

Wedding Guide

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*"... The one who made us at the beginning made us male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh..."*

Congratulations on your engagement! This is a wonderful time in your lives filled with much joy and activity. As you anticipate marriage and all the aspects of planning a wedding please know that our goal is to help you launch a successful life together.

Your marriage is important. After a personal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, your marriage is the second most important relationship you can have. God gave marriage as a blessing for all the world, the first of all human relationships. Families, children, and communities are blessed when marriages are strong and healthy.

We want to do our part to help marriages be the best they can be. This church has always supported marriage. Pastors of this congregation have performed weddings in our area for 140 years. In recent years we have taken a more active role in pre-wedding preparation. It is expected that all couples participate in premarital counseling with the pastor.

The first step in moving toward a wedding is for the couple to meet with the pastor. At that time, the wedding date will be confirmed and the pastor will help the couple understand the process.

**Setting the Date: You can discuss a tentative date with the church staff, but dates are firm only after meeting with the pastor. (And council authorization, if necessary.)*

How to contact the pastor

1. Call our church office at 651-465-5265. Normal office staff hours are 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, M-Th.
2. Call Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley at 612-532-7083. If she is not available, please leave a message.
3. **You can also write the pastor a note.**

Email : felcpastor.mk@gmail.com

Church Mailing Address: 561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

If you stop by the church, the best place to put a note is in his mailbox. The mailboxes are mounted on the wall to the left of the office. Pastor Mary Kaye's box is the bottom, left box.

How to contact other helpful people

1. Organist – Michelle Caneday – 763-568-9806
2. Keyboardists – Michelle Caneday – 763-568-9806
Michelle Lynch – 715-220-2782

Itemized Fees for voting-member weddings

\$120	coordinator's fee
\$0	pastor's fee
\$35	premarital counseling fee
\$80	for custodian <i>cleans building before and after wedding</i>
\$150	organist, pianist or other primary instrumentalist (payable directly to that person) <i>meets with couple, meets with vocalist if any, prepares for and performs at the wedding service</i>
\$0	building fee

Itemized Fees for “Friends of First”

\$0	coordinator’s fee
\$250	pastor’s fee
\$35	premarital counseling fee
\$80	for custodian
\$150	organist, pianist or other primary instrumentalist (payable directly to that person)
\$600	building usage fee for the sanctuary and upstairs facilities
\$800	building usage fee for the sanctuary, upstairs facilities and lower level (incl. kitchen/fellowship hall)

Building Rental Only is discouraged, but if exceptions occur

\$120	coordinator’s fee
\$80	for custodian
\$150	organist, pianist or other primary instrumentalist (payable directly to that person)
\$600	building usage fee for the sanctuary and upstairs facilities
\$800	building usage fee for the sanctuary, upstairs facilities and lower level (incl. kitchen/reception)

**Rental needs church council approval.

****Non-members may reserve and guarantee the church 6 months in advance. If reserved prior to 6 months, the reservation is not guaranteed until 6 months prior to the wedding date. It may be bumped by a member requesting that date.*

Miscellaneous Details

- The church sanctuary seats 200 adults comfortably (14 pews on each side, about 7 adults per pew). Approximately 250 can be seated when some of the guests are children and if the balcony is used. We have had as many 300 in worship, using extra chairs and the balcony, but that’s very tight!
- The sanctuary may be decorated as desired by the couple. Adhesive tape should NOT be used to affix decorations on pews, woodwork or plastered walls. ALL decorations should be removed after the wedding. There will be an additional charge if we have to clean-up decorations.
- Unity candles or pew candles may be used during weddings. The church does NOT provide these items, however. They may be ordered or purchased elsewhere. The church has a unity candle holder, two oil filled altar candles and beeswax candles on seven-branched candelabras.
- Christian Bookstores are excellent places to find colorful bulletins and special candles (unity candles, pew candles, etc.). The church office has catalogs available for you to peruse.
- The kitchen and dining rooms may be used for receptions. The congregation does not supply food or catering for weddings.
- Bird seed instead of rice may be thrown outside the building. Bubbles allowed outside.
- Real flower petals may be used if an aisle runner is used. Fake petals may be used in the building, not thrown outside.
- Flash photographs should be taken before or after the service, during processional or recessional, or at the lighting of the “unity candle” – not during the worship service and ceremony, other than professional photographer.
- The church staff is available to produce and print the wedding bulletin for a small fee (time involved and paper and printing costs)—\$25 for the first 100, \$20 for each additional 100. You

may have them printed elsewhere, but make sure the pastor sees the bulletin layout before you print.

Wedding Planning

Christian weddings are times for hearing God's Word and responding to God's Love. Weddings are normally held in the church building, but can be held in other locations where God's Word can be heard without difficulty. The following is a fairly traditional order of worship for a Wedding Ceremony. Certain items can be excluded; such as congregational hymns or special readings. Certain items can be included; solos or readings, and Holy Communion. Then, of course, there are certain items that must be present, such as the vows and pronouncement of marriage. Feel free to have fun with the creation of the ceremony and give it your personal touch. Please remember that this is a Christian worship service and secular rituals don't necessarily have a place in worship.

- ✘ Prelude
- ✘ Attendant's Processional
- ✘ Bridal Processional
- ✘ Welcome
- ✘ Congregational Hymn
- ✘ Special Readings
- ✘ Scripture Readings
- ✘ Homily
- ✘ Personal Commitments
- ✘ Prayer of Dedication
- ✘ Vows
- ✘ Ring Ceremony
- ✘ Pronouncement of Marriage
- ✘ Lighting of the Unity Candle
- ✘ Prayer of Blessing
- ✘ Lord's Prayer
- ✘ *Holy Communion*
- ✘ Congregational Hymn
- ✘ Benediction
- ✘ Presentation of the Couple
- ✘ *Recessional*
- ✘ *Postlude*