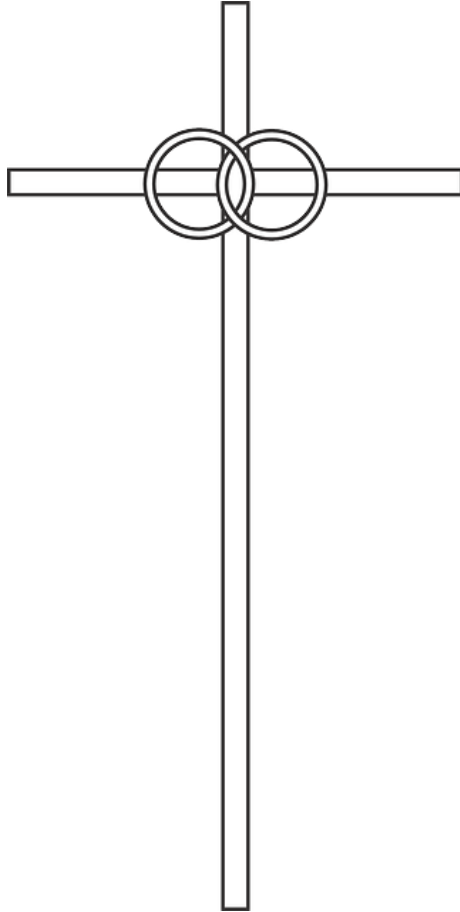


WEDDING GUIDELINES



CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH
6870 CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH ROAD
COOPERSBURG, PA 18036
610-967-1196

CONTACTS:

PASTOR: **Pastor Teresa**

At this time, as our church continues the Search process for a new Pastor, Pastor Teresa will be officiating all wedding services.

Please call the church for further information

MUSIC DIRECTOR: **Erica Dickson**

Church: (610) 967-1196

Email: edickson@chcucc.org

SEXTON: **Sandy Eckhart**

Church (610) 967-1196

Email: sanddune13@yahoo.com

CHURCH SECRETARY: **Robin Klobosits**

Church (610) 967-1196

Email: secretary@chcucc.org

Dear Friends:

First and foremost, congratulations on your upcoming wedding ceremony. I am grateful that you have chosen Chestnut Hill Church for your wedding service. As Christians, I recognize that the essence of a wedding is a covenantal commitment that has its foundations in the faithfulness of God's love. The wedding service is a glad occasion in which two people unite as one in the mutual exchange of covenant promises. By agreeing to marry you, the church gives your wedding the blessing of Christ. Those who join you in your wedding service affirm, by their presence, your covenantal promises and offer support and thanksgiving for the new family that is created.

Congregational and Pastoral participation, traditions, and local customs must be taken into consideration when you choose to be married in a Christian Church. You need to know something about the Church you have chosen and the Pastor who has been asked to marry you. That is the reason for this booklet to be shared with you. I ask you to read it carefully before you come for your next gathering with me. I invite you to make a list of any questions you have that you'd like to discuss at that time.

You will be invited to participate in the planning of your wedding every step of the way. I hope you will take this responsibility seriously and work together with me to make your wedding something special which you will always remember in the years ahead.

Cordially,

Chestnut Hill Church

YOUR WEDDING AT CHESTNUT HILL CHURCH

Chestnut Hill Church and its Pastor are eager to assist you in planning for your wedding. Proper planning, the right setting, and positive attitudes all combine to ensure that your wedding will be a beautiful, memorable, and reverent experience, one in which we hope that you will remember for a very long time.

A wedding is a service of worship where God is glorified, the good news of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, marriage vows are made, and prayers are offered for the couple, the community, and the world. In Christian worship, we experience God's grace through the reading of scripture, water, bread, and wine. Couples whose lives have been shaped by the worship life of the church may choose to make their vows around the pulpit, the font, and the communion table, in response to these central means of grace. Since Christians may worship anywhere, however, marriage vows may be made and witnessed in any place. A Christian wedding includes scripture and may also include reminders of Baptism and the celebration of Communion.

