

*Memorial United Methodist Church*  
*West Carrollton, Ohio*

***Wedding Policy***

Memorial United Methodist Church is a community in which marriage is valued. We are pleased to provide a place for couples to celebrate their love and grow in grace and faith. Our facility is available to persons who desire to enter into Christian marriage, with preference given to those who are members or affiliates of our congregation, or practicing Christians in another congregation.

While Christian marriage is the celebration of a couple's intent to live in a loving covenant relationship, the wedding service is an occasion of worship. As in any Christian worship, God's presence is acknowledged through prayers, the reading of scripture and the proclamation of the Gospel. When couples pledge themselves to one another, it is with the clear understanding that they do so in the presence of God, asking God to bless and participate not only in this service, but also in their life together from this day forward.

It is our privilege and joy to share this special occasion with you. May your wedding be a special day for you, your families, and friends. You are in our prayers as we prepare for your wedding service.

Blessings,  
*The Rev. Barbara C. Wiechel*

**General Policies**

All weddings are scheduled at the discretion of the pastor. After a first meeting with the couple, a wedding may be placed on the calendar with a completed wedding form and deposit. The MUMC pastor presides at all weddings, and approves all content of the service. If a couple asks that an additional pastor participate, an invitation may be extended to that person. The pastor will also schedule pre-marital counseling and planning sessions.

No smoking is permitted on church property, nor is the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Violation of this policy, or signs of intoxication among the wedding party at the rehearsal or on the day of the wedding, will result in immediate cancellation of the ceremony, with no refunds of any fees. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform their wedding party and guests of this policy.

Decorations (flowers, candles, etc.) are limited to the chancel area. Aisle runners or anything that would impede safe movement within the building or to exits are not permitted. Rice, birdseed, or releasing balloons is not permitted; bubbles may be used outside the building.

Music is an appropriate part of wedding services. This may include piano, organ, recorded music or other instruments/soloists at the discretion of the pastor. The MUM church musician is to be used (and compensated) for any sanctuary weddings.

### **Chapel Weddings**

Chapel weddings are limited to 25 persons, including the wedding party and guests. No additional parts of the church (dressing rooms, etc.) are included, unless approved by the pastor, and may require an additional fee for custodians, etc. A keyboard is available in the chapel. If recorded music is used, the couple is responsible for bringing a player/speakers/etc. The wedding party will have access to the chapel on the day of the wedding to decorate. All items brought to the church must be removed following the ceremony.

No food or beverages are permitted in the chapel.

A rehearsal is not necessary; a final consultation with the pastor will review all logistics, decorations, etc.

### **Sanctuary Weddings**

The pastor and/or a MUMC wedding coordinator will work with the couple to prepare the service, approve decorations and schedule the decorating, rehearsal, and any other preparations. The MUMC church musician, if available, is the preferred organist/pianist. If another musician is preferred, or if the MUMC musician is not available, the MUMC musician will approve any other musicians.

For a fee, a member of the MUMC tech team will be available to operate the sound system and live stream/record the service. Professional videographers are also permitted, but may not use MUMC equipment.

Professional photographers operate under the direction of the pastor and/or the wedding coordinator. Photos may be taken before or after the service, but any photos taken during the service must be from the sides or balcony, using no flash. Guests are encouraged to remain seated when taking photos, in deference to other guests.