



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN

10 Stillwater Road, Blairstown, NJ 07825
908-362-6693

FirstUMCBlairstown.com
info@firstumcblairstown.com

WEDDING INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! The First United Methodist Church of Blairstown is pleased that you are interested in being married through our church. It indicates that you recognize marriage as more than a civil contract. By vowing faithfulness to one another before God and by seeking God's blessing upon your union, you affirm that marriage is a sacred covenant and lifetime commitment. These pages have been prepared to assist you in understanding our process and planning your wedding and to ensure that it will have the dignity, beauty, and meaning you and we desire. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. We look forward to sharing this sacred journey with you.

CHOOSING THE DATE

Choosing the date is an important decision. The date of rehearsal and the wedding should be set in consultation with the Pastor at least six months prior to your wedding. For your own protection, make sure the wedding date and hour have been approved by the Pastor and reserved on the church calendar before printing invitations or reserving your reception site. A \$100 non-refundable deposit will be required to reserve the date at the church.

WORKING WITH OUR PASTOR

Our Pastor is more than just a person legally authorized to perform your marriage. He or she is a minister of the church, trained to assist persons to prepare for and adjust to the many changes that will occur in a lifetime, including marriage; a person who will offer assistance as you prepare for marriage, and stand ready to counsel you should questions or problems arise after you are married. It is expected that the Pastor of the church will officiate at all weddings in the church. If the couple would like another clergyperson to share in the service, the host Pastor should be consulted and properly extend the invitation to her or him.

PRE-MARITAL MEETINGS

Upon receipt of your application, the Pastor will schedule an initial time to meet with you to discuss our procedures and approach to marriage. If all parties agree to move forward, a schedule of 4-5 pre-marital meetings will be arranged. These sessions are for your benefit and will increase the likelihood that your marriage will last a lifetime. They are designed to establish a pastoral relationship with you, to explain the various parts of the wedding service, and to help you establish a firm foundation for your marriage within the framework of the Christian faith.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license is required for all weddings and is to be presented to the Pastor at or before the wedding rehearsal. *The wedding cannot legally proceed without a license.*

- To apply for a license, the Bride, Groom and one witness (at least 18 years old) must appear before the town clerk of one of the couple's residences in New Jersey. If non-residents of New Jersey, application is with the Township Clerk of Blairstown.
- The license must be applied for at least 3 days (72 hours) before the wedding, and is valid for 30 days following the date it is issued. The State of New Jersey does not require a blood test. It is advisable that the wedding license be issued ten days to two weeks prior to date of wedding.
- After the wedding service, the Pastor will file the wedding license to the township where the wedding takes place. The wedding license must be signed by two witnesses who are at least eighteen years of age (done during rehearsal) and will be presented to the couple following the wedding service. A certified copy may be obtained from the township clerk where the wedding took place several weeks after the wedding.
- If the wedding is to take place outside of New Jersey, it is the responsibility of Bride & Groom to determine the requirements of the state or country they are being married in; and where to apply for and to file the license.

WEDDING MUSIC

All aspects of the wedding service, including music, need to be approved by the pastor. The following apply to services held at the church

- Musical selections, including the processional and recessional, shall be discussed with the music director at the earliest possible date.
- The church music director has the first right of refusal with regards to providing music for the service.
- The music director or designated musician will play a 15-30 minute prelude, timed to the first arrival of guests.
- Additional music, vocal or instrumental, may be included and shall be discussed with the organist in consultation with the Pastor.

For weddings held off site, it will be the responsibility of the Bride and Groom to arrange for musicians and coordinate the music, which has been approved by the pastor, with them. A wireless microphone should also be provided for the pastor to use during the service.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

- The wedding rehearsal typically takes place on the day before the wedding. The date and time should be set when the couple meets for the first time with the Pastor.
- The entire wedding party should attend the wedding rehearsal and be on time.
- The purpose of the wedding rehearsal is to orient the wedding party to the proceedings, ensure that all the service elements are in place, and explain the various movements of the wedding service.
- The music director does **not** typically attend the rehearsal unless specific arrangements are made. Guest soloists or other featured musicians should plan to attend.
- The marriage license, wedding rings, and all honoraria are to be brought to the rehearsal to ensure that they are present for the wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING

- Photography and videography are to be done in a manner that respects the solemnity of the worship service.
- Flash photography or bright light videography are not allowed.
- If a photographer or videographer is used, he or she must consult with the Pastor prior to the start of the wedding about the service. The Pastor reserves the right to dismiss the photographer from the sanctuary should he or she become disruptive to the wedding service.
- Following the recessional and the receiving of guests, there will be time to re-stage the wedding service for portraits, if such reenactment is desired.

