

**Weddings at The Well,
a United Methodist Church**



**14770 Canada Avenue
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-423-2475
www.thewellmn.church**

All are welcome!

So, you're getting married! Congratulations! The congregation and staff of The Well, a United Methodist Church wish you every happiness in your new life! The booklet is designed to spell out policies and procedures to help you plan your wedding.

INTRODUCTION

Christian marriage is a lifelong covenant. This union is possible when God is the basis and bond of unity and when the couple is centered on Jesus Christ.

FIRST STEPS

1. To schedule your wedding, contact Brianna Hager by emailing bhager@thewellmn.church. Brianna will confirm the availability of the pastor and the church.

Please be advised that weddings are not scheduled in December, due to the high demands on the building and staff, nor are weddings scheduled during Holy Week (Palm Sunday - Easter). As Holy Week changes each year, please consult the church calendar for details.

If both the church (for on-site weddings) and the clergy are available, your wedding will be placed on the church calendar.

2. If your wedding will be held at The Well, you will be guided through the planning process by our Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator will be assigned to work with you, after your initial deposits have been received (see fee schedule for details). They will contact you for an introductory meeting during which they will go over planning your wedding, forms, schedules, policies and fees.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING & EDUCATION

Marriage is a very serious covenant and should not be entered into lightly or unadvisedly. It is necessary to prepare, not just for a wedding, but for a marriage that will last a lifetime. To that end, and because we take seriously the responsibility to help couples prepare, all couples being married at The Well, or having an off-site wedding officiated by one of the The Well clergy, are required to have pre-marital counseling.

Twelve hours of premarital counseling and education are required. The twelve hours includes time spent in sessions and in doing homework. Several resources are used in premarital counseling and education including the "Prepare" inventory, (which is taken on-line), along with other books and resources. The State of Minnesota gives couples who have completed twelve hours premarital counseling and education a \$70 discount on your marriage license.

The premarital counseling and education is done with a pastoral counselor, or a licensed therapist. You are advised to begin the counseling early in the wedding preparation process.

Our church has engaged the counseling services of Tracey Srenaski, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She will meet with couples three times. The fee for this professional counseling is \$250.00. The fee is payable to The Well and is due at the time you make your wedding reservation. Tracey may be reached at (952) 432-0043 ext. 3 or srenaskicounseling@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Frank Nelson, is another recommended resource for premarital counseling and education. He offers both one-on-one counseling as well as group classes around the Twin Cities. Complete information on how to register for a seminar is available at <http://mnmarriagepreparation.com/>

Some health insurance companies provide for counseling through the plan's mental health coverage. Check your own policy to see if this is a resource available to you. Be sure that any professional you see uses the PREPARE ENRICH inventory.

If you are currently living out of state and will be doing your premarital education and counseling there, consult the Prepare/Enrich website to locate a premarital educator/counselor in your community www.prepare-enrich.com. Click on the tab that says, "For Couples". There you will find a tab to "Find a PREPARE ENRICH Facilitator in your area."

Couples will need to provide to the pastor performing the wedding a statement/certificate from the person providing the counseling, indicating that premarital education and counseling has been completed. Please note: the pastors cannot conduct your wedding unless you have completed counseling.

The original copy of the statement/certificate should be presented to the County Clerk to receive the \$70 discount on your marriage license.

CLERGY

At this time, the Lead Pastor at The Well is appointed to serve the congregation:

Pastor Sherry Mortenson smortenson@thewellmn.church

There are also some retired clergy in our congregation who are sometimes available to officiate weddings.

As a rule, once a clergy leaves the church for a new appointment, they are not permitted to come back to officiate weddings. This rule is in place so that the couple can form a relationship with the person who will be their pastor going forward.

CLERGY FROM BEYOND The Well, a UMC

The Well welcomes other Christian licensed or ordained pastors to be involved in your wedding service if this is your desire. This is done at the invitation of a pastor at The Well. Please contact The Well pastor with the guest pastor's name and contact information. They will initiate contact with the guest pastor. The guest pastor must be in accord with the theology and policies of the United Methodist Church. Internet licenses and ordinations are not acceptable.

