

Conduct and Courtesy

All interviews, rehearsals and wedding appointments must be at the time scheduled. **The officiating minister will have the final decision on matters relating to the ceremony.**

- No Smoking in the church buildings
- No alcoholic beverages anywhere on church property.
- Members of the wedding party are expected not to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- No rice or birdseed on church premises. Bubbles are permitted.

The party arranging for the wedding is responsible for any damage to buildings and furnishings by guests, bridal party, florists, photographers, etc. The bride and groom shall inform their guests of the church rules and policies.

Thank you for choosing St. Mark's United Methodist Church for your wedding. We look forward to working with you to make your ceremony special.

Wedding Fees

Members of St. Mark's	\$700
Non-members of St. Mark's	\$1,000

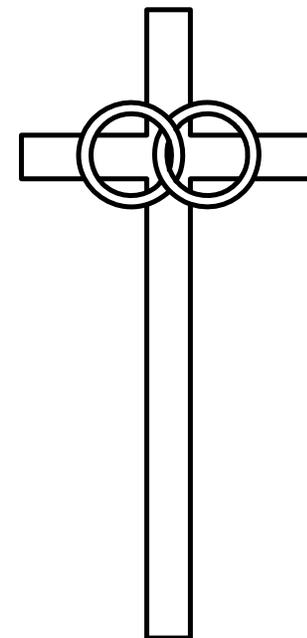
A \$100 deposit is due when the "Request for Wedding" sheet is turned in. The fee includes:

- Sanctuary: allows you 1 ½ hours before the ceremony, ½ for the ceremony, and ½ hour after the ceremony for photos.
- Minister: one or more counseling sessions, the rehearsal, and officiating at the ceremony.
- Organist: plays music for ceremony and accompaniment for soloist if needed.
- Coordinator: helps with planning, the rehearsal, and coordinates on the day of the wedding.
- Custodian: set up and clean up of the sanctuary.

Your basic fee also includes the use of our altar candles, unity candleholder, standing candelabra, aisle candelabra, pew bows, and flower pedestals. The balance will be due 1 month prior to the wedding date.

If additional time is needed, please check with the coordinator. If she is available and the church's schedule permits, you may contract an extra ½ hour either before or after your specified time frame. The fee is \$50 and is made payable to the coordinator at the rehearsal.

The Christian Wedding



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Guidelines

Christian couples want their wedding ceremony to be characterized not only by dignity, reverence, and joy, but also by the very spirit of Christ. A Christian wedding service imposes particular responsibilities just as it offers particular blessings. This brochure addresses the features that will characterize your wedding at St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

The wedding service is an act of worship. This is the first thing to remember. The Christian wedding is a ceremony in which people come together to offer special thanks and praise and to ask God's blessing upon their lives together as husband and wife.

For your wedding, attention should be focused on God. You will want to be sure that nothing in your wedding will detract from giving God the place of greatest importance.

The ministers of St. Mark's officiate at all weddings performed in our church. In special circumstances, the minister may extend an invitation to another ordained minister to help officiate in the service. A counseling session with the minister is required in order to confirm your wedding date.

All church weddings will be assisted by one of our Wedding Coordinators. The coordinator will meet with you shortly after your wedding is confirmed. The coordinator will assist in detail planning, provide information, and be available for assistance the entire preparation time, rehearsal, and the wedding ceremony.

NOTE: Outside wedding consultants will have no say or involvement in the rehearsal or ceremony at the church.

Music

Our own organist plays at all weddings in our church. The organist normally selects all the organ music for a wedding. However, if you have a selection you would like played, you may make arrangements with the organist at least three weeks prior to the wedding.

A soloist needing accompaniment must contact our organist to supply sheet music and to set up a rehearsal time at least three weeks before the wedding. Sacred vocal music can enhance the wedding service. Care must be taken to ensure that holy dignity is maintained. Thus, texts must not include mention of physical love. Frequently, soloists suggest a solo setting of the Lord's Prayer. All vocal music should be submitted to the minister for approval.

Following is an outline of the wedding music to help you in your planning.

- Prenuptial: Music as guests arrive and continued until the mothers are seated.
- Opening solo (opt): Immediately following the mother's seating, a vocal solo may begin the wedding.
- Processional: The entrance of the bridal party and the bride. You may use the "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin or something else of your choosing.
- Candle Ceremony: At the lighting of the unity candle either a vocal solo may be sung or the organ will play.
- Recessional: Bright, ceremonial organ music accompanies the bridal party as it leaves the ceremony.

Florists

The church has two flower pedestals available. The aisle is 75 feet long. We have white pew bows with tulle available. You may come one and one-half hours before the ceremony to decorate.

Photography

In order to preserve the spirit of worship in the wedding service, photographers:

- Are permitted to take only non-flash photos during the ceremony from behind guests.
- Must be finished taking pictures involving the wedding party at least 15 minutes before the ceremony is scheduled to begin.
- Must stay behind the last row of guests once the processional begins until the end of the ceremony.
- Are allowed to take flash pictures during the recessional and after the ceremony only. Up to one-half hour is allowed for posed photos after the ceremony. The one and one-half hours before the ceremony is also used for picture taking.

The church Wedding Coordinator and minister make the final decisions on all photography questions.

Videotaping

A video camera may be used in the choir loft area if it is held stationary or put on a tripod. No extra lighting is allowed. A camera may also be set up in the back of the sanctuary but the still camera photographer has priority on the center aisle.