The Christian wedding service derives its meaning from the life, faith, and practice of the Christian community. Therefore, you are encouraged to attend services of worship on a regular basis during the period of preparation for your wedding. Services can be attended in person or via a live stream feed each Sunday. If your residence is out of town (more than a 1-hour drive), we ask that you attend Chestnut Hill Church as often as you can, especially using the live stream. This is not to be understood so much as a requirement, but as a good faith act of preparation toward understanding the meaning of the Christian faith and wedding.

A CHRISTIAN WEDDING

By desiring to be married in a church, you have declared your intention to be married within the traditions and in accordance with the established understanding of what a Christian wedding entails. As such, a Christian wedding is defined as a

publicly declared covenant between two people, reflected in the exchange of sacred vows before God, and a minister of the gospel, with the express intent that such vows as offered and received are a lifelong commitment and covenant between you and your life partner.

Having made a decision to accept the principles of Christian wedding and desiring to begin your life together in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, this also implies that following your wedding you will want to continue your new relationship by becoming involved in the worship and mission of a church where you live. Accepting a Christian wedding means that you intend to continue living together in the Christian Faith.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

There are many details that need to be considered for your ceremony. Amid all the details of a wedding ceremony and the festivities afterward, it will be easy to lose sight of the sacredness of the wedding service. Try to keep yourselves focused on the Christian meaning of your wedding. Take time to pray and meditate. Doing so may even make the planning easier.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- 1) **The Wedding Date:** Please contact the Pastor and the Church Secretary as soon as a date is chosen to ensure that the church and the Pastor are available.
- 2) **Seasons of the Church Year and Special Events:** In planning your wedding date, bear in mind the seasons of the church year. Should you decide to be married during Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, or Lent, you need to know that seasonal and liturgical decorations will already be in place. You are asked not to plan weddings during Holy Week, beginning the Saturday before Palm Sunday through Easter, due to the intense schedule of Church programs and services.

THE WEDDING LICENSE

Obtaining a wedding license is necessary for your marriage to be considered legal and binding. While this is a secular requirement, please understand that the Pastor will need to sign this document and return a portion to the County Register of Wills within 10 days (in most Counties within the State of Pennsylvania) of your wedding ceremony. So, it is imperative that the license be acquired within the County's guidelines and in advance of the wedding date. The license must be given to the Pastor on the night of the Rehearsal.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

The wedding service will follow the traditions of the United Church of Christ, but can reflect a more contemporary understanding of wedding, depending upon the desires of the couple to be married. For example, the vows are mutual and the word obey has been removed for a more inclusive and contemporary understanding of what a marriage entails.

You are free to include other meaningful additions to your ceremony. In your time with the Pastor, these items will be discussed, and the details of your ceremony will be planned. It is important to discuss your wishes regarding music with the church's Music Director and the Pastor as soon as you can. Although every consideration will be given to your wishes, the Pastor and Music Director reserve the right to approve all music selected for the service.

If you have hired a wedding planning to assist you on your wedding day, please make sure to inform this individual that all things that occur at the church are under the discretion of the Pastor. The Pastor will make every effort to accommodate any suggestions, however this is a sacred service of the church and as such, the Pastor will have final say on all activities related to the service.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal is a very important part of the success of your wedding. Please ensure that all participants attend the rehearsal at the church. With minor exceptions, all parents and participants should attend; including any children or individuals who may be participating in other ways, singing, etc. The rehearsal will take approximately one hour. During this time, the Pastor will review the service as it is designed, help everyone to understand the flow of the service, and practice the actual ceremony. The rehearsal should happen more than 3 days prior to the service.

MUSIC

Chestnut Hill has a Music Director to assist you in choosing musical selections for your special day. In coordination with the Pastor, contact the Music Director as soon as the date is set so that the Music Director can begin planning with you and the Pastor.

If you wish to have other musicians provide music for your wedding, please consult the Pastor before you engage these musicians. When choosing music, please keep in mind that your wedding service is a worship service-a sacred rite; therefore, the choice of music should be appropriate for a worship service.

