

First United Methodist Church

225 Ludlow Street
Hamilton, Ohio
(513) 896-LOVE (5683)



Weddings
Guidelines and Policies

From the Pastor

On behalf of the congregation of First United Methodist Church, I would like to take this opportunity to both congratulate you and praise you for your decision to be married in the church. Marriage in the sight of God is sacred. Coming before the altar of God and declaring your love for each other, in the presence of family and friends, and expressing your love toward God through marriage, is an important step in your relationship together. The wedding day is just the beginning of a life of growing and learning about each other and about God. It is our expectation that you come to this time with the intent of making a life-long commitment.

Preparing for a wedding is sometimes an overwhelming task. This brochure is intended to help answer many of your questions concerning weddings at First Church. Should you need further information, or wish to schedule your wedding, please contact me at 513-896-5683.

I trust that you will enjoy this experience and that we can grow together as we prepare for your wedding. If you choose to have your wedding here, then I invite you to get comfortable with the facility and the people with whom you will be working. Please treat this facility as a holy place that requires respect, and those who serve you during this time as both servants and friends in Christ.

I pray God will bless your decision to be united in Christian marriage, and bless your relationship of love as it deepens its bond year after year.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Peggy Garrison

SANCTUARY SIZE

The sanctuary will seat 375 on the main floor and 80 in the balcony.

MUSIC

All music will be coordinated through the Church Music Director, Marcia Weygant. The director has final approval on all music to be used throughout this event. Please contact her at the church, 896-5683.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Please ensure that you have your marriage license with you at the rehearsal and give it to the Wedding Coordinator.

ITEMS NOT PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH

The wedding party will be responsible for providing the Unity Candle and Family Candles, the Guest Register, and any bulletins to be used.

COUNSELING REQUIREMENTS

Each couple being married at First Church is required to participate in pre-marital counseling. Though this can be tailored to the individual couple, a minimum of 4 sessions is required, with others to be added as deemed necessary. All counseling sessions are to be scheduled personally with the pastor.

PASTOR IN CHARGE

For any wedding performed at First United Methodist Church, the pastor of the church will be the pastor in charge. Another pastor may be invited to assist. This invitation is to be made by the pastor of First Church.

FIRE SAFETY

Because of the use of many candles, fire safety is paramount. Candles may remain lighted until pictures following the wedding have been completed. Be sure you have designated a person to extinguish all candles.

ALTAR SETTING

Flowers and unity candle arrangements may be placed as the couple and florist deem appropriate. The cross and altar candles must remain on the altar. Please speak with the pastor about your altar arrangements.

SMOKING AND ALCOHOL USE

We require that there be no smoking in the building and no alcoholic beverages on the grounds.

USE OF ROSE PETALS, RICE AND BUBBLES

Rose petals thrown by a flower girl are considered an appropriate part of the wedding ceremony. Bubbles are also allowed outside the building. Rice & bird seed are not allowed to be used for throwing or celebrating on the church grounds.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Photography and videography are allowed during the wedding. Flash pictures are allowed during entrance but disallowed during the service at the discretion of the bride and groom. No equipment or personnel may be forward of the kneeling rail during the service. Photographers and Videographers are asked to coordinate with the pastor prior to the service.

The taking of pictures prior to and following the wedding may be coordinated through the Wedding Coordinator. The opening of building is also a question for her.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

BUILDING USE (NON-MEMBERS)	\$350.00
PASTOR (Counseling & Wedding) Rev. Peggy Garrison (513-490-6047 – cell or 513-896-5683 – church)	250.00
ORGANIST Marcia Weygant (937-293-3706)	200.00
WEDDING COORDINATOR Alta Hamblin (513-863-2996)	80.00
CUSTODIAN John Holloway (513-896-5683)	80.00
SEVEN-TIER CANDELABRA	<u>20.00</u>
TOTAL	\$980.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is due and payable at the time of the initial meeting with the pastor. The check for this should be made to First United Methodist Church.

All fees are due and payable at the wedding rehearsal. Fees should be in one check made payable to First United Methodist Church.

If any further information is needed, please call the church office at 896-LOVE (5683).