

# Centreville United Methodist Church

## ***Wedding Policy***

*Updated February 2020*

*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.*

- Genesis 2:24

*So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.*

- Matthew 19:6

**Thank you for considering Centreville United Methodist Church** as the host for your special day. Our typical policy is to limit wedding services to our members, their immediate family, or those who attend our worship services. Couples not connected with our Church are scheduled at the Senior Pastor's discretion and must be professing Christians. If you wish to further consider CUMC as your location, please carefully read our policies below before contacting the church to schedule your initial meeting.

We consider the wedding ceremony to be a sacred worship event in which the bride and groom enter into a covenantal relationship in the presence of God, and begin to build a strong and rich Christian marriage.

**Premarital counseling is a requirement** (see details further below).

### **SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING**

All weddings must be booked at least three months in advance by contacting the church office manager at 410-758-0868. Once you've chosen a date, your rehearsal will be scheduled for the day prior to your wedding. Weddings will not be scheduled more than 18 months in advance (12 months in advance for non-members).

Please do not schedule your wedding for any of the following days...

- Sundays
- Holy Week (the week before Easter)
- Easter Weekend
- Memorial Day
- July 4th
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and Weekend
- Christmas Week, Eve, or Day
- New Year's Eve or Day
- Any time, day or evening, that would conflict with church events scheduled in our Sanctuary

## **ACTIVE MEMBER STATUS**

You must be a member of Centreville United Methodist Church at least **60 days prior** to reserving the Church to receive “Member” status. Active constituents may receive “Member” rates if they participate in the life of the church, give regularly by way of offering, and attend worship at least once every three weeks.

## **FEES**

Once your wedding has been scheduled on the church calendar, a \$300 deposit is due. Your balance is due one month prior to your wedding date (no exceptions). Initial deposit will not be refunded if the wedding is canceled within three months of the wedding date.

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
Sanctuary	n/a	\$400
Pastor	honorium	\$300
Sound Tech	\$100	\$100
Custodian	n/a	\$75
Wedding Coordinator	\$100	\$100
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen*	n/a	\$300
Organist**	fee	fee

*\* only applicable if reception is to be held at the church.*

*\*\*Organist set their own fees. We will provide recommendations.*

## **PASTOR**

One of the Pastors of CUMC will typically officiate your wedding. Guest Pastors from other Methodist churches may, at the discretion of the Senior Minister, officiate at the wedding ceremony. Upon approval and invitation of the Senior Minister, credentialed ministers from other denominations may assist our CUMC Pastor. The Service of Christian Marriage found in the United Methodist hymnal must be followed and the policies of the church observed. Marriage certificates should be given to ministers or officiate at the rehearsal.

## **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

CUMC wants to make your wedding worry and hassle free. With that in mind, you will be assigned a wedding coordinator to assist you with your needs at your rehearsal and wedding. Your wedding coordinator will conduct your one hour rehearsal. It is your responsibility to contact the coordinator once one is assigned to you to set up the initial meeting.

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION SESSIONS**

All couples are required to attend four marriage preparation sessions. The sessions will be scheduled between you and a pastor of CUMC or by some other qualified individual. Proof of pre-marital counseling is required. (A copy must be given to the

senior pastor at least two weeks before the wedding, if counseling is done by someone other than one of the ministers at CUMC.)

### **DECORATIONS**

Decorations may not be placed on the altar table. Only drip less candles are to be used. This includes Unity Candles. Only silk or paper flower petals may be dropped in the Sanctuary or Chapel. No tacks, screws, nails, staples, wire, glue or scotch tape may be used to secure decorations. All decorations must be removed immediately following the ceremony. If flowers are being left for the Worship Services on Sunday, please notify the Church office at least a month ahead of time.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The bride and groom are responsible for ensuring that all members of the wedding party, family and friends behave in a manner appropriate for a worship service. Absolutely no alcohol, illegal drugs, or firearms are allowed in the church building or on the church property, grounds, or parking lot. No member of the wedding party under the influence will participate in the rehearsal or wedding. Smoking is not permitted in the church building or on the church grounds.

### **MUSIC**

Your service of marriage is a service of worship. The wedding therefore should reflect the God-centered focus that characterizes all worship services. The music used in the wedding must be within the standards of worship and dignity of the ceremony. There is a wealth of beautiful and fitting music, both vocal and instrumental, suitable for the wedding ceremony. As a rule, secular ballads, love songs, and popular music are not considered appropriate for Christian worship.

### **WEDDING BULLETINS**

If a printed bulletin is to be part of the wedding, the preparation and printing is the responsibility of the bride and groom. The order of worship will be determined while meeting with the officiating pastor. Please have the wedding bulletin reviewed by the officiating pastor prior to printing.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

We ask that the photographers and videographers not be on the altar area during the ceremony. Flash photography is not permitted during the wedding ceremony.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited in and on the Church grounds. Centreville United Methodist Church is not liable for items left on the property.