



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
Brighton • Whitmore Lake

A Church Wedding

A Guide to Preparing for a Service of Christian Marriage

To inquire about being married in the church or offsite, contact:

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Rev. Lindsey Hall, Pastor; Rev. Jon Reynolds, Pastor

So you're getting married...

We are pleased and excited that you are considering our church for your wedding celebration. As Christians, it is appropriate to praise and worship God during such an important event in your life. Therefore, we hope that your wedding will be a significant and meaningful experience for you and your guests, both spiritually and emotionally. More than anything, we want you to know the transforming power of God.

Because our congregation is large and the requests for both buildings and clergy services are demanding, we primarily provide wedding services to those who are active in this congregation and their family members. If you are not currently active in a church, clergy will encourage you to attend worship. When you are part of the church community, the congregation has the opportunity to affirm and support you in your Christian marriage as a church family should.

Please read through this pamphlet, familiarize yourself with our policies, and decide whether the Brighton Campus or the Whitmore Lake Campus is the right place for you. We sincerely hope that you will find one of our churches to be the perfect place to be joined together in Christian marriage; the perfect place to be transformed by God.

A United Methodist Wedding

A wedding in the United Methodist Church is a service of worship. In worship, we experience the grace of Jesus Christ. Our wedding services contain Bible reading and prayer. In addition, the partners offer pledges to one another, entering as equal persons into a sacred relationship that is blessed by God. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.

What is required

A United Methodist Clergy person

Rev. Lindsey Hall or Rev. Jon Reynolds will officiate your wedding. If you wish to include another clergy member in your wedding, that invitation may only be extended by one of our clergy. At your first meeting with the clergy member, he or she will explain the church premarital policy, which includes the following:

Premarital Policy

If you do not already worship regularly with our congregation, you will be encouraged to do so during your engagement period. This will allow church members to get to know you and begin building a community of friendship and support.

Couples being married at one of our campuses must attend marriage preparation sessions with the officiating clergy (cost for materials \$35) OR through the Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Michigan (cost approximately \$275).

Our clergy will work to accommodate the creative efforts of couples who wish to write portions of the ceremony themselves, keeping in mind that the wedding ceremony will reflect the teachings of The United Methodist Church in regard to the covenant of Christian marriage. Couples may choose to include other special readings or acts, such as Symbol of Unity or Holy Communion.

Music and Multimedia

Church Musician

Our Director of Music will play for all weddings where an organist/pianist is desired. The wedding couple will be given contact information and will make arrangements to discuss the selection of music with the Director of Music. If you request special music that our musician does not have, you must secure it at your own expense (or pay the additional cost). **Wedding music selections must be determined at least one month prior to the wedding.**

Guest Musicians

Requests for guest musicians must be approved by the Director of Music. If you desire additional vocal or instrumental music, the soloist should contact the organist as soon as possible to arrange the necessary rehearsal times and to provide a copy of the solo for the accompanist.

Music Selection

Like the ceremony, the music is an act of worshiping God. Sacred music of all kinds is preferred over popular and sentimental favorites. *The officiating clergy person reserves the right to make final decisions regarding music.*

Multimedia

The church's media technician will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to oversee and operate audio/visual equipment. If you choose to use a CD/DVD or if you plan to show a video presentation before the ceremony, the media technician will discuss technical requirements with you. **All multimedia used in the ceremony must be discussed with the presiding clergy and delivered to the church no later than 7 days before the ceremony.**

A Church Wedding

Arrival

Arrival time on the day of the wedding to be discussed with presiding clergy, as early as two hours prior to wedding ceremony.

Flowers

Flowers and decorations are to be placed in the sanctuary on the day of the wedding, at least one hour prior to the service. Please arrange for someone to distribute flowers to the wedding party and guests, as well as to retrieve sanctuary flowers and decorations immediately afterwards. Flower arrangements can be left for Sunday worship. If a white center aisle runner is to be used, it must be a minimum of 75 feet in length at the Brighton Campus or 40 feet in length at the Whitmore Lake Campus (Many florists have runners available for purchase).

Decorating Pews

Bows and arrangements may be attached to pew ends with rubber bands and clips (available). Decorations may not be attached with tacks or adhesive tape.

Symbols of Unity

Symbols of unity such as a Unity Candle, Sand Ceremony or Unity Cross are supplied by the couple.

A Church Wedding, continued

Altar Candles and Cloths

The church will supply altar candles and cloths. There is a choice of altar candles and candelabra for use during the ceremony. Candles may only be used on the altar. The couple can choose from the altar cloths provided. See the wedding coordinator for more information.

Showers of Blessing

Traditional "showers of blessing" as the couple exit the church, including rice and bird seed, cannot be used. Substitutes include bubbles or bells. Please do not hold a receiving line at the church.

