

## *Your Wedding at Nelsonville First UMC*

“Holy matrimony is an honorable estate, instituted by God and signifying to us the union that exists between Christ and the Church. Therefore it is not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God.”

As you plan your wedding ceremony, you are preparing to enter into a new life together. The congregation and pastor of Nelsonville UMC extend their prayers and best wishes as you pledge your love and establish a Christian home.

### Pre-marital Conversations

Because you have selected FUMC for your wedding, you will require the services of our pastor. It is expected that all couples engage in at least two conversations of about one hour each with the pastor. The church hopes the conversations will help you prepare for your lives together and facilitate a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere during the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. A wedding service in the church is a religious ceremony, and the pastor will help you with what's appropriate and permitted.

### Rehearsal

The pastor, accompanist, bride and groom and anyone with a role in the wedding ceremony are asked to attend and cooperate in the wedding rehearsal. The rehearsal should last no more than an hour. The pastor will conduct the rehearsal so any plans made in cooperation with parents or a wedding planner should be shared during the premarital conversations.

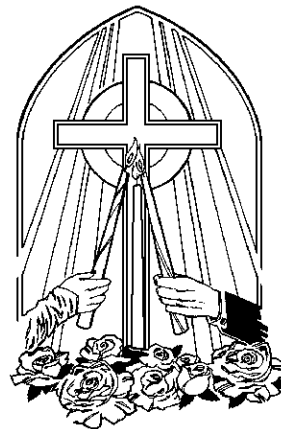
The wedding license should be present at the rehearsal.

### Photographs

Because the wedding ceremony is a worship service, no flash photography is permitted during the service (this does not include the processional or recessional). Beside that, the congregation will be watching the flashes of light rather than the couple. Of course, the wedding party may return to the sanctuary after the guests have left to reenact any of the service for pictures.

### Videotaping

Videotaping the ceremony is fine. Video



equipment should be set up about 45 minutes before the ceremony begins. It is helpful if the videographer attends the rehearsal.

### Music

The music for your wedding should be tasteful, inspirational and appropriate to the expression of joy in a sacred service. The pastor will help you if you are not sure about some of your music selections. We can supply you with a list of musicians if you need help finding an organist or pianist.

### Church Use Policies

Please check with the church secretary to secure a date to use the church. Approximately a month before the service, call the church to schedule an appointment with the pastor for pre-marital conversation. Weddings at First will be performed by the pastor appointed to the church.

No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted on the church property. This includes wine or champagne. Because rice injures birds, we discourage its use. Bird seed is slippery so either of these must all be swept up immediately after being thrown (this is not the responsibility of the custodian).

Bubbles or butterflies are popular alternatives.

Because a wedding requires significant use of the building and staff, a schedule of fees has been established. The fees are intended to defray the operating costs of the facility for the wedding and to compensate the staff for their services on your behalf.

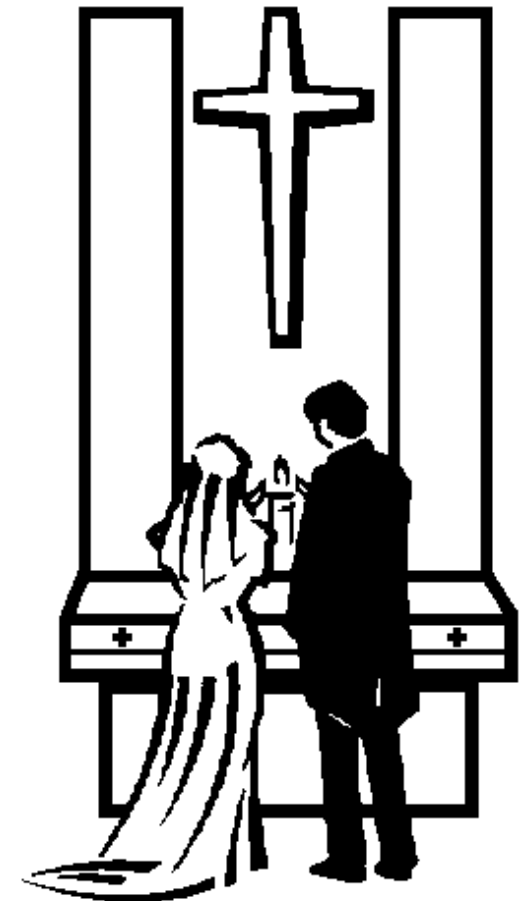
Fee for Sanctuary..... \$50  
Fee for custodian..... \$55  
if cleanup after 5:30..... \$80  
Pastor..... \$100

Sanctuary fee is waived if bride or groom is a member of FUMC. Please make checks payable to the individuals providing the service. All fees are due by the second counseling session; wedding is placed on church calendar when sanctuary fee is received.

Check with pastor for a list of accompanists. Fee is determined by accompanist and is affected by amount of special music, soloists, etc



*Your Wedding  
at  
Nelsonville  
First Church*



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