

# Weddings at Christ Church

## *Church Weddings*

Congratulations! Whether you are married in the church sanctuary or by the church at some other place, what you have asked for is a Christian wedding. Weddings can be performed by a mayor, or ship's captain, but a church wedding carries certain understandings and expectations. We understand that the wedding is a worship service: what happens should be in the spirit of worship. We believe that God will be present in your wedding and marriage because marriage is God's own idea and gift. God wants your marriage to be wonderful.

God also invented faithfulness. Christian marriage is God's idea of two people pledging lifelong faithfulness to each other, with the help of a faithful God. When you make your vows to each other, you are also making a promise to God. And God is in turn promising to help and support you in your marriage. God keeps promises.

A Christian wedding then is not just a ceremony and never a production. We seek a spirit of worship, with our focus on vows of faithfulness promised between the bride and groom, and to God.

## *Where to Start*

First things first.

1. Start by contacting the pastor of Christ Church to secure the pastor's agreement to perform the wedding, and to fix the date on the church calendar.
2. After that, you will want to plan the reception location and select a photographer (which can require many months' lead time.)
3. Come to Sunday Worship as a couple. This time of worship before the wedding will help you better understand the spirit of worship at your wedding. It will also help you grow together spiritually as a couple and acquaint you with a community of faith that will continue to support and encourage your marriage.

## *The Pastor*

The Pastor will want to meet with you soon to become acquainted and discuss general questions about your relationship and plans for the wedding. You are encouraged to worship here and become familiar with this congregation and pastor before you ask to set a wedding date.

The Pastor may wish to meet with you privately during the 3 months before the wedding. These sessions will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and address concerns, discuss the strengths and growth areas of your relationship, examine your expectations of this marriage, explore the meaning of a Christian marriage, as well as plan the details of the wedding ceremony.

## *Sanctuary*

The Sanctuary seats 300. For set up, you can arrange with the pastor to get into the building at your desired time. The custodian will clean up after the wedding, but you should arrange to take your personal items, boxes, etc. with you after the wedding.

## *The Music*

While a simple wedding does not require it, music is often a large and important part of the ceremony. There are a variety of musical options for you. An obvious one is our church's remarkable pipe organ. An organist or other musician should be contacted soon after confirming the date with the pastor.

The CHURCH ORGANIST can help you with choosing music that is appropriate for a wonderful wedding celebration. Set a consultation date with the organist that will give you both plenty of time to prepare. Note that a favorite song might not transcribe well to the organ, or even sound good on the piano. The organist can help you assess the music and your options.

It is acceptable for someone other than the church organist to play the church organ for the wedding, but you must get the permission of the church organist.

Pre-recorded music may be played through the sanctuary sound system.

## *Sound Technology*

Christ Church has a versatile sound system, which will enable your guests to hear your wedding ceremony fully and clearly, and which offers you added flexibility in the use of soloists and/or prerecorded music, as well as recording capabilities. Unfortunately, we cannot permit anyone to operate the sound system except one of our technicians.

We can

- Play recorded CD's or cassette tapes.
- Record your service.
- Offer the use of both wired and wireless microphones.

To best meet your needs, we will want to know what kinds of musicians you will be using and from where in the sanctuary they will be performing. (For example, a vocal soloist with piano accompaniment, a trumpet soloist with organ accompaniment, or a vocal soloist with an accompaniment CD.)

If desired, Christ Church can Live-Stream your ceremony and we will be happy to assist in completing this.

## *Photography*

Since the wedding is a worship service, we ask that no flash pictures be taken during the service itself, either professionally or by family. If you wish, flash pictures may be taken while the wedding party is in procession and recession, but not at the altar. Your professional photographer may take pictures without flash from an inconspicuous place. The best photographers are respectful of the spirit of worship as they do their work. You will also want to discuss with your photographer whether posed pictures will be taken before or after the ceremony, or both.

You are welcome to videotape the service. The pastor can suggest the best vantage points. Individuals videotaping should not be in the chancel area or otherwise between the congregation and the Chancel.

## *Candles*

You may wish to use the church's candelabras (2 stands, 7 candles each.) They may be reserved with a check (\$25) left with the office manager. The candelabra candles will be in place for you at the rehearsal.

Should you desire the lighting of a Unity Candle as part of the ceremony, you will need to obtain that candle set yourself.

## *Flowers*

If you wish to leave flowers for Sunday worship, please tell the Office Manager in advance.

## *Fellowship Hall*

The church fellowship hall may be used for a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception. It seats about 125 people (round tables) or 200 (oblong tables). Alcohol is not to be distributed or consumed on church premises at any time.

## *Marriage License*

Legal residents of Wayne County may get your license at the Probate Court in Wooster (330-287-5577.) If you both reside outside Wayne County but in Ohio, obtain the license from an office where either of you resides. In the event neither is a legal resident of Ohio, obtain your license from the Probate Court where the marriage is to be performed.

You must make the application in person, together, not more than 60 days before the wedding. (No minimum date; no blood tests.) Take along a birth certificate, social security card or drivers license, and (if applicable) any divorce papers. We recommend you call the Probate Court in advance to verify office hours and items to bring along.

*Fees (Effective July 1, 2024)*

All fees are payable prior to the wedding with separate checks for the organist, custodian, sound technician and church. Pastor's fee will be determined by the Pastor and may include sessions beyond the ceremony.

Item/Service	Non-Member	Member
Sanctuary Use	\$100	\$50
Chapel Use	\$40	\$0
Candelabra	\$25	\$25
Fellowship Hall	\$100	\$100
Custodian – Sanctuary weddings	\$50	\$50
Custodian – Chapel weddings	\$50	\$50
Custodian – Fellowship Hall Reception	\$75	\$75
Organist	\$250	\$250
Organist rehearsal with Soloist	\$40	\$40
Sound Technician - Wedding	\$30	\$30
Sound Technician - Rehearsal	\$30	\$30
Live Stream Technician	\$30	\$30
Live Stream Technician - Rehearsal	\$30	\$30

We can create a recording of your ceremony.

Fees for this service are as follows:

Service	Fee	Payable to
Recording of wedding (1 <sup>st</sup> copy)	\$10	Christ Church
Recording of wedding (each additional copy)	\$5	Christ Church

Approved May 2024