

# *Your Wedding at St. Paul's*



St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Pastor: Tom Mellott

*Thank you for considering St. Paul's Church for your wedding. We celebrate the love and commitment which bring you together, and we're happy to offer our facilities as a setting where your wedding can be Christ-centered and special. We offer this set of guidelines to be of encouragement and to give you some practical tips for planning your wedding here.*

*We hope you'll find them helpful.*

# Wedding Fees

Our pastors do not charge St. Paul's Church members for their services. However, they spend many hours with you in counseling and in preparing for your wedding ceremony, and a suitable honorarium is in order. For non-members, there is a fee of \$350. Other fees are as follows:

- Custodian – Wedding and rehearsal...\$150
- Rehearsal Dinner.....\$100
- Reception.....\$175
- Organist.....\$175
- Sound Technician .....\$100
- Soloist.....\$100
- Wedding Coordinator.....\$125

Use of Sanctuary – free for members, \$350 for non-members and a \$200 damage deposit (refund will be considered after final inspection).

Use of kitchen and Fellowship Hall – free for members, \$300 for non-members

Use of candles, candelabra, and pew lanterns -- \$40 for members, \$65 for non-members

Fees for all of the above items **must** be paid **one week before the wedding**. Please contact the church office for more information about how to write the checks.

**If we or any of our staff can be of assistance to you, please let us know. We truly want your wedding at St. Paul's to be memorable and meaningful. And we want your marriage to be strong and enduring with God's help.**

## Ministerial Arrangements



At St. Paul's, it is expected that one of our pastors will officiate at all church weddings only after appropriate counsel with the couple.

If you wish for another minister to participate in the wedding, you should inform the pastor. Our pastors, at their discretion, will then extend an invitation to the guest minister you have requested. In no case will anyone make arrangements for a wedding in the church without the consent of one of our pastors.

Our pastors cannot always accept weddings for persons who do not attend St. Paul's Church. All weddings must be scheduled well in advance and must be cleared with the presiding minister's schedule.

## Wedding Music

A wedding is a worship service in which we honor God, the giver and author of love, and ask God's blessing on your life together.

Nothing in the ceremony should detract from this central purpose.

Because of this and because the wedding is a service of worship for a holy God, your music choices should reflect God's holiness and God's love. The music you choose should be approved by our pastor. The Pastor has the experience and spiritual insight to help you make music choices that will honor God and your love for each other.

**Make sure you finalize your music selections with the pastor and the accompanist at least two months before your wedding.**



(from work or from out of town) and how late you wish to be starting your rehearsal dinner. If the wedding party arrives on time, the rehearsal should take about an hour. **All members of the wedding party must be present at the rehearsal.**

**Important: You must give your marriage license to the pastor and take care of all wedding fees one week before the wedding.**

## Personnel Requirements

Because our organ is a very sensitive instrument, we allow only one of our “in house” organists to play it. (If you desire someone else to play for your wedding, the grand piano is available.) **Under no circumstances is the piano to be moved.** The organist will be present for the rehearsal and the wedding, in addition to arranging and practicing the music you choose. It’s very important that you talk with the organist about your musical wishes as early as possible. And remember, it is **essential** that you finalize your musical selections **at least two months before your wedding.**

Out of respect for our organists’ busy schedules, we ask that you contact one of them just as soon as you first meet with the pastor. This will make it more likely that he or she can be available for your wedding.

It will be helpful to your guests if the sound system is used during your wedding. We require that one of our sound technicians operate the system. **Vocalists must rehearse with our sound technician** before the wedding.



We also require that our custodians be hired by you to take care of clean-up after the wedding, rehearsal, and/or rehearsal dinner, as well as moving any furniture which needs to be moved.

## Wedding Times

The pastor will work with you on the time and arrangement of your wedding and rehearsal.

## Choosing Your Attendants



As you select those special people who will stand beside you at your wedding, please keep this in mind. Because of the limited space at the front of our sanctuary, **you should have no more than four or five attendants on each side.** Otherwise, it will look awkward and crowded

## Candles, Flowers, and Aisle Runner



Candles and candlelight are beautiful anytime, but especially at a wedding. During your wedding, our two **altar candles** will be lit as a sign of the light of Christ in our lives. If you choose to use additional candlelight, we have a pair of brass **candelabra** and four pairs of **pew lanterns** which you may use. (Or if you wish, you may rent them from a florist or other supplier.)

In order to eliminate wax spills on our carpet, however, **the church provides white driplless candles** for these candelabra and pew lanterns at a small fee.

On the other hand, if you wish to light a **Unity Candle** during your wedding, please buy one of your own choosing, along with the bride and groom candles you'll use to light it. Although the church has very simple candle holders for these three candles, you may want to purchase your own.

You and your florist are free to decorate pretty much as you wish. We have two small, moveable dark oak stands for arrangements if you need them. It is also appropriate at St. Paul's to put an arrangement on the altar. Sometimes this incorporates the Unity Candle. When ordering/designing flowers for the communion table/altar, let the florist know that a cross and two altar candles will be on the back third of the table. These should stay in place to remind us that the wedding is Christ-centered and that we depend on the light of Christ in our lives and our worship. Floral centerpieces, unity candles, etc., can use the rest of the altar surface.

In addition, bows, vines, or other floral effects are often added to the candelabra and pew lanterns. (Also, when you order flowers, you don't need to order any for the pastor; he/she will be wearing a clergy robe.)

Our church is carpeted, and there is no need for you to rent or buy an aisle runner for the bride.

## Photography



Obviously, we want you to have many happy memories of your special day here at St. Paul's.

But we ask that your photographer and guests keep in mind that the wedding is a worship service. **No flash photographs may be taken during the wedding ceremony**

because they are distracting to worship. Photographers and video camera operators should be discreet and stay behind the last seated guest. They will not be permitted to roam freely around the church during the worship service. Our pastors can advise you more fully.

**Photographers and/or videographers will be required to complete a "Statement of Understanding" before working in our church.**

## Use of the Sanctuary and Other Church Property

The people of St. Paul's are delighted to make our building available for your wedding. You may also wish to use our church basement for a simple reception. We do ask that you respect and reverence this place as sacred space where people come to meet with God. With this in mind, **smoking and use of alcoholic beverages in any form are at all times forbidden on church property, including the rest rooms and grounds.** Also, if you wish to have any furniture moved, please get permission from the pastor and the custodian.

## Seating Limits

When planning your wedding, you'll want to know that the maximum seating capacity of our sanctuary is 300. For receptions in our Fellowship Hall, the maximum capacity is 120. Receptions larger than that should be held elsewhere.

## Rice and Birdseed



While some churches forbid throwing rice, St. Paul's does not. Other alternatives are birdseed, blowing bubbles, ringing small bells, or launching balloons.

Whichever of these you choose, if any, we respectfully insist that no rice or birdseed be spilled or thrown inside the church.

## Rehearsal Arrangements

It's important that you and the pastor set a firm rehearsal time as soon as possible. You will also need to inform the accompanist of the arrangements you and the pastor have agreed upon. In choosing this time, it's helpful to consider how early your wedding party can arrive