

YOUR WEDDING:

AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Great Bridge United Methodist Church desires to help you celebrate your wedding in the context of Christian worship. You have turned to the church because you are interested in a Christian wedding and a service of dignity, beauty, reverence, and sanctity.

The date for the wedding should be made with the Church Office in consultation with the minister well in advance of the ceremony. Appointments for premarital counseling of the bride and groom must be made directly with the minister.

The minister of the church will be the celebrant or assist in all weddings in the church.

STEPS IN PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

Call the Church Office, 482-1049, to tentatively reserve the facilities and to arrange an appointment with the minister. A wedding coordinator will be assigned by the church and will be present on the night of your rehearsal and at the ceremony itself to help coordinate your wedding.

COUNSELING:

The United Methodist Church requires its ministers to hold premarital conferences with the couple planning to marry. Please make arrangements with the minister as far in advance as possible.

MARRIAGE LICENSE:

The marriage license is to be brought to the Church Office at least **five (5)** days prior to the rehearsal.

REHEARSAL:

A rehearsal is desirable for all formal weddings. The minister will direct the rehearsal. A person of the bride and groom's choice or the wedding coordinator should be present to take notes and provide the time cues during the wedding. Rehearsals must begin promptly at the time set.

MUSIC:

Since the wedding ceremony is a service of worship, the music is to be chosen with care and discrimination.

The music and texts contribute to the worship atmosphere of the service. The selections must be of good musical quality. The texts should correspond to the themes which are inherent in a Christian marriage service (God's love for the Church displayed through Christ, forming the foundation for the love a man and a woman share; the asking for God's blessing on the marriage). Songs which extol secular ideas about love and marriage are not appropriate.

The Great Bridge Church has a competent and experienced organist. You are expected to ask her to play for your wedding. If not available, the organist must approve the organist you select to play for your wedding. It is necessary to have a conference with the organist in order to select appropriate music for the service. **Contact: Deborah Smith, organist, at 718-5310.**

DECORATIONS:

A church wedding is above all else a Christian worship service. Floral decorations, palms, greenery, and candelabras should be carefully placed. **A plastic sheet must be placed on the carpet when candelabras are used.** Lighted candles will be permitted in the windows when enclosed with globes. Candles are **not permitted** on the pews or in the aisles. Congregational candles are **not permitted**.

No furniture in the building will be moved without the minister's permission. Because the organ, piano and drums are permanent fixtures of the church's worship, neither are they to be moved. The florist should be instructed when decorations may be delivered and picked up so as not to interfere with other services at the church. **The decorations should be in place at least one hour before the service and removed on the same day of the wedding.**

BUILDING USE FEE:

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| Members* | No charge |
| Non-members | \$400 |

**Those who have been members for at least one year prior to scheduling the wedding date.*

The building use fee includes sanctuary and dressing room use (\$400).

SUPPORT STAFF HONORARIUMS:

Support staff honorariums include the minister (\$200), organist (\$150), custodian (\$75), wedding coordinator (\$50), and sound technician (\$50).

Note: Custodian and sound technician honorariums are based on a time segment of 2 1/2 hours. Additional time may be contracted at a rate of \$25 per hour for each worker in advance of the wedding.

If needed, the following may be added:

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| Fellowship Hall/Kitchen use | \$200.00 |
| Custodian for Fellowship Hall | \$50.00 |
| Organist accompanist <u>per</u> soloist / instrumentalist | \$25.00 |

To secure the facilities, the building use fee must be received by the church office within one week after the wedding date is confirmed.

Support staff honorariums need to be made payable directly to the individual staff members. Please make arrangements for payment with the church office at least one week prior to the wedding date. The church office will ensure that support staff checks are distributed on the day of the ceremony.



ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS:

The church will be opened one hour before the wedding. The ushers should be on duty at that time. A set of keys may be signed out the day of the rehearsal if needed for florist, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

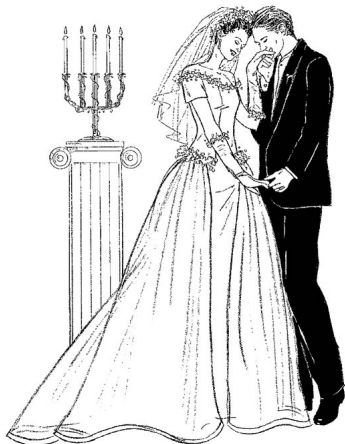
Since the wedding service is a sacred occasion, **flash photography is not permitted in the Sanctuary during the ceremony.** Pictures may be taken during the processional and the recessional. If close-ups at the altar are desired, such photos may be taken in advance of, or immediately following, the service.

Video taping must be arranged with the minister beforehand. Every care will be taken to preserve the sacred nature of the service.

RICE AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

Rice and confetti **may not be thrown in the building or outside the building.** Bird seed may be thrown in the parking lot. If seed is tracked into the building, the cost of cleaning the carpet will be charged to the wedding party.

No alcoholic beverages permitted on the church premises.



Great Bridge UMC
201 Stadium Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23322

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Chesapeake, Virginia 23322
482-1049 Phone
482-0432 Fax*