

Marriage

By Ruth Harms Calkin,
Love Is So Much More, Lord

It's rough. It's tough. It's work.
Anybody who says it isn't
Has never been married.
Marriage has far bigger problems
Than toothpaste squeezed
From the middle of the tube.

Marriage means...
Grappling, aching, struggling.
It means putting up
With personality weaknesses
Accepting criticism
And giving each other freedom to fail.
It means sharing deep feelings
About fear and rejection.
It means turning self-pity into laughter
And taking a walk to gain control.

Marriage means...
Gentleness and joy
Toughness and fortitude
Fairness and forgiveness
And a walloping amount of sacrifice.

Marriage means...
Learning when to say nothing
When to keep talking
When to push a little
When to back off.
It means acknowledging
"I can't be God to you -
I need Him, too."

Marriage means...
You are the other part of me
I am the other part of you.
We'll work through
With never a thought of walking out.

Marriage means...
Two imperfect mates
Building permanently
Giving totally
In partnership with a perfect God.
Marriage, my love, means us!

Weddings



First United Methodist Church of Killeen

508 N. Gray Street, Killeen, TX 76541
(254) 634-6363

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Wedding Handbook for First United Methodist Church, Killeen.

I understand I am responsible for all the policies and procedures herein and I understand it is my responsibility to inform all people participating in the wedding (wedding party, photographers, musicians, etc) of the policies in this handbook.

I understand I will be held monetarily responsible for any damage or loss to the church; extra work for any staff person should the wedding party and their guests fail to follow church policies; the church is not notified of cancellation or change in the schedule at least four weeks in advance.

I understand if a staff minister is not officiating, the guest minister must be invited to officiate by the Senior Pastor at least six weeks prior to the service. I understand it is my responsibility to provide the name, address and phone of the desired officiant to the church.

I understand the United Methodist Church requires premarital counseling and I am required to schedule these sessions.

(Signed and Dated)

Wedding Notes

Pastor:

Organist:

Soloist:

Other Musicians:

Florist:

Photographer:

Wedding Consultant:

Sound Technician:

Dates of Consultation:

Other Notes:

Policies for a Service of Christian Marriage

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! We hope it will prove to be one of the happiest, most meaningful and holiest moments in your life. Thank you for considering First United Methodist Church for this very special service.

God has ordained a man and a woman enter together into marriage, pledging their love and their fidelity each to the other, as long as both shall live. As Jesus Christ has blessed this relationship and it has been declared holy throughout the life of the church, those who pledge themselves each to the other in the sight of God are promised God's help as they enter into joys and duties of life together.

Humanly speaking, marriage is a civil contract among a man, a woman and the state. When a marriage is performed in the context of Christian worship, the proclamation of the gospel of reconciliation in Jesus Christ is a promise of blessing to the marriage. As the man and woman respond affirmatively to this proclamation, their marriage is in the Lord. This applies equally to the first marriage, or marriage after the death of a spouse and to marriage after being divorced.

The Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God, normally conducted within the house of God. Reverence shall be expected on the part of all present, and the service shall be under the direction of the minister. An example of the traditional United Methodist wedding

service can be found in the United Methodist Hymnal. While variations in the elements of the wedding ceremony may be negotiated with the Pastor, it is important to remember above all, the service is a sacred, Christian worship service.

The marriage service shall begin with a brief statement of the meaning of Christian marriage. At appropriate times during the ceremony, there shall be prayers for the couple as they enter their new estate. There shall be an exchange of vows, and if so desired, a ring or rings may be given. The minister shall deliver a charge to the couple, laying before them the privileges and obligations which they are about to receive and undertake. Before the conclusion of the service, the minister shall declare publicly this man and woman are joined in marriage according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state. The service shall conclude with a benediction.

Premarital Consultation

Any minister asked to marry a man and woman shall participate with them in instruction and discussion of the privileges and obligations they will assume in Christian marriage. No matter if our church's ministers or a visiting pastor is officiating at the ceremony, **all people marrying at First United Methodist Church will be required to engage in premarital counseling.**

Entering into the covenant of Christian marriage is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, it is worth spending time exploring such a covenant. The purpose of premarital conversations is not for the pastor to determine

Music

Music selected for a wedding must be appropriate for a worship service. If needed, guidance will be offered in the selection of music and recommendations for soloists or instrumentalists can be given. The Director of Music must also be notified of any guest organists so that arrangements for access to the organ can be made.

