

Scheduling

Carefully read these guidelines. Note any questions that you have so that you may talk about them with the officiating pastor, wedding director, church administrator, or administrative secretary.

Contact the Church Administrator, Nelson Alderman to schedule the specific date and time of your rehearsal and wedding. Confirmation will be given after consultation with clergy. Non-members may not reserve any facility more than ninety days in advance for their wedding.

Premarital conferences must be arranged with the pastor. The marriage license must be in the minister's possession before the ceremony, preferably to or at the rehearsal.

Another wedding may be scheduled for the same day. Enough time between weddings will be arranged in order that no difficulties arise for either wedding. (It is possible for families to cooperate in decorating the church.)

No weddings are scheduled in Thrasher Memorial Methodist Church on Sundays, during Holy Week, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. On Sundays preceding communion services (usually first Sunday of the month), no wedding should take place after 5 pm.

Wedding Director

Thrasher has several members who can serve as your Wedding Director. It is in the best interest of the church and the smooth running of your wedding that you use one of these persons.

A list of their names and phone numbers is available from the church secretary.

In addition to the usual direction of your wedding, by using one of Thrasher's members as your Director, he/she will be able to answer questions concerning the facilities and the guidelines of the church for the wedding party's responsibilities.

Music

Music is an important part of the wedding service and should be in keeping the reverence observed in the House of the Lord. Arrange to discuss the music for your wedding with the organist at an early date.

The organist, choir director and/or the pastor will guide you in the selection of vocal music. Think in terms of congregational singing since your friends have come to worship with you and the hymns of the church express the thoughts of Christian hearts in worship.

If you choose to have a soloist, have the soloist consult with the organist to arrange adequate rehearsal time.

If you choose to use an organist other than Thrasher's, he/she must consult with Thrasher's organist.

Rehearsal

The rehearsal for your wedding should be at a time when all members of the bridal party can be present and on time. Generally speaking, the rehearsal will take no longer than sixty minutes. The rehearsal should begin promptly so as not to disrupt other appointments and activities.

The pastor will be in charge of the rehearsal. Wedding directors may assist; however, they must understand that the minister is in charge of the rehearsal and wedding and that the pastor's decisions will be final.

Decorations

The Sanctuary and Chapel are places of dignified beauty. Enhancements, like flowers and ribbons, should be in harmony and balance with this atmosphere. As in all church decorating, attention should be directed toward the altar of God and the central cross. The following directions are given to preserve the proper atmosphere in the Sanctuary and Chapel and to safeguard the furnishings.

1. No furniture is to be moved.
2. Potted palms or plants must be placed in saucers to prevent damage from moisture.
3. In using candles, precautions should be taken to protect floor and furniture from drippings.
4. Tacks, nails, tape or other materials which leave traces of use are not permitted. Ribbons, rubber bands or light wire may be used.
5. Florists must confer with the church office concerning decorations when the church is open.

Decorations are to be removed immediately after the wedding. If flowers are to remain for the Sunday worship service, the florist must be notified not to remove the flowers from the church. The Church Secretary should be notified at least two weeks prior to the wedding in order to include an appropriate announcement in the bulletin.

Photography and/or Videography

It is important that photography and/or videography not interrupt the mood of the service and therefore detract from the wedding character as a service of worship.
(Photography and/or Videography cont.)

No flash photography or videography with auxiliary lighting is permitted once guests are being seated or during the service. Wedding guests are asked to abide by this guideline. Pictures may be taken after the service, or from the narthex as the wedding party leaves the church. The photographer may take pictures as the bride and escort enter and when the bride and groom leave the Sanctuary.

If pictures at the altar are desired, the wedding party may reassemble at the conclusion of the wedding service. As a courtesy to your guests, this activity should consume only a short period of time. Please follow the directions of your photographer or videographer and this activity will flow smoothly.

Wedding Reception at the Church

If the Fellowship Hall facilities are desired for the reception, arrangements should be made through the Church Administrator. This should be done at the time you schedule the church for your wedding.

If refreshments are served by a caterer, the bride's family shall be responsible for the use of the kitchen and equipment and for damage or breakage. The caterer is to furnish all cups, plates, etc. The caterer is also to leave the kitchen clean after the reception.

The services of the janitorial service are required when the Fellowship Hall is used for a reception. His duties are confined to opening and closing the building, setting up tables, providing access to locked areas, cleaning, whatever is requested or required to return facilities to their original state of readiness, and meeting any emergencies arising in the building proper. The custodian is not responsible for carrying dishes or cleaning the kitchen.

NO alcoholic beverages or tobacco products may be used on church premises.

Financial Arrangements

Weddings require special services on the part of the church. Those working with you to arrange for and carry out the responsibilities of your rehearsal and wedding give hours to their tasks. For this reason, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of the financial responsibilities involved. There is no donation for use of the building by church members.

Please see insert for members and non-member financial responsibilities.

Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church

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***** Wedding Guidelines *****



The members of Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church, welcomes you and rejoice in your decision to be married within our facilities.

Marriage is "instituted by God... blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ." Your wedding will mean more to you, your family and friends as you give careful concern for all the reverent aspects of this holy occasion. These guidelines have been prepared and the dignity of this joyous occasion in your life.