Church Policies

Building Use

There is ***No Smoking*** in the building and ***No Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages*** on the premises, including in the parking lot and in the limousine. Please enforce this among the wedding party, family and guests. Any participant who has been consuming alcoholic beverages prior to the wedding or the rehearsal will not be permitted to participate in the ceremony.

For non-members: The privilege of church use comes with some limitations. Because you are joining with our congregation, we ask that you yield to the rules of our congregation and to the direction of our clergy and staff. This means, for instance that the position of the sanctuary furniture will be at the discretion of the clergy person presiding at your wedding. The activities of the wedding party and wedding guests while using our church will reflect and respect the beliefs and decorum of the congregation.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal is to begin *promptly* at the designated time. Please inform the wedding party and family of the exact time and location. It will ordinarily last no longer than one hour.

Dressing Rooms

Rooms will be available for dressing as needed. Please be sure that all personal belongings are removed after the wedding, as well as any litter, especially pins that may have fallen on the floor. Do not leave valuable items in the room during the ceremony. If you plan to provide snacks for the wedding party prior to the wedding, please consult with the wedding coordinator.

Church Policies, Continued

Photography

Photographers are asked to consult with the officiating clergyperson prior to the beginning of the service. Flash photographs may be taken by the professional photographer during the processional and recessional. Non-flash photographs may be taken by the professional photographer during the service. **Flash pictures and moving around the sanctuary are not permitted during the wedding service.** Any photographs involving clergy should be taken as soon as possible after the service.

Videotaping from a fixed position is permitted by special arrangement. In order not to obstruct the view of the congregation members, video cameras must be on a tripod at either side of the sanctuary, NOT on the platform. The position of video camera is subject to approval by the officiating clergy. The church media technician could use the live stream equipment to record the service and send the couple a URL with the recording.

Wedding Coordinator

Each wedding party will be assigned a wedding coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator's role is to assist the entire wedding party. The coordinator will be present at the rehearsal and wedding to help and oversee the activities. You will plan the wedding service with the officiating clergy, and the wedding coordinator will facilitate your plans.

Typical Wedding Ceremony Order

Seating of Partner One and Partner Two's Parents

Entrance of Wedding Party

Greeting

Presentation of Partner (optional)

Declaration of Intention

Declaration by the couple for marriage

Response of Family and Friends

Readings and/or Special Music (optional)

Bible Reading

Message

Prayer

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Symbol of Unity (optional)

Special Music (optional)

Service of Holy Communion (optional)

Blessing of Marriage/Benediction

Introduction of Married Couple

Wedding Party Exits

Wedding Costs

Payment of Fees

All fees should be paid in the form of cash, check or PayPal. If paying by cash or check, please prepare and bring in with your marriage license to the church office 10 days prior to the wedding. (Note, the deposit is due earlier to reserve the church). If you choose to pay with PayPal, the costs are 4% higher than those listed below to cover the PayPal transaction fees.

Marriage License

A valid marriage license is necessary for the wedding service. **The license and wedding fees must be brought to the church office manager during office hours 10 days prior to the wedding ceremony.** In Michigan, a marriage license is secured through the county clerk's office of the county where either one of the partners resides and is held for three days after application, and is valid for thirty days.

Special Note for Non-Members

The fee paid for building use is not to be regarded as a rental fee. For the privilege of joining the congregation in the use of our church home, the wedding couples gives a gift that furthers the ministry of the Church. Because the \$400 that the Church will receive is a gift, any offering that the couple to be married gives during worship services in the 12 months prior to the wedding will be counted toward the \$400 gift. (Please make sure that your worship offering is clearly marked with your name and address.)

Deposit \$100

The deposit is non-refundable within 3 months of the wedding. Your deposit will be used toward the balance and final payments of the other costs for your wedding.

Clergy Honoraria 300
(“Rev. Lindsey Hall” or “Rev. Jon Reynolds”)

Organist \$150

Wedding Coordinator \$125

Audio/Visual Technician \$125

Custodial Fee \$100

Administrative Fee \$50

Wedding Preparation Program \$20
(Clergy-led marriage sessions)

Brighton Campus Building Use OR \$400

Whitmore Lake Building Use \$200

All fees increase by 50% on the following weekends: Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, before and after Christmas and New Year's. For offsite weddings, additional travel mileage (standard rate) will be paid with clergy honoraria.

Paying Fees-The majority of the fees will be paid directly to the custodian, organist, wedding coordinator, etc. Clergy Honoraria are paid directly to the officiating clergy. You will receive directions for how to designate payment of other fees. All fees are due to the church 10 days before the wedding.