

Your Wedding at First United Methodist Church

Let's Begin!

First and foremost, the Ministers and Staff of First United Methodist are interested in your wedding because we believe that a Christian wedding is a covenant-making ceremony in which the bride and groom not only declare their love for one another, but affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives and thus, Lord of their marriage.

The Senior Pastor, Dr. Trevor Smith is dedicated to assisting you in pre-marital counseling and in the planning and carrying out of your wedding. This is all part of the larger family ministry which is so important to us here at First United Methodist. In order to establish a uniform and regular practice with regard to weddings at First United Methodist and to make available the accepted policies of the church, the procedures outlined in this booklet have been instituted.

Fees, Deposits, and Suggested Honorariums

A deposit of \$150 should be paid to First United Methodist Church at least two weeks prior to the wedding ceremony. The deposit will be refunded if there is no damage to the church property. The person who schedules the wedding ceremony through the church office will be held responsible for any damage to church property.

For our member weddings, the Bride/Groom must be an active member of the church, or have parent(s) or grandparent(s) who are active members, (participating in the life of the church by your prayers, presence, gifts, services and witness) for at least six (6) months *prior* to reserving the ceremony date on our church calendar. If either the bride or groom is an active member or have parent(s) or grandparent(s) who are active members, there is a minimal charge for weddings for those who are providing services for your ceremony.

The fee is \$100 which includes fees for the Custodian and the Sound Technician. There is no charge for the set-up, clean-up, usage, or rental of the Sanctuary, Bride's Room, or Groom's Room. This is for weddings in the Worship Center. There is no charge for use of the church facilities for members of the church. This amount does not include a gift to your officiant. If your officiant is our Pastor, you may also provide an honorarium for him. Suggested honorarium for the Pastor is \$200, and is a check written directly to the Pastor. If your officiant is not an FUMC pastor, please provide an honorarium to him or her at your discretion.

Please provide check(s) to First United Methodist Church, Attention: Sherry Gean no later than two (2) weeks prior to your ceremony date.

For our non-member weddings, the fee is \$175 which includes fees for the Custodian, the Sound Technician, and the set-up and use of the Worship Center, the Bride's Room, and the Groom's Room. This is for weddings in the Worship Center. There is an additional fee of \$25 if the reception is held at the church. This amount does not include a gift to your officiant. If your officiant is our Pastor, you may also provide an honorarium for him. Suggested honorarium for the Pastor is \$200, and is a check written directly to the Pastor. This includes premarital counseling sessions, directing the rehearsal, and officiating at the service. If your officiant is not an FUMC pastor, please provide an honorarium to him or her at your discretion at the rehearsal.

Suggested Honorariums of \$75 for Vocalists and Musicians should be paid directly to the Vocalists and Musicians.

Please provide check(s) to First United Methodist Church, Attention: Sherry Gean no later than two (2) weeks prior to your ceremony date.

Reserve Your Date

Dates

Due to seasonal activities of the church, we do not schedule weddings on Fridays (due to rehearsals), Sundays or on the following weekends:

First weekend of January*

Fourth of July weekend

Palm Sunday**

Labor Day weekend

Easter weekend

Memorial Day weekend

Thanksgiving weekend

Any weekend in December

**If New Year's Eve falls on a weekend, this may also include the second weekend of January.*

***Weddings are allowed on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, if set-up allows.*

Thanksgiving weekend

Location of Ceremony

Weddings are held in our Worship Center which can seat up to 200 people.

Time of Ceremony

Weddings are scheduled to begin promptly at a time between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Arrival of the bridal party (and vendors) can begin three (3) hours prior to the ceremony.

Officiating Minister

For our member and non-member weddings alike, our pastor, Dr. Trevor Smith would be glad to officiate your wedding.

