First United Methodist Church
Rome, NY

WEDDING INFORMATION

A Christian wedding is a service of worship celebrating our covenant with God and acknowledging God's blessing and strengthening of the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman in the name of Christ. A wedding is a holy event involving a life-long commitment; consequently the wedding and its preparation must be taken seriously. The church welcomes all those who are serious about their intent to live a life of faith.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING: Before a marriage can take place, the couple is expected to meet with the pastor for a minimum of two one-hour sessions. During that time, an opportunity to become acquainted is made possible and key elements of a marriage can be discussed in hopes that you will be better prepared for marriage and your wedding will be more meaningful. The issues to be discussed are: your knowledge of each other, images of marriage, expectations of each other, family, financial, conflict resolution, and relationship to God.

LICENSE: It is the couple's responsibility to secure the marriage license and to be clear as to the necessary legal implications and expectations.

WEDDING SERVICE: It is hoped that the wedding service will reflect as closely as possible the commitment you are making to each other. The basic service that will be used is that of the United Methodist Church. This service allows for many personal expressions and changes can be made in consultation with the pastor. Opportunity will be given to allow the service to reflect your uniqueness while still maintaining the integrity of the historical significance of the ceremony. The pastor will provide a sample service.

BULLETIN OR PROGRAM: You may wish to have a bulletin or program outlining the wedding service and listing the participants. Bulletins may be ordered and printed elsewhere or may be produced at the church, in which case the couple will supply the bulletin covers. The pastor will provide a sample.

MUSIC: Music is used to enhance the spirit of the occasion and add to both the joy and the dignity of the wedding. Arranging for an accompanist will be the responsibility of the bride and groom. A list of possible accompanists can be made available upon request. Accompanist fees are negotiated with the accompanist. Careful consultation with the accompanist and pastor is important in the selection of pieces. Soloists and instrumentalists are welcomed to be considered.

ATTENDANTS: Two witnesses are required to sign the marriage license. Generally these people are the best man and maid or matron of honor; other attendants are at the couple's discretion. Generally you should consider ushers for the seating of people, approximately one usher for every fifty guests. If you have a ring bearer and a flower girl, they should be old enough to follow directions and to stand quietly during the service.

REHEARSAL: Unless a wedding is small and informal (no processional), a rehearsal will be arranged, usually the evening before the wedding. All of the attendants plus whoever is escorting the bride should be in attendance. It is not necessary, but is often helpful, for parents and other immediate family members to be there, particularly for setting up the receiving line.

FLOWERS: Flowers are the responsibility of the couple, either through a local florist or on your own.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: As the wedding ceremony is a religious service, no pictures may be taken during the service. Pictures may be taken during the processional, recessional, receiving line, and afterward. (The photographer may very discreetly take *flashless* photos from the rear of the church during the ceremony.) The sanctuary will be available to pose any pictures after the service, affording the photographer the opportunity for the best pictures possible. The photographer that is hired for the wedding is in charge of the time before and after the ceremony in which pictures can be taken in the sanctuary. Others are welcome to take pictures as well, at the direction of the photographer and the bride and groom.

SUMMARY OF FEES: The church is made available to you at the following cost, payable at the time of the rehearsal (cash preferred):

Use of church sanctuary $100.00
Pastor $300.00
Accompanist (Fee to be negotiated with accompanist as previously mentioned)

GUIDELINES FOR THE CHURCH BUILDING

· No furnishings may be moved or removed without the permission of the pastor or trustees.
· No confetti or rice is to be used in the building or outside. Bird seed is a good alternative and bubbles are even better. Please wait to do this after all the inside pictures have been taken.
· Any property damage will be charged to the wedding party.
· *Smoking is not permitted or legal in any part of the building.*
· *The use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted in the building or on the church premises.*
· The wedding party is responsible for informing guests of each of these restrictions. PLEASE!
· Decorations are fine and can add to the festivity of the occasion.

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