

Wedding Guidelines

First United Methodist Church
Saline, Michigan



First United Methodist Church

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Wedding Guidelines

It is our presumption that the bride and/or groom in this proposed marriage are Christians or are giving consideration to becoming such. A church wedding is a sacred worship service of the Christian Faith, and for those desiring to be part of the Body of Christ. We hope that you will see the First United Methodist Church of Saline as much more than simply a nice place to get married.

Some persons getting married here grew up attending this church, or plan on attending in the future, or their parents or grandparents attend here. Others get married here because the Saline area is their home and this congregation has been a meaningful part of their lives. We hope that this is the church you would attend if you lived in the Saline area in the foreseeable future.

Because the service of Christian marriage is a service of Christian worship, there are certain things that cannot be changed about the church, simply for the sake of aesthetics. For example, the baptismal font, pulpit, musical instruments and the Lord's Table are to remain in their present locations for weddings.

Also, if it were not for the worshipping congregation of this church it would not be possible for your wedding to be held here; therefore, one of the pastors of this congregation should preside at your wedding, except in unusual circumstances. Likewise requests to change the wording of these services or to use an alternate worship may be honored only after study and discussion with the pastor.

Fees for Weddings

For Non-Members

A Building Use Fee of \$245 is required to secure a wedding date. This may be refunded up until 21 days prior to the wedding. All other fees are due at the rehearsal. Check or cash should be placed in separate envelopes for the following:

Use of Building:	\$245.00
Light/sound technician:	50.00
Organist (rehearsal & wedding):	100.00
(Additional 10.00 for each solo accompaniment)	
Custodian:	50.00
Wedding Hostess (rehearsal & wedding):	65.00
Wedding Coordinator:	50.00
Pastor (counseling, rehearsal, wedding):	150.00
<u>SubTotal</u>	<u>\$710.00</u>

The Order for the Wedding Service

- ORGAN PRELUDE
- LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND SEATING OF PARENTS
- WEDDING PROCESSIONAL
- GREETING
- DECLARATION OF INTENTION
- PARENTS' AFFIRMATION
- SCRIPTURE LESSON
- SHARING OF WEDDING VOWS
- EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS
- DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE
- LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE
- BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE
- BRIDAL KISS
- INTRODUCTION OF THE COUPLE
- WEDDING RECESSIONAL

Counseling Materials: 35.00
(Make check payable to: Prepare & Enrich)

Total \$745.00
"Parlor" Wedding (Use of building) 50.00

For Members (or children and grandchildren of members)

The Building Use Fee is not charged to church members. The minister's honorarium is at the member's discretion. The other fees do apply.

Please bring the following with you to the rehearsal: The marriage license and the fees that are still due. If you pay by check you will need to know the names of the persons serving at your wedding so you can write separate checks for each person. If you pay your fees in cash, please put the exact amount for each person in a separate envelope. In this case you do not need to know in advance the names of the individuals serving at your wedding. Simply mark the name of the position on the envelope.

Receptions At First U.M.C.

The fee for use of Christler Hall is \$125.00 per event. This fee is waived for member families.

Clean-up is expected following any use of the Fellowship Hall. Custodial services can be arranged for setup, take down, and cleaning. These services will be performed by the church custodian at the hourly rate established for the custodian. A deposit to cover the expected services will be required at the time they are arranged.

LIGHT use of the kitchen is included with use of Christler Hall. Light use is defined as warming or cooling previously prepared food, making hot or cold beverages, and storing/serving that food. The kitchen should be left clean, or an additional cleaning fee of \$25.00 will be charged.

The fee for MAJOR use of the kitchen is \$150.00 per event. This fee is waived for members and children of members. Any major use of the kitchen will require payment of a security deposit of \$100.00, regardless of the number attending, to be refunded in whole or part at the discretion of the maintenance supervisor. Any funds held back from the security deposit will be documented in writing. All wedding receptions held in the church must be arranged through the

church office.

First United Methodist Church of Saline is a smoke-free and alcohol-free building. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed in this church.

Note To Non-Members Regarding Fees:

The fee paid for building use is not a rental fee, but rather a **tribute** that you are paying to our congregation for the privilege of **joining them** in the use of this facility. In that you are not renting our facility, but joining with our congregation, you agree to accept the rules of our congregation and authority and direction of our pastor. This means, for instance, that the position of the chancel furniture, paraments, and instruments will remain the same for a wedding as for Sunday worship. Altar cloths used in weddings, will most likely be those that were on the Communion table for the preceding Sunday morning, reflecting the season of the church year. This means that you will accept the liturgies and teachings of the United Methodist Church in regards to the covenant of Christian marriage. It means that the activities of the wedding party and wedding guests while upon these premises will reflect and respect the beliefs and decorum of the congregation. It also means that members of our congregation and church staff will be utilized to help you in your wedding (organist, light/sound technician, custodian, hostess, etc.).

Guidelines for Your Wedding

- **Rehearsal:** If your wedding involves a procession and recession, it is important to have a rehearsal so that everyone in the wedding party will know what they are to do. The rehearsal usually lasts an hour and 15 minutes and is normally held the evening before the wedding. Musicians are strongly encouraged to be there.
- **Pictures:** Flash pictures may be taken during the procession and recession. No flash pictures should be taken during the actual service.
- **Video Taping:** This is permissible, as long as the camera and operator are unobtrusive. Mounting the camera on a tripod will greatly improve the quality of the video.
- **Flowers:** Please arrange for your florist to schedule flower delivery not earlier than the expected arrival of the bridal party, usually two hours prior to the service.
- **Decorations:** Your wedding will be taking place in an attractive sanctuary containing powerful Christian symbols; therefore, you really don't need a lot of additional decorations. Flowers on the Altar Table, flower stands and/or on the candelabra are more than enough. No decorations should be attached to sanctuary furniture or walls using nails, tacks, pins, tape, adhesives, or any other

material that scratches or leaves a residue behind. Florists are usually able to use rubber coated wire and tape that will not leave a residue. Please make certain that your florist is careful about attaching flowers to the furniture.

- **Wedding Bulletins:** Wedding bulletins have the order of worship for the wedding as well as a list of the persons in the wedding party. Bulletin covers can be purchased for this purpose from Christian bookstores. Businesses such as Office Max and Kinko's also sell appropriate papers that make attractive bulletin covers, and they can duplicate your bulletins
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** For good reasons, The United Methodist Church opposes the inappropriate use of alcoholic beverages and other abused substances. First United Methodist Church is an alcohol free and tobacco free building. No alcohol drinking is permitted in the building or on the church grounds. Members of the wedding party and guests consuming these substances will be asked to leave the premises.
- **The Pastor(s):** The First United Methodist Church of Saline was dedicated by its congregation for services of Christian worship within the traditions of the Christian Faith and particularly the United Methodist Church. Out of respect for these traditions and for the congregation, this sanctuary cannot be rented for weddings wherein the resident pastors or some other United Methodist pastor (at the invitation of our pastor) does not officiate. However, pastors from other non-United Methodist Churches may assist in the conduct of a wedding. Exceptions to this rule may be made only at the discretion of the pastor.

Other pastors, perhaps because they may be a relative of the bride or groom, may be invited to co-officiate the wedding with the pastor of this church. This invitation needs to come from the resident pastor. Invitations to previous pastors are discouraged.

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