

Rev. Jerry Penrod, Jr.
Senior Pastor

The pastors of this church are always available to officiate at the marriage service where there is no conflict and where the couple express a serious intention to establish their marriage on Christian principles. There are certain details and arrangements which of necessity must be made, and to facilitate these, this booklet is made available to you.

It is understood that all details and arrangements will be made in keeping in mind both Christian and United Methodist custom. The wedding is a joyous celebration but also a most solemn occasion. Therefore, it is hoped that proper respect will be shown the ceremony and the sanctuary in which it is performed. The bride and groom are requested to inform all members of the wedding party that they are expected to refrain from alcoholic beverages prior to the rehearsal and the wedding. Also, please note that smoking is not permitted in the church.

THE COUPLE

When the church or pastor is contacted about a wedding, a form will be sent to you to be filled out.

THE PASTOR

The bride and groom will consult with one of the staff pastors once the form is received, well in advance of the wedding. At this time the date and hour of the wedding and rehearsal will be set and entered on the church calendar.

The pastors will expect to have up to four conversations with the bride and groom prior to the wedding. At these times the meaning of Christian marriage will be considered.

It is understood that the pastors of Christ United Methodist Church will officiate at all weddings in the church unless other arrangements are made with them. If the couple should desire a visiting clergy-person to participate in the service, one of the staff pastors of the church MUST be consulted first. They will be happy to extend any such invitations.

MUSIC

All arrangements for music are to be made in consultation with the regular church organist and the pastor at least four weeks in advance. Guest organists must be approved by the church organist. The arrangements made by the couple also include the financial arrangements.

It is expected that reverence will be the guide used in the selection of music for the sanctuary. While we recognize the place of merry-making in family celebrations and receptions, the service within the church should maintain a holy dignity.

Both the organist and the staff pastors are available for consultation concerning the choice of music. If a soloist is desired, arrangements are the responsibility of the couple. The name(s) of the organist, florist, photographer, soloist and personnel of the wedding party should be named at the first or second meeting with the pastor.

REHEARSAL

It is expected that the wedding party will arrive promptly for the rehearsal, which will usually be about an hour in length.

If it is desired that the pastor and spouse be at the rehearsal dinner, please invite them by written invitation before the night of the rehearsal.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The bride is encouraged to keep the floral arrangements simple. Much of the dignity and beauty of our altar and sanctuary can be lost by an over abundance of flowers

Flowers or other decorations should not be attached to walls, ceilings, upholstery or wood (pew bows excluded). The bride's family will be expected to assume responsibility for any damage done to the sanctuary by wires, nails, candles, etc. Any of these decorations MUST first be approved by the pastor.

NO RICE is to be used at any time. Birdseed and bubbles are acceptable outside only.

CHURCH HOURS

The church will be open three (3) hours prior to the wedding unless others arrangements are made in advance.

PHOTOGRAPHS

No flash pictures or movies are to be taken in the sanctuary DURING THE CEREMONY by either AMATEUR or PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS. Video cameras may be used from a fixed position. Available light pictures may be taken from the back or balcony of the sanctuary. There will be time after the ceremony for posing of pictures.

FEES AND WEDDING RECEPTIONS

See attached sheets.

All fees are payable at the time of the rehearsal.

PARTICIPANTS

It is strongly suggested that Junior Ushers, Junior Bridesmaids, ring bearers and flower girls be at least five years of age. This suggestion is made in order that you may have a wedding that is free of distractions.

OPTIONAL AVAILABILITY

Nursery Facility Available (Wedding party would need to provide attendants).

Complete audio equipment is available to record the entire service. (Wedding party would need to provide a 90-minute cassette tape).

This statement of procedure for weddings was adopted by the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Council of the Galion First United Methodist Church, Galion, Ohio on January 24, 1989 and revised on August 17, 2006.

WEDDING PROCEDURE BOOKLET



CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GALION, OHIO