

Congratulations on your engagement! We pray that the coming weeks of preparation for your wedding will be a time of continued growth in love as well as a time of growing closer to God. What follows is meant to give you some general knowledge of church weddings, rules and fees appropriate to our setting. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to the pastor.

THE SERVICE

A wedding in a Christian church is a worship service. As with any worship service, offering loving thanks to God, receiving God's blessings, and committing ourselves to the Christian life are our reasons for having a service. In the wedding service God is praised for giving two people to each other and for incorporating this new family into a broader family of faith. The attitude is one of thanksgiving, loving joy, and committed responsibility before God. The wedding ceremony's order of worship is usually provided by the Church in order to keep the wedding service focused on God. Different vows and other readings can be included with the pastor's approval. The pastor has resources available for you to view. Please bring copies of other material you would like to use to one of your meetings with the pastor.

The music needs to help people focus on the presence, goodness and love of God. Please check the lyrics for appropriateness before coming to the pastor with your music list. If using the church organist, he has the final decision as to music they he/she may be asked to play. They will advise you on a wide range of appropriate selections. If you use a musician other than the church organist, all music will need to be discussed with the pastor. The sound system does include a CD player for recorded music.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Premarital counseling is an expected part of the wedding preparations. Four to six sessions are arranged and held with the pastor. Please contact the pastor as soon as possible to begin that process.

DECORATIONS

You are welcome to use flowers, candles, and other appropriate decorations in the sanctuary. Please consider that our sanctuary is intimate and simple in design. Simple decorations are more elegant and more in keeping with the design of the sanctuary. Please do not use nails, tacks, or other fasteners that might damage church furniture. Well ahead of time discuss any plans for more elaborate decorations with the pastor. You may, of course, decorate the Fellowship Hall if you are using it for

the rehearsal dinner and/or the reception. The hangings on the pulpit and Lord's Table depend upon the season of the church year.

FLORISTS

Please advise the florist making delivery that the church will generally be open three hours before the wedding. They are welcome to call ahead to confirm the building is open. Ph. 762-4600 ext. 2 for Pastor Armstrong.

GENERAL RULES

Couples are expected to attend worship or a study group or fellowship group of the church as able during the premarital period.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted nor may they be consumed in the church building or on church grounds. Setup and clean up is the responsibility of the wedding group. Kitchen facilities are not available for non-members. The reception must be catered.

No rice or birdseed is to be brought into the building. Please keep it outside. Please check with the pastor on other practices.

Fees for the custodian, organist, soloist, church and pastor should be made at the time of the rehearsal.

No flash pictures are allowed during the service. Professional photographers may take pictures from the back of the sanctuary with available light. Pictures may be posed before and after the service. They are not allowed to move around the chancel and they and their cameras must be quiet. Videos may be taken in the same manner. Amateur photographers need to call the pastor ahead of time to make sure he/she understands the rules or be present at the rehearsal.

REHEARSAL & WEDDING RECEPTION

Most weddings will have a rehearsal. Bring to the rehearsal the wedding license, honorariums and anything else you wish to drop off ahead of time. Plan on one hour for the rehearsal. Encourage ushers to be 10 minutes early for their instructions.

Please indicate to the pastor any desires regarding the rehearsal dinner prayer or wedding banquet prayer. Please be mindful of the seating of the pastor at the wedding banquet. Traditional courtesy is that the pastor be at a family table or nearby.

FEES

All fees are subject to the discretion of the pastor as fees are not to be an obstacle to a wedding service.

A \$100.00 registration fee is requested at the time of the first premarital conference with the pastor to hold the date. \$35.00 of this is non-refundable.

	<u>Church Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Use of sanctuary	included in above fee	\$100
Use of Fellowship Hall	included in above fee	\$50
Reception in Fellowship Hall	\$75	\$75
Kitchen	\$25	Not Available

HONORARIUMS (please make a check out to the respective person and bring to the rehearsal)

Custodial Services- Rehearsal and wedding	\$50	\$75
Payable to Laetitia Oliver or designee:		

Pastor	No set fee for members	\$150
Payable to Rev. Paul Armstrong		

Organist/Pianist/accompanist/soloists, etc (musicians sets own fee.)
Payable to the people you have secured.

WEDDING BULLETINS – *If printed by the church:*

The couple must supply the wedding bulletin paper stock. Bulletins are prepared by the church secretary and proof read by the couple. Production costs are included in registration fee.

If printed on your own: bulletins must be approved by the pastor before printing.

revised 7/10

**Your Wedding at
Oak Creek Community
United Methodist Church**



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