
WEDDING POLICIES

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Julie Schubert

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One of the most sacred and beautiful ceremonies of the church is the marriage service. It is an act of worship in which a man and woman are united in the company of their loved ones and friends. A Christian wedding is a public covenant with God and each other, to remain faithful in marriage all the days of life.

Thank you for sharing this special moment in your life with Epworth United Methodist Church. Here is a snapshot of the general information and policies for weddings at EUMC.

CAPACITY

Our Sanctuary holds up to 180 guests.

The fellowship hall can accommodate comfortably 150 people.

FEES

Refundable Deposit to hold the date \$150.00 (Members and Non Members)

All remaining fees are payable the day of the wedding.

(Fees are listed on the following page)

Non-member Fees

Pastor pre-marital, rehearsal and wedding service \$200.00
Church \$300.00
Pianist \$150.00-\$250.00 (optional)
Soloist \$50.00-\$100.00 (optional)
Fellowship Hall \$100.00 (optional)
Hall and Kitchen \$150.00 (optional)
AV Support (if using powerpoint... optional)

Member Fees (Members of EUMC for minimum of 6 months)

Members are asked to give a free will offering to the Pastor and the church
Pianist \$150.00-\$250.00
Soloist \$50.00-\$100.00 (optional)
AV Support (if using powerpoint... optional)

A damage and cleaning deposit (\$150.00) is included with the wedding fees. If there is any damage to church property or if any unusual custodial services are required; the deposit will be forfeited.

The bride and groom will be held responsible for any damages which exceed the damage deposit amount. If the above stipulations are not violated, the "Damage Deposit" is returned to you by mail within two weeks after the wedding date.

THE CEREMONY

The current pastor of the Epworth UMC will lead the wedding ceremony. If a guest minister is desired by a couple, these arrangements must be discussed with the minister, so that an invitation may, at the local pastor's discretion, be extended to the guest minister.

Four appointments for consultation, discussion and counsel with the bride and groom prior to the service are required. The first one is designed to help the Pastor get to know the couple on a personal and spiritual level. The second is to help the bride and groom prepare, so that the service will truly represent their union. In the following two sessions we will focus on establishing a new home on a firm foundation of Christian faith and values.

Weekly church attendance is an important part of an engaged couple's faith journey. It helps bring them together in a special way allowing them to explore their beliefs and values prior to the wedding. Therefore members and non-members are encouraged to attend Sunday Worship.

SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

It is important that all arrangements (including date, exact hours, etc.) for wedding services, rehearsals, and receptions be scheduled as far in advance as possible. Church members have priority in scheduling dates should there be a conflict. A \$150.00 deposit is required to reserve the chosen date. Once a date is set, that date and time is secure on the church calendar, whether it is for a member or a non-member. Weddings should not be scheduled for the weekend of Easter or Christmas. Other holiday weekends (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, are subject to approval by the Pastor)

A reservation is confirmed when:

The Pastor has agreed to officiate at the wedding ceremony

The date for the wedding has been scheduled

The deposit to hold the date has been paid

MUSIC

We do want your wedding to be special to you and your families. We will gladly allow leeway in the type of vocal and instrument music you choose for your wedding. Keep in mind however; the wedding service is a Christian service of worship, the music selected must be appropriate to Christian worship. If solos or anthems are sung, the words should focus attention upon the covenant love of God, which is the foundation and example for the love of husband and wife together. Some weddings now include congregational singing of hymns, "The Faith We Sing" and the "United Methodist Hymnal" includes a few hymns specifically for marriage service. Ultimately, music is to be selected in consultation with the Pastor and Pianist of the church.

REHEARSALS

The purpose of the wedding rehearsal is to familiarize the wedding party with the wedding procedure, so that everyone will be as comfortable as possible and know what their responsibilities are. Most rehearsals take place on the day before the wedding however, should conflicts arise, other times during the week of the wedding may be arranged.

All members of your wedding party should attend your rehearsal, as well as musicians and other participants in the service (i.e. readers, ushers, etc). This includes flower child, ring bearer, Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, Mothers and Fathers. M.

**No one under the influence of alcohol will be permitted to participate in the rehearsal or the wedding.

It is illegal and unethical for a Pastor to perform the ceremony without a marriage license.

****The wedding license is to be given to the Pastor one week prior to the wedding.**

DECORATIONS

Weddings are special! Be assured, however, that it is not necessary to spend a fortune in order to have a beautiful wedding. Neither flowers nor decorations are essential to the beauty of your wedding or the success of your marriage. Remember that in the Sanctuary “less may be more”. It is God and the people involved who make weddings truly beautiful.

A Candelabrum is available for the wedding. The Bride and Groom are responsible for purchasing the candles. Altar cloths may remain the color of the season, or be changed to white. Runners are not provided but may be used for the aisle.

Please do not staple, thumbtack or tape anything to the pews, windows, or altar. Ribbon or elastic may be used. Please designate someone to be responsible for removing all decorations, equipment, and personal belongings from the church and the Sanctuary immediately following the wedding service. The church is not responsible for items left unattended before, during or after the rehearsal or wedding. All rooms used by the bridal party shall be returned in the condition they were found.

RECEPTIONS

The chairs and tables are available for use. The kitchen space, stove and the ice maker can be used. If there is room, the refrigerator or freezer can be used. Caterers are to bring their own dishes, cups, tableware and cloths, etc. The Caterer is responsible to leave the fellowship hall and kitchen clean and orderly. Trash removal and floor cleaning are a must.

A fee to clean and mop the floors will be charged if they are left unattended.

Kitchen utensils, coffee makers, dishes, silverware, cups, and glasses are not available unless a member of the UMW group is present and serving the meal.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the church premises. We also ask that no smoking will occur in the building at any time. Potpourri rose petals, and bubbles can be used outside as the bride and groom exit the building.

Please keep all food and drink out of the Sanctuary.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

The day of the wedding, flash pictures may be taken in the Sanctuary until thirty minutes prior to the service. No flash photos or additional video lights may be used during the wedding ceremony. All photography and video-taping during the ceremony must be done so it does not distract from the spirit of worship. Pictures without flash may be taken during the wedding service from the rear of the Sanctuary in a way that does not draw attention away from the ceremony.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to call the church with any questions, and we will be happy to assist you.

May God bless you throughout this exciting season!