



Marriage License

The State of Iowa requires a marriage license which can be secured through any Iowa courthouse. Allow ample processing time. The marriage license needs to be provided to the church office two weeks prior to the wedding.

Decorations and Photography

Flowers, candles, and other decorations should not interfere with the seasonal arrangements and furnishings of the altar and sanctuary. Bows or floral arrangements may not be fastened with tape, gum, nails or wire. If a flower girl is to throw petals, please use silk petals as real ones stain the carpet.

Photographs are an important record of your wedding day. Pictures may be taken prior to the wedding or immediately after the ceremony. During the wedding ceremony, we ask that there be no flash photography. (Please print this request in ceremony programs.) Video cameras are allowed in the balcony of the sanctuary or in the chancel area, and they should be stationary.

SANCTUARY WEDDING FEES \$950

Includes: Use of Sanctuary and Facility, Pastor, Wedding Day Coordinator, Music (organist, pianist or CD's), and candelabras

Deposit of \$400 (Non-refundable if the wedding is cancelled with the church less than six months prior to the wedding date. Deposit applies to the wedding fees.)

Additional information:

PLEASE NO AISLE RUNNER

HOLIDAY WEEKEND SURCHARGE \$500

Applicable holidays: New Year's Weekend, Easter Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, Fourth of July Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, Thanksgiving Weekend, and Christmas Weekend

OUTSIDE MUSIC GROUP FEE \$300

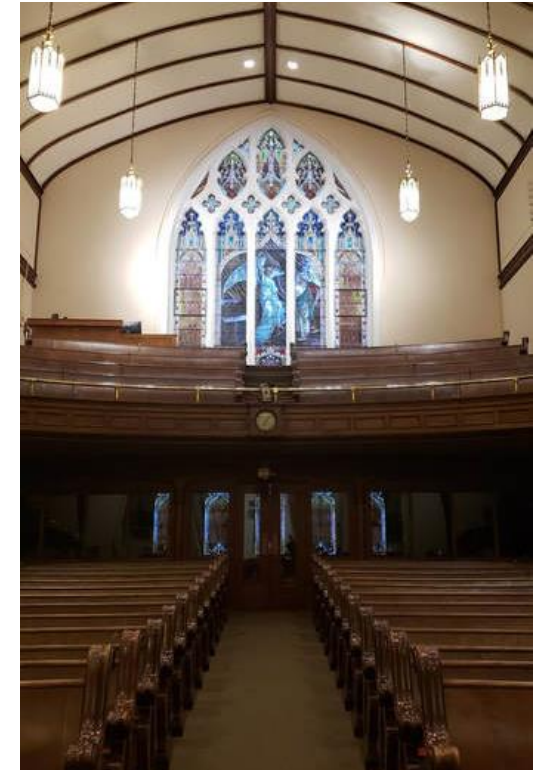
TECH FEE \$ 100

All weddings ceremonies are officiated by St. John's United Methodist pastors ONLY.

NO SANCTUARY WEDDINGS ARE HELD IN DECEMBER UNLESS APPROVED BY THE PASTOR.

Contact Us

(563) 324-5278
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www.stjohnsumcdav.org



**ST. JOHN'S
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

**Planning your
Wedding**



Your Wedding

The church wedding ceremony is a service of worship celebrated by people coming together to witness and bless the joining of a bride and groom in a covenant of Christian love.

When a couple requests a church wedding at St. John's, they receive from this Christian community a ministry designed to help them prepare for Christian marriage and family life.

Adequate planning and participation of the couple with staff and volunteers is important if the full benefit of that ministry is to be enjoyed. This flyer is intended to provide some introduction to what must be included in that planning. Couples need to communicate their desires and plans for decorations, dress, music to the pastor. The pastors from St. John's have the final determination of what is appropriate in the ceremony.

Pastoral Counseling Couples will meet with the Pastor to plan for their Christian wedding ceremony. The number and nature of the meetings will be arranged between the pastor and the couple.

Rehearsals are scheduled, generally, for the evening before the wedding at 5 p.m. Please plan for an hour-long rehearsal.

USE OF ST. JOHN'S FACILITIES

The facilities at St. John's are used for a variety of services and activities important to our ministry. Primary worship services and other St. John's activities will have priority. In the case a funeral occurs, we will work with both parties to make the events run smoothly.

St. John's is an Alcohol-Free and Tobacco-Free campus. The building, grounds, and parking lots of St. John's are available for use by the wedding couple and their guests during a wedding ceremony. Activity that endangers life or property; or is illegal or inappropriate to the church setting may result in the immediate cancellation of the wedding. Use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs is not permitted in the building or on the grounds. Any foods or soft-drinks shall be kept in the dressing rooms.

Because of our concern for the environment, we request no rice, bird seed, confetti, or flowers be thrown inside or outside the buildings.

Dressing rooms are provided for the bride and groom and their attendants. They will be locked during the wedding ceremony. Your help in removing personal belongings as soon as possible after the completion of the wedding ceremony would be appreciated. Should you pick up something that belongs to the church, please contact us as soon as possible.

WEDDING DAY COORDINATOR

The St. John's Wedding Day Coordinator will be on hand during the rehearsal and the day of the wedding to provide assistance with opening the building, cleaning up, and tending to the couple and the wedding party.

SCHEDULING A WEDDING

Wedding ceremony packets contain informational worksheets that help the pastor, along with the wedding coordinator, coordinate the wedding. In the packet are different pieces of information for the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Ceremony Worksheet is the most important information in the packet other than the license. The couple is responsible to fill it out so all the information of the wedding ceremony is covered. It covers a wide-range of needed information, from the number of attendees in the wedding party to the number of guests attending. This worksheet needs to be completed and returned to the church 2 months before the wedding or the wedding will be canceled, unless the pastor has waived the deadline.

Weddings are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserving your date as early as possible is encouraged. Once the date is confirmed, the deposit must be made to secure your date and time. The date you have scheduled will be held for two weeks. If after the two weeks, a deposit has not been made, the date you have requested will be released.

Music

St. John's has a wonderful music staff to assist you in finding musicians for any style of music—traditional to contemporary. If you choose to use an outside music group, please see our Schedule of Fees. It is best if a representative from the outside music group attend the rehearsal.