outside the building after the ceremony. No seed should be scattered inside the building at any time, nor should they be distributed before the wedding.

BE ON TIME for the rehearsal and wedding. The wedding party should plan to arrive 45 minutes before the wedding.

ALCOHOL AND SMOKING PROHIBITED – No beverages or refreshments containing alcohol are permitted on church premises at any time, and no smoking is permitted in either building at any time.

YOUR WEDDING DATE AND TIME - Once it is approved, the date and time of your wedding will be scheduled on our church calendar, and we shall reserve the facilities that you require. If you find it necessary to change the date or hour of the wedding, please call the church office (856-235-0450) before making other arrangements as to be sure that the desired time is available on our calendar. (No weddings will be scheduled for Holy Week).

MARRIAGE LICENSE - Application for marriage license must be made at least seventy-two (72) hours before your wedding is to take place. Once the license is granted it is valid for 30 days. If the bride is a resident of New Jersey, application is made in the town where she lives; if the bride is not a New Jersey resident but the groom is, application is made in the town where he lives; if neither applicant is a resident of New Jersey, they must apply in the town where the wedding is to take place.

BRING THE LICENSE to the church office at least a day before your wedding during regular office hours, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF FEES
All Fees due at time of the rehearsal

Pastor	\$300.00*
Organist	150.00
Wedding Coordinator	75.00
Use of Sanctuary (non-members only)	\$400.00
Use of Chapel (non-members only)	100.00
Bulletin Preparation	30.00**

RECEPTION FEES

Use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen (non-members only)	\$300.00
Use of dinnerware from Kitchen (Dinnerware & equipment must be left clean and returned to cupboards)	\$100.00
Custodian	\$120.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Checks should be made out to **each individual** providing the services. (ie: Pastor, Organist, Soloist)

Church fees should be made out to **First United Methodist Church** and paid prior to your wedding day.

*For church members this is voluntary
**Bulletins must be supplied by the couple



WEDDING BOOKLET

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Email: Joan@meetwithGod.com