

OTHER NOTES & INFORMATION

1. The pastor of our church will officiate at all weddings held on our property. Exceptions may be granted on an individual basis. In such situations, our pastor would be the one to extend an invitation to another pastor to officiate.
2. The wedding service is set in the context of a worship service. Thus, music must be appropriate for such a service, photocopied music may not be used, and flash photography is restricted between the processional and recessional.
3. The church organist ordinarily will be used if music is desired. Another organist, or other musicians, may be used with the prior consent of the pastor and church organist.
4. Counseling sessions must be completed satisfactorily. We reserve the right not to perform the ceremony, even after the sessions are completed, if the pastor feels it would not be healthy for either party to enter into the marriage.
5. The rehearsal is usually the night before the wedding, although other arrangements can be made.
6. The wedding ceremony customarily occurs in the sanctuary. Alternate sites must be agreed to in advance.
7. The general outline of the ceremony is in the United Methodist hymnal, p.864. Changes can be made after consultation with the pastor and the couple.
8. Bird seed, and not rice, may be used outside the building.
9. The required fees are as follows:
 - Organist: \$75
 - Pastor: honorarium
 - Testing Materials: \$30 (or the current amount)
 - Building Use: Sanctuary Only: donation
 - Reception Hall: \$50 (\$75 with kitchen)

JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PO Box 750

109 West Market Street

Jonestown, PA, 17038

717-865-4369

www.jonestownchurch.com

jonestownumc@lmf.net

WEDDING GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

The 2008 Book of Discipline, lays out the United Methodist Church's understanding of marriage and families:

We believe the family to be the basic human community through which persons are nurtured and sustained in mutual love, responsibility, respect, and fidelity. We affirm the importance of loving parents for all children. We also understand the family as encompassing a wider range of options than that of the two-generation unit of parents and children (the nuclear family). We affirm the shared responsibility for parenting where there are two parents and encourage social, economic, and religious efforts to maintain and strengthen relationships within families in order that every member may be assisted toward complete personhood

We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

God's plan is for lifelong, faithful marriage. The church must be on the forefront of premarital, marital, and postmarital counseling in order to create and preserve strong marriages. However, when a married couple is estranged beyond reconciliation, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, divorce is a regrettable alternative in the midst of brokenness.

Divorce does not preclude a new marriage. We encourage an intentional commitment of the Church and society to minister compassionately to those in the process of divorce, as well as members of divorced and remarried families, in a community of faith where God's grace is shared by all.

In accordance with these understandings, we have developed the following guidelines:

GUIDELINES

1. The bride and groom must intend to live as Christians, and desire to form a Christian family - raising their children (if any) in the Christian faith and planning to use the resources of the church as part of how they will do that. (We base this on Colossians 3)
2. The bride and groom must regularly attend Sunday morning worship services between the time the wedding is requested and the wedding date. (We base this on Hebrews 10:19-25)
3. The bride and groom must satisfactorily complete the premarital counseling process (typically 4 to 6 sessions, plus assignments done by the couple outside of the sessions).

The guidelines are not a checklist to determine whether or not a wedding will be performed. Meeting the guidelines doesn't guarantee a wedding will be performed, nor does missing one automatically rule it out. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis after discussion with the pastor and the couple.

PROCESS

Those wishing to be married at JUMC should therefore:

1. Obtain and read these guidelines.
2. Contact the pastor to indicate the desire to be married, verify an acceptable wedding date (if possible before the engagement is announced), and arrange to meet the pastor after a Sunday morning worship service.*
3. Attend a Sunday morning worship service, greet the pastor after the service, and arrange the first counseling session.*
4. Meet with the pastor for the premarital counseling sessions (usually 4 to 6 times), working through the required materials.*

**If someone is truly not able to do this, alternate plans may be made.]*