

YOUR WEDDING



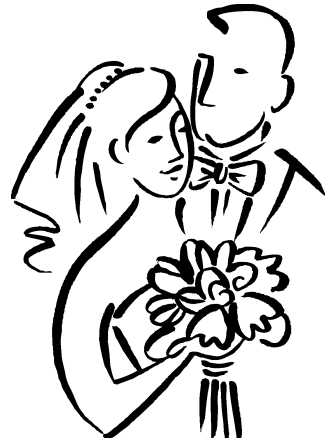
AT HISTORIC TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*This booklet is dedicated to all the wonderful
bridal couples who have chosen to celebrate
their wedding day at Historic Trinity United
Methodist Church since 1868.*

To The Bride & Groom

You are now beginning to plan for one of the biggest days of your life – your wedding day.

It will be a special day and one that you will remember for the rest of your life together as husband and wife. The staff and congregation of Trinity United Methodist Church are honored you have chosen Trinity for your wedding. We pledge our help to make your ceremony a lovely event filled with beauty and lasting significance.



Your wedding will be a Christian service, a time of worship. The service of marriage begins with the words, “Friends, we are gathered in the sight of God to witness and bless the joining together of this couple in Christian marriage.” As you prepare for your wedding, we ask that you take time to reflect upon the God-given blessings of love & marriage.

This booklet has been designed to assist you in preparing for your service of marriage & to help you in planning your new life together. Please read it thoroughly as you make your preparations & plan the details of your service.

May God bless your marriage, grant you fulfillment in it, and establish your home in peace.

The Staff & Congregation
Trinity United Methodist Church

From The Pastors

The pastors at Trinity are honored to be a part of your wedding. One of the joys of the pastoral ministry is being present at the high and holy moments of people's lives.

The service of worship celebrating your marriage is one such holy time. You will be committing yourselves, before God and before your families & friends, to spend a lifetime together. To make these promises is an act of covenant. Your wedding is the time to praise God for his gift of creation, for divine love, and for the celebration of life.

We want your wedding to be as personal and authentic as possible. The general guidelines for the service are included in this booklet, and you are encouraged to read through them. If you have any particular scriptures, hymns, readings or other things you would like to use in your ceremony, please let Trinity's wedding coordinator know.

The first of Jesus' public miracles took place at a wedding in Cana. By his presence and power there, Jesus affirmed the goodness of marriage. May Christ be present in your life together as well.

The Trinity Pastors

Tracey Leslie

Suzanne Clemenz

A Note from Your Wedding Coordinator

This booklet contains most of the information you will need to plan your wedding at Trinity United Methodist Church.

However, it is likely you will have questions which you don't find answered in these pages. Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you have. I do not keep an office at the church, but I can be reached by phone or email.

Cell 765-586-5810

Email: weddings@trinitylafayette.org

My role in your wedding is to coordinate the details that you choose to be a part of your ceremony. I will make suggestions as plans are made, but I want this to be the wedding you have dreamed of and looked forward to. Your wedding will be unique, just as the two of you are unique individuals.

I look forward to working with you and helping plan this special day. I pray god's blessings on your marriage as you honor him.

Sincerely,

Robin Young

Wedding Coordinator

Reserve your wedding date

To reserve your wedding at trinity, all fees must be paid in full. Once paid, your wedding date will be reserved on the church calendar.

Your Wedding Ceremony

The wedding service is an act of worship. In the United Methodist church, there is a service of Christian marriage. If you would like to make changes in or additions to your wedding ceremony to make it more personal – such as interfaith marriage or because of other considerations, our wedding coordinator will be happy to discuss this with you.

Basic Pattern of Worship For a Christian Marriage

Gathering

Prelude – Solos, Organ, Piano, Strings Music, etc.

Entrance – Processional

Greeting – A Welcome to All Gathered In the Name of Christ

Response of Families &/or Congregation – families give their blessing to their children as they leave their immediate family to form their own new family

Congregational Response and Blessing

Opening Prayer

Proclamation

Scripture Lesson & Praise – could also include music, reading of literature or poetry about the meaning of marriage.

Pastor's Message

Prayer

The Marriage

Exchange of Vows

Blessing & Giving Of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Lighting of Unity Candle (Optional)

Thanksgiving

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer.

The congregation will say the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Holy Communion (Optional)

Announcement of Husband and Wife

Dismissal with Blessing

Usual Schedule for the Ceremony

Bride, groom and all of the wedding party should arrive at the church 2 – 4 hours prior to the ceremony start time.