We also welcome guest ministers. If you would like to have a guest minister officiate your wedding, please ask him or her to provide their credentials (book and page number) to the Church Secretary, Sherry Gean, upon scheduling your wedding. If your officiant has questions regarding the FUMC wedding policy, the Church Secretary will get him or her in contact with our pastor to discuss any necessary details. We simply ask that guest ministers follow our typical ceremony outline, provided at the end of this booklet. If a guest minister officiates the service, a member of the Board of Trustees must be present for the rehearsal and the ceremony.

Each couple will meet with their selected officiating minister for at least three (3) sessions of pre-marital counseling prior to their ceremony date.

Music

Ceremony Music

The wedding is a service of worship, during which a man and a woman unite their lives in the presence of God and loved ones. The music should reflect an atmosphere of reverence and joy and should glorify God and honor the sanctity of Holy Matrimony.

Either our Music Director, Keri Cousins, or our Pianist, Vickie Owen, may be available to play for your wedding depending upon scheduling.

If necessary, the Music Director and/or the Pastor will assist you in finding music which reflects personal considerations, yet upholds the appropriateness and integrity of the worship service. All musical selections will be discussed with and approved by the Pastor.

All music for the ceremony is live, with the exception being the use of an accompaniment track, or tape/CD for a soloist or instrumentalist. Suggestions for soloist/instrumentalists are to be discussed and approved by the pastor. If a relative or friend is being considered to sing or play an instrument for your ceremony, choice of music should follow the same guidelines of appropriateness and integrity of the worship service.

On your wedding day, the Music Director or the Pianist will be available to play 30 minutes prior to your ceremony, anytime during your ceremony, and will conclude at the end of the recessional.

Book Your Vendors

It is always a good idea to take the FUMC Wedding Guideline book with you when you are meeting with your vendors. You will often need this information!

Florist/Décor

- We ask that no rice, confetti or sparklers be used, but real flowers petals may be tossed or bubbles blown outside of the church.
- Florist are encouraged to arrive 2 ½ hours before the wedding.
(Plumosis, or maiden hair (shedding greenery), may not be used anywhere in the church).
- Petals may be tossed by the flower girl(s) during the processional, but are not allowed to line either side of the center aisle as part of floral décor for the safety of the bridal party and all guests.
- An aisle cloth is not allowed to be used for the safety of the bridal party and guests.
- For the possible use of altar flowers at your ceremony, please speak with the Pastor.
- Please have someone remove all your floral decorations and décor immediately after the post-ceremony pictures.
- The choir chairs are a permanent part of the chancel area. Due to Sunday services, we are unable to remove the choir chairs.
- For your guest book, we recommend two guest books or a loose-leaf book.

Photography

• We do allow flash photography by your *professional photographer* **for the processional and recessional**. In order to maintain the integrity of the wedding ceremony, once the minister has begun speaking (at the beginning of the ceremony), we ask for **no more flash photography** until the kiss between the bride and the groom, in which flash photography is allowed and can resume.

• Photographers are free to use the balcony area during any part of the ceremony.

• We do ask that photographers not stand in the chancel area (up the stairs where the bridal party stands) in any part of the processional, ceremony or recessional. We also ask that photographers do not lie on the aisle floor during the processional, ceremony or recessional, or stand on chairs/pews during any photography throughout the day.

• Please ask family and friends to not use flash cameras at all during the wedding ceremony. This interrupts the professional photographer.

• In pre-ceremony and post-ceremony pictures, please ask all family members to have the courtesy of allowing your professional photographer to flash first.

• When planning your pre-ceremony pictures with your photographer, please plan to be finished with pictures in the sanctuary by 45 minutes before the start time of your ceremony. This ensures enough time to light any candles you might have and for guests to be seated without seeing you! (Seating of your guests begins 30 minutes prior to your ceremony.) For example if your wedding is at 7:00, all pictures in the Sanctuary should conclude at 6:15. A few pictures can be taken elsewhere, before it is time to freshen up and prepare for the processional.

• After the ceremony, pictures taken with the minister should be taken first.

• If your photographer needs more information, please have him or her contact the pastor.

Videography

A simple video recording of your wedding ceremony may be done by FUMC upon request. Please provide a blank DVD+R to be used for your copy of the recording.

