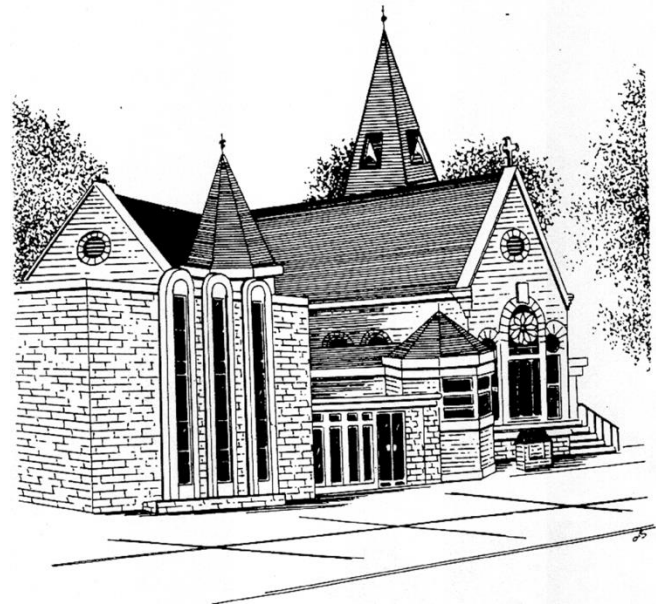


# WEDDING MANUAL



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
127 N. FOURTH STREET  
VANDALIA, IL 62471  
(618) 283-3684

## **WEDDINGS AND THE CHURCH**

Congratulations on your engagement! We believe that Christian marriage is a celebration of God's calling on us to love one another as husband and wife and serve Christ (Ephesians 5). Weddings at our church shall celebrate this promise and honor God. As such, they are worship services. All weddings at our church are under the care of our pastors. S/he will decide which weddings may be celebrated at our church. Since weddings require hours of planning, counseling, and especially considerable time spent on the wedding weekend, we do not -in general- celebrate weddings of non-church members. Our pastor may, after meeting with an engaged couple, agree to the marriage ceremony being hosted at our church.

We require Christian counseling. We use "Prepare/Enrich", a Christian counseling program that uses nationally recognized resources to help plan married life together. You should anticipate that this resource will cost \$75.00. There is no additional charge for premarital counseling.

We also require that our pastor conducts the ceremony. Other clergy may be invited at the request of the pastor to assist in the ceremony.

Finally, all weddings celebrated at our church shall honor God and shall adhere to the mission of the church.

## **WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS**

All arrangements for weddings are to be made with the Pastor of this church. Tentative dates may be discussed with the pastor by phone, but no date can be placed on

the church calendar until a personal conference with the pastor is completed. At the time of the personal conference, a wedding information form will be filled out and the dates reserved on the church calendar. Please note: Non-church members cannot be guaranteed the church longer than 12 months in advance.

Saturday weddings may not be scheduled to begin any later than 3:00 pm.

A \$50.00, nonrefundable, deposit secures your wedding.

## **CHURCH FACILITIES**

Our sanctuary seats approximately 300 people (400 counting the available seating in the balcony and choir area). The chapel seats around 70 persons. Areas will be provided for the bridal party to dress in prior to the ceremony.

In general, the church does not host wedding receptions.

No rehearsal or ceremony will be conducted when any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcoholic beverages. No tobacco or alcoholic beverages are to be used in the building. Also, food or beverages of any kind are not to be taken into the sanctuary. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to see that members of the wedding party and guests keep this policy.

## **COSTS FOR WEDDING**

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Non-Members</b>
Sanctuary Wedding	\$50.00	\$200.00
Less \$50 deposit at time of scheduling		
Chapel Wedding	no charge	\$50.00
Pastor	no charge	\$200.00
Organist	\$200.00	\$200.00
Sound Tech	\$75.00	\$75.00
Video Tech	\$75.00	\$75.00
Custodian	\$75.00	\$100.00

All fees must be paid at the time of the rehearsal.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

If your wedding is small, a rehearsal may not be necessary. However, if you are planning a large wedding, a rehearsal is essential. All participants in the wedding service should be present so they can be apprised of their positions and procedures. One hour is sufficient for rehearsals.

## **THE LICENSE**

The license must be secured within Fayette County since the ceremony will take place in this county. Please give the license to the minister at the rehearsal.

## **THE CEREMONY**

The marriage couple has a choice in the type of wedding service. Besides the traditional wedding ceremony as found in the ritual of our church, there are various contemporary service possibilities. The pastor must be in on the planning of all parts of the service. Since this is a Christian worship service, the minister will stress the importance of the entire service being of sacred nature.

The minister and couple will plan the service together.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS**

Please consult the pastor about photo/videography.

## **FLORIST**

The type of floral arrangement is the choice of the bride and groom. The natural beauty of the sanctuary and chapel should be carefully considered. Please instruct the florist that it is their responsibility to protect the carpet if candelabra are used and to remove all decoration immediately following the wedding. The church has two candelabras. The flower girl should use only silk or paper flowers to drop down the aisle.

## **SOUND SYSTEM**

Only a member of our sound/video team may be engaged to run the sound or video systems of the church.

## **USE OF RICE AND BIRD SEED**

Use of rice and bird seed cannot be used inside or outside of the building.