

Trinity United Church of Christ

Preparing For a Christian Wedding



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INTRODUCTION

Weddings are a joyous and sacred event. Preparing for a wedding and your life together requires the couple to make many important decisions. Decisions are made for both your wedding preparations and your marriage.

One of those early decisions will be to set-up your pre-marital sessions with the pastor. Meeting with the pastor is a prerequisite for your wedding. It is important to work with the pastor on the details of your wedding, and it is beneficial for you to become comfortable with the person who will be officiating. It is best to schedule these sessions early in your preparations.

The Trinity United Church of Christ sanctuary has been the site of many weddings since it was built in 1899. Our pastor looks forward to meeting with you to discuss your plans to wed in this historic and sacred setting.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE WEDDING

Who will be participating in your wedding?

Clergy

It is expected to have the pastor of our church conduct the wedding. If you wish to have another clergy person participate in the wedding, please inform the pastor so an appropriate invitation can be extended and the necessary details worked out.

Children

If you are bringing children into this marriage, discuss this with the pastor. Special considerations are possible for including your children in this life-cycle event.

Ushers

Your ushers can be an important asset to the flow of your ceremony. They should be present at least one hour before the time of the wedding. At our church, your ushers would often also be responsible for lighting and extinguishing the altar candles and candelabra.

THE REHEARSAL

During the busy times before a wedding rehearsal, please be courteous to all and arrive at your rehearsal on time. The rehearsal is normally held the evening before the wedding and typically lasts about one hour. Please refrain from alcoholic beverages before the rehearsal and wedding. All people connected with the wedding party should be present for the rehearsal.

THE WEDDING

Scheduling and Seating

Know that Trinity United Church of Christ's facility is used by various groups of the congregation and by others. So, please confirm your dates and times early to be sure they are reserved. A message can be left at trinityuccbaltimore@gmail.com or 740-862-4222. The Trinity United Church of Christ Sanctuary will seat between 200-225 people comfortably.

Wedding Time and Preparation

In addition to the wedding date and time, please include what time you will need our church to be open for preparations, dressing, and pre-wedding photography.

Music and Musicians for Your Wedding

The music you select for your wedding is part of a worship service. When selecting your music it should be appropriate for the occasion in this church. All vocal music for the wedding must be approved by the pastor. Our organist (if available) plays for a wedding and will accompany a soloist. You will need to make an appointment with the organist. The music must be submitted to the organist at least one month prior to the wedding date. You are responsible for paying your organist, pianist, and soloist. You also will need to purchase a copy of each piece of music for the soloist and the organist. Please, no photocopies. Most organists have copies of many pieces of traditional wedding music, so you may not need to purchase any. You do need to discuss with the organist the number of people in your procession, the approximate number of guests and selections of music. The preservice music is selected in consultation with the organist, as are the processional, recessional, and possible vocal or instrumental soloist during the wedding. If your wedding music is prerecorded, and the wedding service is being broadcast live or for future play, you are responsible for all music copyrights licensing and payments.

In addition to the church organ, there is also a digital piano and a traditional piano. The sound system also has both tape deck and CD playing capabilities. No settings on the sound system are to be changed without the supervision of a church official.

Candles, Flowers, and Aisle Runner

The candles on the altar and two candelabras are lighted for the wedding and are provided by the church. If you choose to have a unity candle you must provide that yourself or with a florist. The unity candle needs to be “drip-less” or 51% beeswax. All floral arrangements are your responsibility. No flowers are to be put on the pulpit, lectern, or cross. Nothing ought to reach higher than the cross and altar flower arrangements on the altar ought not to exceed 32 inches from the base. No tape, nails, or screws are to be used on the pews or any furniture to secure decorations. Silk flower petals are permitted for the processional but not real flower petals. Candles and candle holders are not to be placed on the pews. Because of the rounded top of the pews, pew bows cannot be hooked or tied. Thumbtacks are permitted, but you are asked to use a hole previously made. If you desire to have an aisle runner you or your florist must provide one. The length of the center aisle is 35 feet and needs to be cut to that length. The aisle runner is put in place after the guests are seated by the ushers. The aisle runner needs to be taped or pinned down at each end. No furniture is to be moved or removed without the permission of the pastor.

Arrangements must be made to remove all decorations, because the sanctuary and other rooms will need to be cleaned and used again shortly after the wedding. However, some flowers may be left for use in our Sunday worship service. So, please inform us if that is your intention.

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a symbol of the resurrection to new life and can be meaningful for some couples.

Wedding Coordinator

It is helpful to have a wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator takes care of many of the wedding details, such as seeing that corsages and boutonnieres are distributed and pinned on. The wedding coordinator coordinates the placement of the aisle runner and the processional. The wedding coordinator helps to see that the wedding runs smoothly. The wedding coordinator needs to be at the rehearsal.

Still and Video Photography

Flash photography is not permitted during the wedding. The wedding begins after the processional and ends after the benediction. This kind of photography is most distracting. Time exposure photographs of the ceremony can be taken unobtrusively from the back of the sanctuary. Please give your photographer and/or videographer this information before the wedding and ask the photographer and/or videographer to see the pastor before the wedding. Please ask your ushers to advise anyone with cameras of this common practice as they enter the church. The pastor will stay for photographs if requested. Video photography is permitted during the whole service when the following conditions are met with the pastor's approval. The video camera(s) must be fixed to a tripod, at a location or locations agreed upon with the pastor. The video camera(s) cannot be moved once put in place before the wedding. The videographer must turn the camera "on" prior to the service and then leave the camera until after the service. Any flashing lights during the video camera's recording must be covered so that the light is no longer visible.

Confetti, Rice, Balloons, or Birdseed

As you leave the church following your wedding, the church bells will ring. Confetti, rice, balloons, birdseed or anything that may be harmful to the environment is not permitted. Before you make a final decision as to how your guests will be greeted, please check with the pastor. You may desire to thank those who attended with bubbles, candy Hugs and Kisses, or noise-makers.

Programs/Bulletins

Printed wedding bulletins (service programs) can be used if you desire to use one. Let the pastor know if you need help with this.

Receiving Line

Many couples want to greet and dismiss their guests at the conclusion of the wedding. This detail should be worked out during the rehearsal so everyone knows where they should stand.

Reception

Our Fellowship Hall is available for a wedding reception. Trinity United Church of Christ is an alcohol-free, tobacco-free facility. We do, however, permit an initial toast at your reception, if it is held at the church.

Marriage License

Ohio law requires that a marriage license be issued for all weddings in Ohio. A license is good for sixty days. Business hours, fees, and processing time vary with each county. The Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court is open Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. The license can be applied for in person or virtually in Fairfield County. The wedding cannot be conducted without a license. The license needs to be given to the pastor at the rehearsal and will be completed and returned to you after your wedding.

Accessibility, Handicap Parking, Parking

There is a ramp on the north side of the church building for anyone who has difficulty with steps. There are several handicap parking spaces in the front and rear of the church building. On the west side of the church building there is an entrance with a chair lift to the sanctuary level. The church parking lots are located on the east and west sides of the church building. The east will accommodate thirty vehicles and the west will accommodate about twenty vehicles. All other parking is street parking.

Wedding Fees

	Member	Non-Member
Sanctuary Use (Wedding & Rehearsal)	200.00	750.00
Reception 3 Hours	100.00	500.00
Pastor	200.00	400.00

Additional fees for set up and clean-up will also be applied if necessary, based on the amount of work entailed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Trinity Church Office

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Trinity Clergy

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