However, if you would like a more professional video of your wedding, please book a videographer.

-We do not allow alcohol in the building or on the premises prior to/during wedding ceremonies/receptions.

-All receptions held at First United Methodist must be for afternoon weddings only. We do not host evening receptions.

-You may have access to the reception area beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning for any decorating.

-Wall hangings/pictures, and permanent fixtures of rooms, such as a stage, cannot be moved for wedding receptions.

The Eve of Your Wedding

- Rehearsals are on Friday evenings at 5:30. *Please arrive a few minutes early!*
- The officiating Pastor will be at the rehearsal along with the wedding assistant. This includes guest pastors as well. The Pastor will conduct the rehearsal. If you would like to have a guest Pastor officiate, please speak with the Pastor of FUMC.
- Please bring your marriage license to the rehearsal and give it to the Pastor. For more information about acquiring your marriage license please contact the Sequoyah County Courthouse.
- Very important! FUMC has a no alcohol policy. No alcoholic beverages are permitted within the church building or on any premises of FUMC, including church parking lots, at any time prior to, during, or after your rehearsal (Friday) and ceremony (Saturday). Alcohol, including wine, is not allowed as part of the wedding ceremony, this includes a 'blending of the wines' ceremony. Please dispose of any alcoholic beverages prior to arrival at the church. Do not bring open drink containers into the church. Any alcohol found on church property will be confiscated without any reimbursement. Please make sure your bridal party is aware of our no alcohol policy.

Your Big Day

- What to Bring:
Dress, veil, tux and shoes
Rings
Any make-up and hair products
Unity candle (3" x 6" white candle)
Guest books and pens
Programs
Card box (enclosed box to gather gift cards)
Map to reception
- Animals of any kind are not allowed inside the church at any time.
- No nursery is provided during wedding rehearsals or ceremonies.
- Snacks and food are allowed in the Bride's Room and Groom's Room. Bottled water is best as it will not stain attire or carpet. Please leave all food in the bride's room and please be sure to throw away all trash before leaving the Bride's Room and Groom's Room.
- Please plan to have your belongings gathered in the Bride's Room prior to the beginning of your ceremony. This will help to 'grab and go' your things after the ceremony so as not to leave anything behind. Once the bride leaves for the ceremony, the doors will be locked.
- Please make sure to secure all your belongings. If you leave the Bride's or Groom's room, please shut the doors behind you.
- **FUMC-Sallisaw will not be held responsible for lost or stolen items.**

Typical Wedding Ceremony Outline for Weddings at FUMC

Prelude

Seating of the Families

Processional of the Bridal Party

Entrance of the Bride

Greeting and Purpose

Declaration of Intention

Giving of the Bride

Scripture and Homily (the message)

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

The Prayer

Song or Music

Lighting of the Unity Candle (if you have one)

Declaration of Marriage

Benediction

Presentation of the Bride and Groom

Recessional

Guidelines for Use of Church Facilities

The use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are not permitted in the church.

No decorations may be used that might scar or deface church property. Attaching decorations to chairs, carpeting, or other furniture with glue, tacks, nails, or thumb tacks is not permitted.

No decorations are to be placed on the piano. The altar, pulpit, piano, and sanctuary furniture are not to be moved by the wedding party. Please consult with the pastor or trustee about rearrangement of furniture.

Use of kitchen equipment and utensils will be by arrangement only.

Candelabra and candles may be provided by the florist. Only dripleless candles may be used. Protective covering must be used under candles and flower arrangements to protect the carpet and furniture.

Rice is not to be used, and bird seed may only be used outside the building.

All personal belongings, decorations, and serving utensils must be removed immediately after the wedding ceremony and/or reception. This allows the custodian to clean the building and get it ready for church services.

First United Methodist Church is not responsible for the loss of any personal belongings during a service held at the church or for any accidents and/or personal injuries which may occur on church property.

I have read the above policies and agree to abide by them. I accept responsibility and agree to pay for any damage to church property.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Name _____