

Wedding Guide

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Wedding Guide

Introduction

Congratulations! The staff and congregation of Asbury United Methodist Church rejoice with you as you plan and begin your life together. By selecting our church as the site for your wedding you are expressing a desire for your marriage in a service of worship and God's blessing. The clergy and staff of Asbury are pleased to assist you in planning and conducting the wedding ceremony.

Scheduling Your Wedding

The procedure for scheduling a wedding at Asbury begins when you contact the Administrative Secretary with a request for a wedding date and pastor. *Following a discussion with the senior pastor, the Administrative Secretary will advise you of the pastor's and church's calendar.* Once a mutually agreeable date has been established, the Administrative Secretary will enter it on the Asbury calendar. You must then schedule an appointment with the officiating pastor and begin consultations in preparation for your wedding ceremony.

You need to make preliminary arrangements with the church organist at this time also. Please refer to the instructions concerning 'Music'. Once the date is fixed, you should consult with the organist about music and about the organist's availability for both the rehearsal and the ceremony.

If you choose to use the church for your reception, refer to that section. Consult with the Administrative Secretary to reserve the room(s) that you need.

Fees

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
<i>Personnel Wedding/Rehearsal</i>		
Wedding Coordinator (required)	\$150	\$150
Pastor	\$150	\$150
<i>Organist</i>		
Rehearsal/Wedding	\$150	\$200
Wedding Only	\$125	\$175
Guest Organist/Pianist	\$50	\$50
<i>Sound System</i>	\$80	\$80
<i>Special Music</i>	\$50	\$50
<i>Facility – Wedding/Rehearsal</i>		
Sanctuary/Brides Room	Optional	\$300
Contemporary Worship Center	Optional	\$100
Kitchen	Optional	\$200
Set-up/Teardown and Cleaning	\$50	\$50

(Refer to the Facility Use Guidelines for specific instructions regarding use of the kitchen facilities).

Fees are payable no later than one (1) week prior to the wedding date.

Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship Center fees are payable to "Trustees, Asbury UMC"

Professional fees are payable to the individuals as appropriate.

Scriptural Passages Appropriate for Weddings

Any readings other than scripture must be approved by the pastor.

Genesis 1:26-28,31a	The creation of man and woman.
Song of Solomon 2:10-14 16a/8:6-7	Love is strong as death.
Isaiah 43:1-7	You are precious in God's eyes.
Isaiah 55:10-13	You shall go out in joy.
Isaiah 63:7-9	The Steadfast love of the Lord.
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	The life of a Christian.
1 Corinthians 13	The greatest of these is love.
2 Corinthians 5:14-17	In Christ we are a new creation.
Ephesians 2:4-10	God's love for us.
Ephesians 4:1-6	Called to the one hope.
Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Members one of another.
Philippians 2:1-2	The Christlike spirit.
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord.
Colossians 3:12-17	Live in love and thanksgiving.
1 John 3:18-24	Love one another.
1 John 4:7-16	God is love.
Revelation 19:1, 5-9a	The wedding feast of the Lamb.
Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes.
Matthew 7:21,24-27	A house built upon a rock.
Matthew 22:35-40	Love, the greatest commandment.
Mark 2:18-22	Joy in Christ as at a wedding.
Mark 10:42-45	True greatness.
John 2:1-11	The marriage feast of Cana.
John 15:9-17	Remain in Christ's love

Any readings other than scripture must be approved by the pastor.

Practical Guide

• Rehearsal

It is customary to have a rehearsal on the evening before the wedding. All members of the wedding party, as well as musicians, should be present.

• Pictures

The photographer of your choice must consult with the pastor prior to the wedding ceremony. No flash pictures are permitted during the ceremony, and photographs of the processional may be taken from the last four pews only. *Guests should not take flash pictures during the ceremony.* Video taping is permissible as long as the camera and operator are unobtrusive. For guidelines on this, the operator must speak with the pastor prior to the wedding.

• Music

This is a Christian worship service, and the music should reflect ideals of the Christian faith. Many popular secular songs are not fitting for this purpose. The church organist is experienced at helping couples choose appropriate, meaningful music. Our organist will be glad to meet with you and play selections for you. There are several pieces commonly used today for the processional and recessional. All music, vocal or instrumental, must be approved by the organist or the pastor.

We abide by copyright laws that prohibit photocopying or hand copying of music and expect you to do the same.

Permission must be given when someone other than the church organist/pianist is requested to play the pipe organ or piano. Asbury's requirement is that the instruments be used only by a person with adequate training and experience. There will be a fee for our church organist to consult with the prospective musician and instruct that person on the proper use of these instruments.

- **Decorations**

Candles

The Christ Candle will be lit for all worship services which includes weddings. Floral or other decorations around the Christ Candle are discouraged. All other candles must be provided by the family and must be dripless. Optional candles on the Credence Table (Altar Table) may include a unity candle, the two accompanying individual candles and memorial candles.

A pair of seven-branched candelabra is available without cost.

Credence Table (Altar)

The church will provide, upon request, a white altar cloth and banner with appropriate wedding symbols.

Other decorations on the Credence Table should be limited to a simple, tasteful floral arrangement.

Aisle Runner

A white runner for the aisle may be obtained from your florist. The aisle is 52 feet in length.

Flowers

Arrangements should be attached to the pews or walls without causing scratches or other damage. No decorations are permitted along the screen in front of the pipe organ.

Clean-up

Floral arrangements and other decorations must be removed immediately following the ceremony. It is acceptable to leave a floral arrangement on the Credence Table for the church's next worship service.

- **Guest Clergy**

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church specifies the appointed pastor is to conduct all wedding ceremonies performed in the church. If the family desires, other clergy may be invited to assist in the ceremony. This must be approved by the Senior Pastor.

- **Communion**

- Consult with the pastor concerning Communion.

- **Wedding Bulletins and Programs**

A wedding bulletin is optional. The preparation and printing of the bulletin is your responsibility.

- **Dressing Rooms**

Room 122, is available to the bride and her attendants. The room has a full-length mirror. A ladies' rest room is available just down the hall. Room 123, is available for the Groom's party.

- **Sound System**

The sound system may only be operated by a member of the Asbury Tech Team (please see Fees).

- **Throwing of Rice**

Throwing of rice or confetti is not permitted. Birdseed may be used outdoors.

- **Alcohol**

The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted at weddings and receptions in the church. The families of the bride and groom are expected to communicate and enforce this rule.

- **Smoking**

Asbury United Methodist Church is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is not permitted inside the building. Smoking outside of the church facility, but on church property is discouraged.