Music provided at the reception, if held in a church facility, should be appropriate for the location. This is especially important if hiring a DJ or band.

Sound Equipment

Weddings in the sanctuary require a church provided sound technician. This is a required fee. Both facilities have cassette and CD players for recorded music. For receptions in Fellowship Hall, no sound equipment is available, but may be provided by a DJ. There are also projectors and screens in the sanctuary available.

The use of additional equipment (guitars, amps, etc) will be allowed only with prior permission and must be set up under the supervision of the sound technician. This is to ensure that the recording equipment can professionally record the music.

Musician Fees

Arrangements for and payment of fees to any musician (organist, soloist, instrumentalist) are to be made directly with the person hired for the event. Fees for musicians should be placed in a separate envelope and paid directly to the musician before the wedding.

Ministerial Fees

An honorarium of \$150 is charged for people outside the membership of the congregation. Members of the church support the pastor's salary with their contributions to the church; therefore, no honorarium is expected. Should the minister be asked to drive outside of the community, or should there be other special requests, compensation should be considered.

Marriage License

A license is obtained from any county courthouse in Texas, costs \$30 in cash and requires proof of identification and social security numbers. A couple must apply together at least 72 hours prior to the wedding, but no more than 30 days. The license should be given to the minister at the rehearsal. No wedding will be performed without a license. It will be available in the church office Monday after the wedding, unless prior arrangements are made.

whether or not you should be married. The conversations are meant to identify strengths in your relationship and areas that need growth. The expectations which are brought to a relationship heavily influence whether or not a marriage is a healthy one. Premarital conversations with the pastor also allow you to ask questions about your wedding ceremony, to explore the meaning of the covenant vows and to personalize your covenant service by working with the pastor to plan the liturgy.

For this reason, appointments for premarital counseling should be scheduled well in advance of the wedding. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact the minister for an appointment.

When a pastor not on the church staff is desired, an invitation must be issued by the minister of this church. The visiting pastor must arrange to make contact with the staff minister prior to the wedding. The staff minister, in accordance with universal Methodist policy, also retains the authority to approve all plans for weddings and receptions scheduled at First United Methodist Church of Killeen.

Arranging for the Wedding

The facilities are provided and supported through the dedicated support of the member families of the church. Individuals who at time of scheduling have joined the church receive fee preference when scheduling a wedding in the sanctuary or chapel. However, as a courtesy, we extend the use of the facilities to non-members as well when possible.

The church has a chapel and sanctuary that are available for weddings. The chapel seats about 120 people, while the sanctuary seats as many as 600. Rehearsal dinners and receptions following weddings may also be held at the church. The parlor area can accommodate approximately 50 standing guests and the Fellowship Hall can accommodate approximately 200 standing guests.

Arrangements for all the facilities to be used should be included in the initial planning through the church office.

The scheduling of your wedding should occur well in advance of the wedding date. Call the church office and check to see if your desired dates and facilities are available on the church calendar. If clear, you can tentatively schedule your date.

The church has a wedding coordinator who will act as the church's representative for administrative matters pertaining to the wedding. She will be involved in approving the arrangements for the wedding and is responsible for insuring all wedding activities are conducted as set forth in this booklet. The wedding coordinator will attend the rehearsal, wedding and may attend preliminary meetings with the pastor.

You will be given a contract stating the date and time slot of the wedding and rehearsal, an outline of building usage requested and the non-refundable deposit of \$100 to confirm the date. It will also state you understand the guidelines for weddings at the church as outlined in this booklet. A wedding will not be confirmed until the required deposit has been paid and the contract signed.

Building-Use Fee

Anyone using the facilities must pay a building-use fee to cover air conditioning/heating, normal maintenance and other costs associated with the upkeep of our facilities. Should circumstances beyond the control of the church, pastor or staff preclude the use of the facility or schedule of events, liability is limited to a full refund of all fees.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Sanctuary, bride and grooms rooms.....	\$300
Chapel.....	\$100
Parlor.....	\$100
Fellowship Hall	\$200
*Custodian.....	\$100
*Sound Tech.....	\$100
*Wedding Consultant.....	\$100

NON-CHURCH MEMBERS

Sanctuary, bride and grooms rooms.....	\$500
Chapel.....	\$250
Parlor.....	\$100
Fellowship Hall	\$300
*Custodian.....	\$150
*Sound Tech.....	\$150
*Wedding Consultant.....	\$150

**These are required fees.*

All fees will be paid before the wedding.

