

Your Wedding at
Brecksville United Church of Christ



Brecksville United Church of Christ
23 Public Square
Brecksville OH 44141
440-526-4364



“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doings, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...”

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

Your wedding will be one of the most important and long remembered events of your lives. We are honored to be able to be a part of this joyous and significant event. We wish you every happiness in your life together and sincerely hope that your wedding in our church will be a joyous and beautiful occasion.

Christian marriage is a sacred covenant between two people who are called to live out their lives together before God. It is one of the most important commitments you will ever make and needs to be made carefully, prayerfully and with great respect for the marriage covenant. The wedding is a ceremony deeply rooted in the Christian teachings and traditions. This booklet serves as a guide as you plan your wedding ceremony. We extend an invitation to members of Brecksville United Church of Christ church community, and their immediate families, to celebrate their marriage with our pastor in our church. Non-member weddings are also welcome if, in the opinion of our pastor, the couple is prepared to make a Christian commitment to their marriage and if the wedding service is officiated by our pastor and is a worshipful, meaningful ceremony. These weddings must meet the requirements set down by the State of Ohio.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

The Christian wedding is a service of worship to the glory of God. By doing everything with dignity, respect and simple beauty, it will be a day you will treasure for a lifetime.

The actual service varies in each case and is developed in consultation and with the approval of the pastor of Brecksville United Church of Christ.

Music is an important part of the service. Wedding music should be true to the Christian faith and contribute to the integrity of worship. Music for the ceremony should be chosen in consultation with the pastor and the church music director. With this in mind, vocal music should be devotional in text and nature. Organ music, as well as other instrumental music, is appropriate for worship.

PLANNING THE WEDDING

There are many important steps leading up to the wedding service. The pastor of Brecksville United Church of Christ is the key person in this event. In addition, the music director, office manager and custodian will play important and indispensable roles.

Setting the date, establishing a Schedule

Please contact the pastor, the music director and the church office as early as possible to see if the church calendar is clear and available for scheduling.

Counseling with the Pastor

The pastor will make arrangements with you for premarital counseling sessions to be completed before the marriage service. It is recommended that the first session start 3-4 months prior to the date of the marriage service.

Planning the Wedding Service

The pastor will work closely with you, the music director and any soloists you elect to help plan a wedding service that celebrates the marriage with dignity.

If you have a close relative or friend who is a pastor and would want him or her to participate, please speak to the pastor of Brecksville United Church of Christ before making such arrangements.

Our church music director ordinarily provides music for all wedding services. If the music director is unavailable, a qualified organist familiar with the church organ and wedding procedures will be arranged. Couples who wish to engage an outside organist or pianist must receive prior approval from the music director for use of the church organ and/or piano.

We ask that you work with our music director in selecting appropriate and meaningful music for your service. The music director will be happy to schedule an appointment with you to discuss the processional, recessional, and preservice music. Soloists are often friends or relatives of the bride and groom. Please inform the music director if you will have a soloist or other instrumentalists as part of your service, so that the music can be rehearsed and coordinated. Soloists should leave music at the church for the music director at least two weeks before the rehearsal. The soloist should have learned the music before the rehearsal with the music director.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

All decorating should have a simple beauty and should be done at the time of the rehearsal or before the marriage service. Excessive use of flowers, candles, etc., is discouraged. The church will be open at least one hour before the wedding. Candelabra may be used, but they must have glass chimneys

and be securely fastened. A Unity Candle set can be placed on the communion table. Holders for the Unity Candle must be provided by the wedding couple. All sanctuary decorations must be removed before leaving the church for the reception. Flash photography may be taken during the processional and recessional and the photographer should remain in a stationery position near the back of the sanctuary or in the balcony. No flash photography may be taken during the actual ceremony in order to maintain the integrity of the worship service. After the service you may post any pictures before leaving for your reception. Please inform all photographers, professional and otherwise, of this policy.

You may videotape your wedding, using available church lighting. All videotape equipment must be positioned in the balcony or the narthex during the marriage ceremony.

The throwing of rice or confetti or launching of balloons as the marriage couple leave the church is not permitted. Rice and confetti are both very difficult to clean up and rice can be harmful to the environment as well. Birdseed may be used, but must be kept by the front doors and not distributed until after the formal pictures are taken. Birdseed will not be allowed in the narthex, sanctuary, or any other part of the church.

THE RECEPTION

You may wish to have your reception at the church in our Pilgrim Hall. Decorations in Pilgrim Hall must be put up and taken down by members of the wedding party. Our custodian is not responsible for cleaning up decorations.

CHURCH FACILITIES

The sanctuary seats 225. The balcony provides the location for video-taping and photographing the ceremony. The parlor may be used for informal weddings. It seats 25.

Pilgrim Hall is available for the reception. The pantry may be used for light refreshments. In addition, the kitchen is available for use for food preparation by the caterer or by other persons.

Neither alcoholic beverages nor smoking is allowed in the church building.

Women may use the parlor (which can be locked) or the library to prepare for the marriage service. The men may use Pilgrim Hall and the men's restroom. All clothing and personal items must be removed from these areas before leaving the church reception.

Parking is provided for 30-35 cars immediately behind the church building. Entrances are from Arlington Street and Route 82.

Fees

	<u>Member/Family</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Pastor		
Honorarium (Optional)	\$300.00	\$300.00
Music Director		
Rehearsal & Wedding	\$300.00	\$350.00
Rehearsal with Soloists (1 hour fee)	\$50.00/hr	\$50.00/hr
Custodial	\$50.00	\$50.00
Opening, Closing & Cleaning		
Rehearsal & Wedding		
Sanctuary		\$300.00
Parlor		\$75.00
Pilgrim Hall		
Reception Rental (1-4 hrs)		\$200.00
Reception Rental (4-8 hrs)		\$300.00
Kitchen Use	\$50.00	\$100.00
Custodial		
Application/ Administrative	\$25.00	\$25.00

Pastor Honorarium, Music Director fees should be paid directly to that person. Custodial and rental fees will be paid to the church office. All fees are to be paid before the rehearsal. For additional information and confirmation of reservation and schedules, please call Brecksville United Church of Christ, 440-526-4364.