CLERGY ROLE IN PLANNING A WEDDING

Clergy at The Well will meet with you at least two times before your wedding. The first meeting will be an introductory meeting so all parties can get to know one another better, and for some preliminary planning. The second meeting will take place after you have completed your premarital education and counseling. At this meeting, the pastor will help you with the specific details of planning your ceremony. The clergy of The Well will conduct your wedding rehearsal and conduct the wedding ceremony.

OFF SITE WEDDINGS

The clergy of The Well are willing to do weddings at alternate, off-site locations. Availability for conducting these weddings is dependent upon schedule, location of the wedding site, travel time involved etc. There is an additional fee for off-site weddings.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

Music is an important part of a wedding service. The church organist can help you with your choice of music. Music in a wedding should direct attention to God, who sanctifies marriage, and special care should be taken to assure that it is suitable and reverent. Popular and/or secular music may not always be appropriate for the wedding ceremony. Some pieces are better suited for the reception. If you have a question about a piece of music, please consult the pastor or the organist. All music is subject to approval before the wedding.

ORGAN PIANO OR OTHER INSTRUMENTS

The Well has a grand piano and an organ in the sanctuary. The chapel has an upright piano. The Well has musicians that could be available to play the piano or organ at your ceremony. If you wish to have one of them play at your wedding, you will need to contact them and make arrangement.

Sheryl Vande Kamp - organ and piano svandekamp@thewellmn.church

Laurie Herman - piano and vocal laurie.herman@yahoo.com

Anna Everhart - piano and vocal annaeverhart@gmail.com

You may also choose to bring in your own pianist or other musicians.

SOLOISTS

Solos (or duets etc.) are often included in weddings. You may have a friend or family member you'd like to invite to participate as a soloist. There are also some soloists from our congregation who sometimes sing at weddings. You are responsible for making arrangements for any soloists, special musicians etc.

If you are having a soloist, it will be your responsibility to get the accompaniment music to our organist/pianist at least one week before the wedding so they have adequate time to rehearse.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Your marriage license may be ordered six months before the wedding and can be obtained through the Clerk of Court's office in any Minnesota county. It is your responsibility to bring the license to the church at least one week before the rehearsal, as well as a copy of your wedding bulletin.

Please keep in mind that there is a five-day waiting period between your application and when you pick up the license. Plan accordingly!

WEDDING REHEARSAL

It is important that all persons who will have a part in the wedding ceremony attend the rehearsal. This includes the couple, ushers, greeters, bridesmaids, groomsmen, readers, parents of the couple etc. You should inform your wedding party of The Well's location and the time of rehearsal. Please allow plenty of time to arrive. Rush hour traffic, locating the church (for those who have not been there before), road construction etc. should be taken into account.

**Please note, the organist/pianist generally does not attend the rehearsal, unless prior arrangements have been made with them directly.

OUR FACILITY

Most weddings are held in our sanctuary. The length of the center aisle is 37 feet. There are 8 pews on each side of the center aisle and 3 rows of chairs. The sanctuary seats 250 comfortably (**90 during this time of social distancing**), not including the choir chairs.

THE CHAPEL IS NOT AVAILABLE DURING THIS TIME.

The chapel is suitable for small weddings. It can hold up to 30 people. There is a piano in the chapel.

The Family Life Center is our largest venue. It is a multi-purpose room. It can hold chairs for 450 people (**150 during this time of social distancing**). This room would require an extra custodial fee for set up and take down.

RECEPTIONS (UNAVAILABLE AT THIS TIME)

The Fellowship Hall may be rented for a rehearsal dinner or a wedding reception. It can comfortably hold 100 people around tables. The Family Life Center can accommodate larger groups, with up to 300 people around tables.

The United Methodist Women of the church can be contracted to serve the reception or the meal can be catered in. Please see the fee schedule for details about costs.

EQUIPMENT

There are projectors available for use in both the Sanctuary and the Family Life Center. Sound equipment (microphones, monitors etc.) is available in both of those rooms as well. A sound technician from The Well is required if you desire to use the equipment.

Equipment and musical instruments should not be moved, except by a staff person. Seasonal decorations related to the liturgical season will be left in place.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The use of bird seed or confetti is not allowed. They are a tripping hazard for older folks or people with disabilities. They are also very, very difficult to clean up. The use of bubbles outside, is allowed.