The grand piano in the sanctuary may be used instead of or in addition to the organ. However, it may not be decorated or moved off the hardwood floor. Stand microphones may be used if a vocalist is singing from the piano. Microphones may not be attached to the piano by any method.

Photography & Videography

Please discuss with the ministers and wedding consultants the use of cameras during the ceremony. Only designated photographers may take flash pictures during the processional and recessional. Natural light photographs and a natural light video may be made during the service, as long as cameras are unobtrusive and do not distract from the ceremony. It is the renting party's responsibility to inform the photographer of church policy.

Rehearsal

It is important that all people involved in the ceremony (ushers, parents, grandparents, attendants, readers) be at the rehearsal and **on time**. The officiating minister is responsible for directing the wedding rehearsal. The wedding coordinator will be there to assist the minister and to help direct everyone through their part in the wedding. Outside wedding coordinators may be used, but must defer to the staff minister or the church's wedding coordinator on matters of church policy. The church coordinator will also make final confirmation of wedding day details.

contract signed.

If a couple has not returned their contract, and another party is interested in that date, the church will request the contract be signed and the deposit be paid immediately or the date forfeited.

Use of the Facilities

The church has some general-use policies in regard to the facilities that are to be followed:

- No smoking is permitted in any area of the church.
- No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed on the premises at any time.
- No weapons or firearms are permitted on the premises at any time, except for those carried by law enforcement officials.
- Weddings scheduled during Holy Week or on the weekends before or after Christmas must be arranged with the ministers and wedding consultant. These dates are usually reserved for church functions.
- No personnel, facilities, fixtures or equipment may be used without permission.

Other policies are outlined in the Decorations and Photography section of this booklet.

Decorations

Time for decorating the Sanctuary or Chapel and Fellowship Hall (if used) will be arranged through the Wedding Coordinator and may vary according to needs, but will be no less than two hours. All decorations and other items will be cleared following the wedding, within the arranged time slot. Removal of decorations and clean-up of kitchen facilities, if used, are the responsibility of the wedding party.

Families wishing to donate flower arrangements for the Sunday worship service should notify the church office in advance, and an acknowledgement will be made in the service bulletin. It is the responsibility of the renting party to inform the florist of church policy.

Decorations for the wedding and reception should be arranged to accentuate all religious symbols and the natural beauty of the church. The altar and the altar furnishings are a vital part of worship. Therefore, the altar will remain at the center of all services in the sanctuary and no other furnishings may be removed. If the wedding is being held during the Advent or Lenten seasons, the church's own seasonal decorations are to be left in place. Wedding banners are available for use, with prior arrangement, and paraments will cover the pulpits and altar. The white paraments will be used unless the wedding is during Advent (blue) or Lent (purple).

Flowers, bows and other decorations shall not be tacked, nailed or taped to any part of the church building or furnishings. You may affix items using non-marring, non-sticking devices such as ribbons, rubber bands, padded clips and some covered wires. All carpet and furnishings shall be protected from wax and water by a clear, plastic sheet or other suitable covering.

Candles and candelabras may be used in the altar area, but not on the pew or in the aisles. Candles used must be dripless and non-acrylic. Again, a protective covering must be placed under the candelabras, even if dripless candles are used. Arrangements for these items must be made through a florist or rental agency, as the church does not own any. The church does own two single candlesticks and a candlelighter that may be used with prior arrangement. Any use of candles should be discussed with the wedding coordinator.

No candles or flowers are to be placed on the piano, pulpit, lectern, baptismal font or organ console. Decorations should not interfere with the work and vision of the organist, soloist, minister or wedding party members.

The throwing of confetti, rice or glitter is not permitted either inside or outside of the church because of the difficulty in cleaning them up and the ecological and safety hazard. Individual packages of birdseed or bubbles may be used outside. Members and non-members alike are responsible for any damages that occur to the building or furnishings.