ON THE WEDDING DAY

- The announced time of the service is the start time for the processional.
- The Bridal party should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the service.
- The Groom, Best Man, and groomsmen should be in the Fellowship Hall 30 minutes prior to the service.
- All groomsmen should be prepared to greet guests and hand out bulletins 30 minutes before the service.
- Time for delivery of flowers to the church should be discussed with the Pastor.
- Please, no rice or confetti are to be used. Bubbles or flowers work nicely!

FLOWERS, CANDLES, ETC

- The couple is responsible for ordering of flowers and should speak with the Pastor as soon as possible about the flower selection. The florist is responsible for appropriate placing of sanctuary flowers.
- Flower arrangements may be left at the church or taken to the reception site following the wedding service.
- Any additional candles must be shielded to minimize dripping and may not be affixed to pews.
- An aisle runner for the wedding party is permitted. Should an aisle runner be used, the couple should discuss it with the Pastor.

ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

The consumption of alcoholic beverages, use of illegal substances, smoking, and carrying of weapons are prohibited in any church facility or on church grounds. Anyone bringing alcoholic beverages, illegal substances, or weapons, or who is intoxicated at the rehearsal or wedding will be asked to leave and may result in cancellation of the wedding and loss of fees. The couple is responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their guests.

HONORARIA

The following honoraria should be paid to the pastor at the conclusion of the wedding rehearsal, unless provisions or special considerations have been arranged with the Pastor:

	Non/Inactive Member	Active Member
A. Use of Church:	\$300	\$0
B. Pastor:	\$400	\$200
C. Music Director:	\$200	\$200
D. Bulletins:	\$75	\$0

- Fees for the church assume the wedding is held at the church.
- Off site weddings may incur a travel expense for the pastor.
- Delays to the start of the wedding beyond 15 minutes will incur a charge of \$100/15 mins.



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WEDDING APPLICATION

BRIDE (Complete Name): _____

Current Address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Birth Place: _____

Employment: _____ Work Phone (optional): _____

Church Membership/Religious Affiliation: _____

Children (Names & Ages): _____

Marital Status: *Never Married:* _____ *Divorced:* _____ *Widowed:* _____

GROOM (Complete Name): _____

Current Address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Age: _____ Birth Place: _____

Employment: _____ Work Phone (optional): _____

Church Membership/Religious Affiliation: _____

Children (Names & Ages): _____

Marital Status: *Never Married:* _____ *Divorced:* _____ *Widowed:* _____

Names after the Wedding: _____

Address: _____

PRE-MARITAL MEETINGS WITH THE PASTOR:

I. _____ III. _____ V. _____

II. _____ IV. _____ VI. _____

WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Anticipated Number in Attendance: _____ Bulletins (Y/N): _____

Reception Line Location: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Reception Location: _____ Time: _____

Best Man: _____ Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Groomsmen: _____ Bridesmaids: _____

Ring Bearer: _____ Flower Girl: _____

Additional Attendants: _____

Groom's Mother: _____ Bride's Mother: _____

Groom's Father: _____ Bride's Father: _____

Bride's Mother Escort: _____

Bride's Escort: _____

Music Director: _____ Phone/email: _____

Soloists / Special Musicians: _____

Solo/Special Music Requests: _____

Florist: _____ Phone/email: _____

Disposition of Flowers: *Leave in Sanctuary:* _____ *Take to Reception:* _____

Photographer: _____ Phone/email: _____

WEDDING SERVICE INFORMATION (to be filled in by pastor)

Exchanging Rings (1/2/No): _____ Aisle Runner (Yes/No): _____

Kneeling Bench (Yes/No): _____ Communion (Yes/No): _____

Unity Candle (Yes/No): _____ Unity Sand (Yes/No): _____

Other Worship Elements: _____

Special Readings: _____