

Planning Your Wedding
at
Trinity United Church Of Christ

310 West 8th Street
Jasper, IN 47546

(812) 482-4090



May God Bless your wedding at Trinity UCC

Trinity United Church of Christ is pleased to offer you our blessing as you prepare for marriage through worship. With all of the activities that are part of the wedding experience, the church stands at the center. Here is the place where the actual ceremony will take place, and we want it to be done in a manner that will honor the Lord and be a hallowed and cherished memory for the rest of your lives.

Always remember that the wedding service is a worship service. No less than that of a regular Sunday morning service, it is an occasion when the church and the pastor of the church have the obligation to see that all things are done reverently and in order. As with any service, the church, including the Pastor, are the ones in charge. The Pastor will work with you in the fashioning of a wedding service that, as much as possible, will try to honor your individual wishes.

Understanding and interpreting the Bible can lead to different conclusions on many subjects. At Trinity, we recognize that "God is still speaking," and feel that the primary message throughout Christianity is unconditional love for all. We can't be certain what Jesus would have us do regarding offering marriage to all couples, as there is no record of his thoughts. However, we feel it is better to choose love and inclusiveness rather than to close our doors to some of His flock. Thus, we offer our blessing by conducting wedding ceremonies for couples, regardless of gender. As allowed under Indiana state laws, we welcome opposite-gender couples, as well as same-gender couples, to be joined in holy matrimony at Trinity.

These guidelines have been written and approved by the Church Council and are now given to you to help in the preparation of your blessed day.

PASTOR: Please call Pastor Jane (812-631-1147) to arrange the planning of the wedding as early as possible before the wedding (at least 4 months in advance). The couple will meet with the Pastor to plan the ceremony and to offer guidance through counseling at least 3 times. The last session must take place at least 3 weeks prior to the wedding.

Every wedding is a new creation and people should plan according to their tastes, as long as it is reverent, considerate, and feasible. Unless an exception has been arranged, our Pastor and organist will be performing the service. The pastor will have primary responsibility for determining the theological appropriateness of the wedding service and musical selections.

The times for weddings, rehearsals, and receptions at the church are reserved through the pastor. These dates should be set as soon as possible.

REHEARSAL

It is helpful to rehearse the wedding with all participants including the wedding party, parents, ushers, musicians, and readers. Please bring your unity candle or sand and salt container to the rehearsal. If grandparents are to be seated as part of the service, they may be more comfortable rehearsing. However, this may also be done the day of the wedding.

Day of the Wedding: The ushers need to be in place at least 45 minutes before the wedding for the seating of guests.

BULLETINS AND DECORATIONS

As part of our services, we are pleased to print a wedding bulletin if you wish. The names of the wedding party should be turned into the Church Office at least three weeks prior to the wedding.

The florist needs to be at the church no later than two hours prior to the ceremony. We will make sure someone is available to let them in. Please ask them to contact the Church Office at least one week in advance if they need special help. The responsibility for delivery is the florist's. We are glad to cooperate.

If you are planning to decorate the church, please check with the Pastor for available times. When using bows or flowers on pews, they should be attached with string or ribbon.

The following is furnished by the wedding party, if they choose to use: Runner (40 feet), wedding candle, flowers, bulletin covers.

The throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, and/or the release of balloons is not allowed. These items are difficult to sweep up, can cause staining and damage to surfaces, and are a hazard to the environment.

MUSIC

Since this is a worship service for which the church has full responsibility, only a Trinity organist, or one approved by our organist, may play our organ at any wedding service. The selection of music will be made in consultation with the organist or additional musicians you are using and **all music selections must be approved by the pastor.**

If you choose to use recorded music or have a power point presentation on our monitors at the service, you must use one of our approved technicians to run the sound system. It is also your responsibility to contact the approved technicians to run the sound system & go over your Pastor approved music selections.

PHOTOGRAPHERS / VIDEOGRAPHER

The photographers and/or videographer are to see the Pastor prior to the service. Photographers/ videographers are to remain behind the first pew throughout the wedding service. No flash pictures are allowed during the ceremony. Because of our special lighting situation, the photographer/videographer is welcome to schedule a time to visit the church sanctuary prior to the wedding. **Photo sessions prior to the wedding must be complete 30 minutes before worship begins.**

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Your marriage license should be given to the Pastor no later than five days before the wedding rehearsal. You must obtain your marriage license from the County Clerk's office up to 60 days prior to the ceremony. A license from another state is not valid.

The State of Indiana requires that both of you must appear in person to apply for the license, and that you have a valid form of identification which gives your birth date, e.g. birth certificate, driver's license, State I.D.

Please Note: State and County marriage license requirements often change. Please check with the County Clerk office for updated information. Their phone number is 812-481-7035.

WEDDING FEES*

(Please call the church office for the applicable and the most current fees.)

Sanctuary	Parish Hall
Pastor	Church Organist
Extra Musician	Sound Technician
Custodian	Secretary
Marriage Inventory	

**Fees are set by the Church Council*

Wedding Service Covenant

We, _____ and _____, desire to be married in the presence of God at Trinity United Church of Christ in Jasper, Indiana. It is our intention to be faithful to the covenant promises listed below.

We agree to meet with the pastor for premarital conversations at least three times. We understand all conversations need to be completed at least three weeks prior to our wedding.

We agree to give the church facility and property utmost respect. All areas of the building shall be left in the same condition as when we arrived. This means furniture will be returned to its original place, trash will be taken to containers in the kitchen, and all wedding items (flowers, bulletins, candles, and personal items) will be taken with us when we leave.

There shall be no drinking of alcohol or use of drugs in the church or the church property; this includes the church parking lots. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will NOT be allowed to participate in the wedding.

Smoking shall be permitted outside only, as dictated by Indiana law. Please discard cigarettes in a proper manner, and keep sidewalks and lawns free of debris.

We have named, _____, phone _____, as the contact person to be called following the wedding if there is a problem or question. (This needs to be someone other than the couple who may be on their honeymoon.)

_____ (Partner A)

_____ (Partner B)