

Greensburg United Methodist Church

Wedding Guide



Greensburg United Methodist Church

PO Box 155, Green, OH 44232

2161 Greensburg Rd, N. Canton, OH 44720

330.896.1936

330.896.9880

www.greensburgumc.net

office@greensburgumc.net

Pastor:
Rev. Katie Osier

Information for Weddings

So you're considering marriage here at Greensburg United Methodist Church? The staff and volunteers of this church strongly support Christian marriage and are here to help you as you prepare for one of the most important events in your life. This brochure is to help you plan for the sacred occasion of your wedding. It comes with the prayer of our congregation that great joy and happiness will be yours in your new life together.

You will be required to attend at least three sessions for pre-marital counseling. During these sessions you will have an opportunity to ask questions and examine areas that may have been difficult for you both to explore alone. Also, you will look at the practical aspects of marriage: communication skills, budgeting money and shared responsibilities in the home. Another important part of your time with the pastor will be to discuss and plan your own wedding service. It will become a unique expression of your covenantal relationship between God and each other.

Make your arrangements for the wedding date and your first counseling time early enough so that you can fit in the three pre-marital sessions and to confirm that your time and date are open on the church calendar. (Many couples make their arrangements at least six months to a year in advance.)

You will need to make musical arrangements with the organist. Please contact her as early as possible. She will be happy to talk to you about the appropriate music for your wedding.

Please be sure that individual monetary envelopes or checks are made out to each person involved in your wedding prior to the wedding rehearsal evening.

If you are a non-member the cost for the use of the church worship area should be paid at the time of the first counseling session. If paying by check, make payable to **Greensburg United Methodist Church**.

Church Membership

Church membership at the Greensburg United Methodist Church is not a requirement in order to be married here, but every couple is encouraged to find a spiritual home, where their marriage can be nurtured. Non-members are required to attend Sunday worship services at least three Sundays. If you are active in another church, please speak to the pastor about this requirement. Please note the difference in fees—this is based on the assumption that members contribute to the cost of a wedding through regular offerings.

Christian Marriage

For Christians, marriage is a holy relationship. As Jesus affirmed:

*But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined
To his wife, and the two shall become one.
What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.*
Mark 10:6-9

Wedding vows are understood to be a covenant before God. This is expressed in two ways: promises are made to "love, honor, and cherish each other," and God's blessings are bestowed upon the couple.

As a liturgical event, the Christian wedding is set within the concern and fellowship of the gathered congregation, as well as the larger society. Fully understood, marriage in Jesus Christ's name is part of the whole church and gives new meaning to human love.

The Wedding Service

The service is developed in consultation and with the approval of the pastor. The wedding service of the United Methodist Church is the basic format. Alternate wedding vows must be approved by the pastor if something other than the traditional wording is desired. Additional non-biblical readings should be discussed during pre-marital counseling sessions.

If soloists or instrumentalists are to take part, preparation and consultation with the church organist should take place well in advance of the wedding.

We will be pleased to have another minister or priest assist in the service, if the couple wishes. The invitation to other clergy to participate in the service should come through the pastor of this church.

Music

Our church organist plays for the service. Music suitable for a service of Christian worship is recommended. The organist will be happy to talk with the couple about their wedding music preferences. It is your responsibility to contact her. If you wish to have other musicians, please discuss this with the organist and the pastor.

Church Facilities

The sanctuary seats about 300. Aisle runners must be 75' long for the length of the sanctuary. Discuss this with your florist. There are 20 pews on each side.

The Parlor may be used by the bride and her attendants. The groom and the groomsmen may have use of the Library.

The church normally is opened one hour prior to the ceremony. If you wish to take photos or have the florist decorate prior to that time, please discuss this with the wedding coordinator. You will be required to pay a refundable damage deposit of \$50.00.

Please note that no smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church building. We reserve the right to limit participation by anyone who is "under the influence."

Decorations

Decorating is welcome with respect for the Lord. In decorating the church, no tacks or nails should be used. Masking tape and ribbon may be used. The church has a set of candelabras which may be used. Candles are provided by the Wedding Coordinator.

The Wedding/Unity Candle

The lighting of a wedding candle, with its lovely symbolism, can be included in the wedding service. The couple keeps the candle following the service to light it again and again as wedding anniversaries are celebrated. The candle is provided by the bridal couple, although the church has a setting to use.

Wedding Bulletins

Wedding bulletins may be purchased from a variety of sources. You are responsible for preparing the content, if you wish to have wedding bulletins. The church secretary will copy these for you for \$.06 a copy. The ushers distribute these to the guests as they are escorted to a pew, thus enabling them to follow the service and participate more fully, as well as having a memento to keep.

Photographs

Flash pictures, either by a professional photographer or a guest, are not permitted during the service. The photographer, however, may take time exposures from the rear, side and the balcony area of the worship area during the service. Videos may also be made using natural light. The wedding party may return to the worship area for posed pictures after the guests have departed. Again, please arrange with the wedding coordinator for pictures before.

Wedding Coordinator

Due to the size of the church and the size of the weddings held here, the church has a wedding coordinator. She helps with consulting with couples on decorations, arranges a sound technician, assists during the rehearsal, and is present at all weddings to help make your wedding day run as smooth as possible.

Sound Technician

Many weddings have special music and participants who read or speak during the service. In our sanctuary, the use of the sound systems is necessary to be heard. Only individuals trained on our sound system may operate it. Brian Lawson (330.256.3462) will select technicians.

Rehearsal

Friday evening rehearsals begin at 5:30pm and end at 6:30pm, so it is important that the wedding party and all participants be present promptly. The marriage license and all fees are to be given to the minister at the time of the rehearsal.

On Your Way Out

Permissible celebration items include birdseed, bubbles, bells, and butterflies. We ask, though, that the birdseed packets be distributed and opened outside and that nothing be thrown inside the building. Please do not use rice or confetti.

Receptions

Arrangements for receptions at the church are made through the Board of Trustees. You may pick up a Building Usage Form in the Church Office. Fill out this form and return it to the office. The fees for receptions are as follows:

Use of Fellowship Hall:

Members	\$ 60.00
Non-member	\$200.00

Use of the Kitchen:

Members	\$100.00
Non-member	\$125.00
Technician	\$ 50.00

(An additional \$75.00 deposit to cover clean-up is required. The \$75.00 will be returned after the event and on the condition that the fellowship hall is cleaned up and returned to original set-up).

Fees

Deposit to secure date and facility	\$ 50.00
Use of Sanctuary	
Guest Minister	\$375.00
Non-members	\$175.00
Members	\$ 75.00

Use of Chapel	
Guest Minister	\$150.00
Non-members	\$ 70.00
Members	\$ 20.00
GUMC Minister	
Non-members	\$175.00
Members	\$125.00
Organist	\$100.00
Rehearsal with soloist, if necessary	\$ 25.00
Sound Technician	\$ 50.00
Wedding Coordinator	\$100.00

Payment

All fees must be paid by rehearsal time, except when there is a guest minister. Then all fees must be paid two weeks prior to the wedding.

Please make individual checks out to each individual participating in the service.

Pastor:	Rev. Katie Osier	330.896.1936
Organist:	Mrs. Betty Gross	330.832.3151
Sound Tech:	TBD	
Wedding Coordinator:	TBD	
Sanctuary/Chapel:	Greensburg United Methodist Church	