Ushers should be ready to seat guests one hour before the ceremony

The usual order is:

Piano, Organ or Other Music

Guests Are Seated

Special Music, If Any

Parents Escorted To Altar for Lighting Of Family Candles

Bride's Mother and Groom's Parents Seated

Entrance of Pastor, Groom & His Attendants

Bridal Processional

Bride's Entrance

Ceremony

Recessional

Dismissal of Parents

Dismissal of Guests

Guidelines For Your Trinity Wedding

Music

At Trinity the organ &/or piano may be used for your wedding music. If you want organ music, the wedding coordinator will schedule one for you. The organist can also be asked to play the piano instead of or in addition to the organ. Organist fees can vary depending on your choice of music and other considerations.

Other instruments, such as harp, strings, guitar, trumpet or vocalist can add another dimension to your ceremony. Recorded music can also be used.

Please consult with our wedding coordinator about your music selections.

Fees for all musicians should be paid directly to the artist no later than the day of your rehearsal.

Decorations

The sanctuary has a beauty of its own that lends itself to simplicity. Any decorations should not hide the cross on the altar or block entrances for the bridal party, pastor or guests. Do not use tacks or tape on any furniture. Nothing can be attached to the candelabra. Chancel and altar furniture may not be moved.

Potted plants, silk, dried or fresh flowers can be used. If you wish to leave flowers for use on Sunday following your wedding, please let our coordinator know of your plans. The Sunday bulletin will include an announcement of your wedding.

Trinity can provide a pair of floor-length seven branch candelabra for a small fee. All candles must be removed by a Trinity staff member.

Bridal consultants

Outside bridal consultants are not permitted to assist at the church with your ceremony. Trinity UMC has an experienced wedding coordinator on staff. She will be able to assist, advise and direct you through every aspect of your ceremony.

Church facilities

The sanctuary seats 450 people. Rooms are available in the church building for the bridal party to use for dressing.

Handicapped access is available on the north and south side of the building. Your guests may park in the church parking lot on the corner of 5th and North Street

The church is located at the corner of North and 6th Streets. The mailing address is: 509 North St. Lafayette, IN 47901

Photography

Pictures may be taken before &/or after the service. No flash is to be used during the ceremony. Please be sure your photographer is aware of this in advance, so he or she is prepared with the proper equipment.

Videotaping is permitted but must be done in a non-intrusive, stationary manner. Filming from a pre-determined location in the balcony is preferred, not the choir loft or altar area. Only natural lighting may be used.

Wedding programs

You are responsible for printing your wedding programs. Your officiate or wedding coordinator will help you determine the order of service

Marriage license

Couples must go to the county clerk's office to get a marriage license. You must obtain your license in the Indiana County you reside; only one of you needs to live in that county. If both of you reside outside the state of Indiana, you must obtain your license in Tippecanoe Co. Please check with your county clerk's office in advance to learn all the requirements, such as cost, identification needed, and length of validity. Note that in Tippecanoe Co. the fee must be paid in cash; this may be true elsewhere as well.

Communion

The UMC tradition is for the service of Holy Communion to be open to everyone. If you wish to include the celebration of communion in your ceremony, please discuss this with your officiate and wedding coordinator. You will be responsible for providing the grape juice and bread.

Clergy

Our clergy perform marriages on a rotating basis. If you wish to request a specific pastor, please make your wishes known as soon as possible, and we will do what we can to accommodate you, depending on the pastor's commitments. If you include a pastor from another church to be your officiate, be sure to tell our coordinator as early as possible. Guest ministers must be ordained by a denomination or recognized congregation.

Counseling

We require all wedding couples to attend pre-marital counseling sessions. Counseling can be obtained from the Trinity ministers or through a credentialed counselor. If an outside source is used, a letter of successful completion is required from your counselor.

We will not conduct your wedding until your counseling has been completed.

Children in the wedding party

Very young children are unable to understand the significance of the wedding ceremony and may cause distractions. We strongly suggest that children under the age of four not be included in your wedding party.

You are not allowed to:

Throw rice, bird seed or metallic confetti on church property.
Serve alcoholic beverages in the church building.
Smoke anywhere within the church or church entrance area.

Changes?

Please consult Trinity's wedding coordinator before you make any changes in your wedding arrangements or schedule

Rehearsal

The key to having your wedding day run smoothly is a well-organized rehearsal. The rehearsal will be under the direction of Trinity's wedding coordinator. Please be sure that all members of your wedding party arrive on time for the rehearsal.

Parents, ushers, musicians, scripture readers, and any others participating in the ceremony should attend.

Please ask those attending your rehearsal to enter the church from the north street doors.

Your rehearsal should take approximately one hour.

Fees

Trinity members are not required to pay a fee for the use of the facilities. However, if the couple wishes, a contribution may be made to help defray operating expenses. Likewise, our pastors do not charge a set fee to Trinity members. An honorarium is left to the discretion of the wedding couple.

There is a fee for the wedding coordinator, the custodian, and the sound technician.

Those who are not members of Trinity are asked to pay all the same fees as members, with the addition of a facility use fee and a pastor's fee. When all fees are paid in full, your date will be reserved on the church calendar.

