

REHEARSALS

Please allow approximately one hour for the rehearsal. All persons are urged to be prompt. A rehearsal may be waived only at the pastor's discretion.

MUSIC

You may provide your own vocalist or other musicians. Since a church wedding is worship, the music, whether instrumental or vocal, should be appropriate to a Christian marriage. Fees for our organist are as arranged. He is familiar with a wide selection of music. Should you be unsure of what music to choose, you will find his experience and expertise to be helpful. He can offer suggestions or you may wish to leave the choice of music to him. Usually prelude music is played as guests are seated; the processional and recessional are played for the bridal party. You should contact the organist at least four (4) months prior to your wedding date to discuss and finalize the plans for your music.

BIRDSEED, CONFETTI, BUBBLES, ETC.

We rejoice with you!!

Please read the following closely:

BIRDSEED is to be thrown outside only.

BUBBLES are not to be blown in the church—outside only.

CONFETTI/CONFETTI POPPERS/STREAMERS are not permitted in the church or on the outside property.

Thank you for abiding by our guidelines.

Park Avenue United Methodist Church

801 Park Avenue, Hamilton, OH 45013

PH: 893-5311 FX: 887-1788

Wedding



Guidelines

Congratulations!

Your decision to marry is one of the most important and significant choices of life. It is a decision surrounded by real joy and filled with anticipation of happiness and harmony to come.

The decision to be married in Park Avenue United Methodist Church is also a momentous one. Weddings are not held in the church simply because it is a beautiful setting or because it is traditional in our society; rather, marriage in the church implies a desire on the part of the bride and groom to seek God's blessing on their relationship and enter into a truly Christian covenant of marriage.

Our desire is to assist you in making your marriage ceremony a joyous occasion that honors Jesus Christ, the center of all Christian marriages.

These guidelines will answer questions regarding the wedding guidelines of Park Avenue United Methodist Church. If you have additional questions regarding this information, please contact the church office at 893-5311 for consultation with the pastor.

May God guide your decisions as you prayerfully consider your marriage and lifetime together.

In Christ,



Pastor Samuel Harnish

RESPECTING CHURCH PROPERTY

First and foremost, our church is a place of worship. We ask for your cooperation in helping us keep it holy. Do not bring alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs onto the premises (church or church grounds) and observe the "No Smoking" policy throughout our facility. **Anyone in the wedding party arriving with alcohol or illegal drugs or under the influence of such provides reason and grounds for the IMMEDIATE cancellation of the wedding.** Law enforcement will be contacted if circumstances warrant.

INVITATIONS

When ordering invitations, the suggested form for the name and address of the church is:

**Park Avenue United Methodist Church
801 Park Avenue
Hamilton, Ohio 45013**

FLORIST

Arrangements for floral decorations should be made with the florist of your choice. Candles for the chancel candelabras will be provided by the church. You are responsible for any other candles to be used (e.g., unity candle.)

PHOTOGRAPHERS & VIDEOGRAPHERS

Pictures are important to families as years pass and memories are recalled. Pictures may be taken before and after the ceremony. Photographers and videographers must meet with the Pastor before the service begins. Only discrete photography will be allowed during the wedding ceremony.

WEDDINGS FOR NON-MEMBERS

The Pastor of Park Avenue UMC considers it a privilege to have the opportunity to be involved in your wedding. We strongly consider it an extension of our ministry not only to perform your wedding but to minister to you as a couple today and in the years to come. In recognition of the Marriage Ceremony as Worship, we hope to instill a desire for Christian fellowship as you recognize Christ as the foundation of your home. Not being a member of Park Avenue UMC, we would extend a warm invitation to you to come to worship and consider making Park Avenue UMC the church for you to experience Christ and express your growing faith.

OUR FACILITIES

There are fourteen (14) rows of pews in the sanctuary, and the center aisle of the church is fifty (50) feet long. The sanctuary will seat 225+ guests. The pews may not be moved for any reason. Seasonal decorations will not be changed for weddings.

Your wedding party will have access to the parlor of our church for the bridal party to dress. A room will be assigned for the groomsmen for dressing as needed. The church fellowship hall, or gym, can be used for receptions, if desired, for an additional fee that covers set-up and cleaning. Please discuss the availability with someone in our office.