There is no smoking in the church building or the church grounds. No alcohol or illegal drugs may be used on the church grounds. If any member of the wedding party shows evidence of drunkenness or drug usage, the Marriage Service will be postponed.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO TAPING

Pictures may be taken up to 1 1/2-2 hours before the wedding. The photographer must be finished in the sanctuary 30 minutes before the service. We ask that all flash photographs be taken before or after the wedding. No flash pictures should be taken during the wedding. Most photographers are very skilled in taking photos without using the flash.

Please include the following in your bulletin: "We respectfully request that no flash photographs be taken during the worship service."

Videos are welcome. The video cameras may be used as long as they do not interfere with the service.

CANDLES, FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

Candles are symbolic and enhance any worship setting. Brass candelabra are available and their use should be discussed with the wedding coordinator. If you choose to use a unity candle it must be provided by the couple. Flowers may be placed on the communion table or on stands in the chancel area. Bows may be put on the pews however, no tape is permitted.

YOUR WEDDING DAY

The bridal party will be assigned rooms for dressing. Please remember to empty the dressing rooms of any personal items BEFORE the wedding begins, as these rooms are not locked.

You may wish to bring snacks and water for the wedding party during the photo session time. Finger foods work best. Pick things that won't stain your clothing if spilled. Please provide napkins, plates, cups etc. and assign someone to clean up the snacks before the wedding begins.

PLANNING THE ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR YOUR WEDDING

Christian marriage is proclaimed as a sacred covenant reflecting Christ's covenant with the church. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage. Both words and actions consistently reflect the belief that the couple are equal partners in Christian marriage and that they are entering into the marriage of their own volition. Those present are understood to be an active congregation rather than simply passive witnesses. They give their blessing to the couple and to the marriage, and they join the prayer and praise.

Holy Communion may or may not be celebrated. If it is, it is most important that its significance be made clear. Specifically: (1) The marriage rite is included in a Service of Word and Table. (2) Not only the couple but the whole congregation are to be invited to receive Communion. It is our tradition to invite all Christians to the Lord's table. (3) There should be no pressure that would embarrass those who for whatever reason do not choose to receive Communion.

When planning the service, please keep in mind that this is a worship service and should glorify God. Prayers, Scripture, readings and music (which may include congregational hymns) are all appropriate.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 1, 23, 24, 67, 112, 127, 128, 145, 148
Genesis 1: 26-31, 2:18-25
Isaiah 54:5-8
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hosea 2:16-23
Matthew 5:1-10, 5:13-16, 7:21, 7:24-29,
19:3-6, 22:35-40
Mark 10:6-9, 10:13-16
John 2:1-11, 15:9-16
Romans 12:1-2, 12:9-18
I Corinthians 12:31-13:8a, 13, 3:15-20
Ephesians 3:14-21, 5:2, 5:21-33
Colossians 3:12-17
1 Peter 3:12-17
1 John 3:18-24, 4:7-16
Revelation 19: 1,5-9a

SUGGESTED SONGS FOR CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

(Page # in United Methodist hymnal)

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (126)
Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (93)
O God, Our help in Ages Past (117)
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (89)
Now Thank We All Our God (102)
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (139)
All Creatures of our God and King (62)
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (66)
Come, Christians, Join to Sing (158)
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart (160)
Be Thou My Vision (451)
Love Divine, All Love's Excelling ((384)
All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord (554)
O Perfect Love (645)
Come Down, O Love Divine (475)

**(CONGREGATIONAL SINGING
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED FOR INDOOR
WEDDINGS DUE TO COVID-19).**

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

Pre-Service Music

(Optional) Special Music (solo, duet, instrumental piece etc.)

Seating of the Grandparents

Seating of the Parents (Optional)

Processional

(Bridesmaids, groomsmen, etc.)

*Processional – may be the same music used for the attendants, or another piece of music
(Partner with his/her parents – Optional)*

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Response of the Families and People

Prayer

Scripture

Message

The Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Exchange of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

(Optional) Special Music

(Optional) Lighting of the Unity Candle (or other symbol)

Blessing of the Marriage

(Optional) Special Music

Dismissal with Blessing

Recessional