

Rules and Regulations regarding Weddings

1. We operate under the assumption that weddings are worship services. Therefore, God is to be glorified through them. Each couple who marries in Good Shepherd should realize that he and she are coming to the altar of God for His blessing and to glorify His name. Therefore, the wedding ceremonial service is to be one of reverence and worship.
2. Because weddings are a worship service, we advise that all wedding music be approved by the Pastor.
3. Because weddings are a worship service and because our Church Body has a rule that only those clergyman who are in fellowship with us and who agree with us in doctrine and practice are permitted to participate in altar and pulpit worship fellowship, clergyman of other denominations are not permitted to take part in the ceremonial service. Please note that this does not infer that they are unchristian. Only God can look into the heart of any of us to determine our Christianity. However, since they do have different doctrinal stance, which manifests itself also in practice and policy, we do not wish to confuse people. Therefore, we feel it a better part of judgment to observe the regulations of our Church Body pertaining to altar and pulpit fellowship. If you have any questions, please consult with the Pastor.
4. We request that there be pre-marital counseling sessions which pertain to the mechanics of marriage and what to expect and not to expect. These sessions vary re: length depending on the people involved.
5. Please set your date in advance and check with the church office to see if it is available. Also, note that this pertains to receptions, if you desire to use the church facilities. Receptions held in the fellowship hall have both a deposit fee and a usage fee. Contact church office for the forms and costs for this.
6. Since there are Saturday worship services at 5 pm, a Saturday wedding can begin no later than 2 pm. If a reception is desired at the Church, then we suggest that the wedding begin no later than 1 pm. You may also schedule weddings following the worship service. IN that case, a wedding should be scheduled no earlier than 6:30 pm because of traffic flow. However, it would not be possible to decorate before the service. Please be sure that you assign someone to clean the church up sufficiently before 4 pm on the day of the wedding or in the case of a later wedding, prior to leaving the facility that evening. Please do not use rice, we would prefer bird food and would ask that you clean up following.
7. We suggest that pictures be taken prior to the wedding. If a wedding is to be held following the Saturday service, then wedding pictures can be taken no later than 3 pm and conclude by 4 pm to facilitate preparation for the worship service. NO flash pictures are allowed during the actual wedding ceremony. Video cameras are allowed at the discretion of the Pastor.
8. The Organist does have a fee. Please check with them prior to the service.
9. The Church does not furnish the wedding bulletin, unity candle or holder or white runner.
10. Non-members that desire to be married in our church are subject to a \$100 rental fee, which is to be paid when they set their wedding date.