Park Avenue UMC is here for the glory of God. The property represents a major investment by the people of this church. The enjoyment of the facilities is possible because so many have given sacrificially. The church building is a place for the meeting of God and the people of God. All groups making use of the facilities are asked to care for the church property with proper consideration to the central purpose to the church property.

Please note that smoking is not permitted in the building and alcohol/ drugs may not be consumed anywhere on the property.

WEDDING FEES

Park Avenue Members

\$350

(includes use of church, *pastor, and custodian)

Non-Members

\$550

(includes use of church, pastor, and custodian)

Fees listed above include a \$50 non-refundable deposit that is required to be paid at the time of scheduling.

All Fees must be paid in full thirty (30) days prior to wedding.

*Fees for the pastor are free to members and included in fees for non-members.

Checks should be made to Park Avenue United Methodist Church.

CUSTODIAN

The custodian is an asset in the cleanup of your wedding. We ask that you appoint a "sentinel" who will be responsible for checking the sanctuary and dressing rooms for anything that may have been left behind.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Church Office	893-5311
Church Fax	887-1788
Pastor's Cell	892-9441

WHAT THE CHURCH BELIEVES

We believe marriage is created by God and blessed by Jesus Christ. God founded marriage for the welfare and happiness of humankind. It is a holy and spiritual bond between two individuals who desire to be joined together in the bonds of holy matrimony.

We want your wedding to be one that glorifies God and fulfills your wishes. We trust it will be an experience you can reflect upon with gratitude for years to come. With that in mind, Park Avenue UMC remains committed to making your wedding of the highest order and quality.

EXPECTATIONS OF A CHRISTIAN WEDDING

1. It is expected that couples seeking marriage in the church desire to make a lifetime commitment to one another and establish their marriage in accord with Christian understandings. Since participation in the worship and life of the church is an integral part of Christian marriage, it is strongly advised that couples seeking marriage in the church be attending a Christian church on a regular basis.
2. We believe that our sexuality is a gift of God. It is a treasure to be enjoyed within the beautiful covenant of marriage. Although many couples in our society choose to "live together" before marriage, we believe that sexual relations outside of marriage are outside God's will and encourage all couples to refrain from this intimate bond until married.
3. In cases where either the bride or groom have been married previously, consultation will include inquiry into the circumstances of the dissolution of former marriages. One year between legal dissolution and the wedding is encouraged. Wedding dates will not be confirmed until all previous marriages have been legally dissolved.

Normally, all weddings are conducted by the pastor of Park Avenue UMC and held in the sanctuary. In situations where the participation of other clergy is desired, arrangements may be made at the Park UMC pastor's discretion. The pastor may be available for services at an alternate location as well, at the pastor's discretion.

THE WEDDING

The State of Ohio requires that a license for marriage be obtained and that the couple fulfill the legal obligations. A license is good for sixty days following the date issued. The license is required before the wedding ceremony will take place.

At the church, the wedding vows are made in the context of worship, prayer and thanksgiving. We recognize the journey of each couple is unique and strive that each ceremony will reflect the special love of each couple. It is truly a celebration as we acknowledge our thanks to God for the love in your lives!

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Once each of you have read over the guidelines, you may call the church office to request a meeting with the pastor to schedule your wedding date on the church calendar. We will do our best to schedule your wedding on your desired date. However, if that date is unavailable and you are not able to be flexible, than we may not be able to accommodate you. Even with having the tentative date for the wedding set on the church calendar, final approval for the wedding is given only by the pastor after pre-marital counseling sessions have begun. Also, weddings will not be scheduled later than 7:30 PM on Saturday evenings. A six month "window" is the minimum time that the church should be contacted before your wedding day.

MEETING WITH THE PASTOR

After scheduling the tentative date of your wedding, you will need to meet with the Pastor for counseling sessions that will last approximately one hour each. This is important for several reasons. First, it will give you an opportunity to get to know the Pastor; this will make for a much better wedding ceremony. Second, it will enable you to discuss issues that will play a central role in your marriage: common values, hopes and dreams, children, religious background and spiritual convictions. Third, it will enable you to talk about marriage in general and your wedding in particular. Please call the Pastor at 893-5311 to set up a time to meet together. The number and duration of the sessions will be determined by the pastor.