PICTURES / VIDEOS

Recording these happy events is important, and cameras or camcorders are welcomed. However, please inform the Pastor and instruct the photographer or videographer to speak to the Pastor regarding the customs of the church for placement of video cameras and where the photographer can be during the service. **Under no circumstances will flash photography be allowed during the ceremony.** Any re-creation of special moments of the ceremony can be done after the service has been completed.

DECORATIONS

All floral arrangements and/or decorations shall be consistent with the sacred purpose of the occasion. No nail, thumbtacks or tape shall be used on any church walls or furniture. If you have any questions—please contact the church Sexton. Altar flowers may be left for the Sunday service (if the service is within 3 days of a regular Sunday worship) or removed. If you desire to leave the flowers for worship, please let the Pastor and the church Sexton know of your wishes.

AISLE RUNNER

The florist can provide a white aisle runner, if desired. A cloth runner should be requested. Plastic and paper runners are a hazard and therefore discouraged.

CELEBRATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Traditionally, the newly married couple exits the church as folks desire to celebrate the wedding. Please do not plan to throw anything inside the church. Once outside the church, the throwing of rice, bird seed, or confetti is not permitted. Please consider other alternative such as: bubbles, bells, horns, butterfly releases, etc. are all completely acceptable ways for the celebrations to begin.

RECEPTIONS

Receptions may be held at the Church in the fellowship hall for small groups of 50 persons or less. Outside catering must be arranged since the Church does not provide this service. Please note that alcoholic beverages, aside from communion wine, are not permitted on church property.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Since the wedding ceremony is understood to be a service of worship, Scripture is given a prominent place. A Christian wedding is a response to the Word of God and is guided by that Word. This is expressed not only by the fact that Scripture lessons are read in the service, but also by the large number of biblical phrases and allusions found throughout the service.

There are several passages in the Bible that speak directly about wedding, and there are other appropriate passages as well. It is recommended that at least two scripture passages are chosen for the service. The following list of readings is recommended for your devotional use and for readings during the service.

Old Testament:

Gen. 1:26–31	Humankind created in the image of God
Gen. 2:18–24	Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh
Ruth 1:16–17a	Where you go, I will go
1 Sam. 18:1–4	Jonathan made a covenant with David
Prov. 3:3–6	Trust the Lord with all your heart
Eccl. 4:9–12	Two are better than one
Song 2:8–13	Arise, my love, and come away.
Song 8:6–7	Set me as a seal upon your heart
Jer. 31:31–34	The Lord will make a new covenant

Psalms:

Ps. 8	Mortals crowned with glory and honor
Ps. 67	May God be gracious to us
Ps. 95:1–7	O come, let us sing to the Lord
Ps. 100	Make a joyful noise to the Lord
Ps. 103:1–5, 15–18	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 117	Great is God’s steadfast love
Ps. 121	Lift up my eyes to the hills
Ps. 128	Happy is everyone who fears the Lord
Ps. 136:1–9, 26	O give thanks, for God is good
Ps. 145	I will exalt you, O God my King
Ps. 148	Praise the Lord
Ps. 150	Everything that breathes praise the Lord

Epistle (Pastoral Letters of the New Testament):

Rom. 12:1–2	Present your bodies as a living sacrifice
Rom. 12:9–18	Let love be genuine
1 Cor. 13:1–13	Faith, hope, love...the greatest is love
Gal. 3:27–28	You have clothed yourselves with Christ
Eph. 5:21–33	Be subject... out of reverence for Christ

Phil. 4:4–9	Rejoice in the Lord always
Col. 3:12–17	Clothe yourselves with love
1 John 4:7–12	Let us love one another...God is love
Rev. 19:1, 5–9	Rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb

Gospel:

Matt. 5:1–10	The Beatitudes
Matt. 5:13–16	Salt of the earth, light of the world
Matt. 7:24–27	A wise man built his house on rock
Matt. 19:3–6	No longer two, but one flesh
Matt. 22:35–40	Love the Lord...
Mark 10:6–9	What God has joined, let no one separate
John 2:1–11	The wedding at Cana
John 15:1–17	Jesus, the true vine

SUGGESTED HONORARIUMS*

The church is open to all members and non-members by proper pre-arrangement with the Pastor, Music Director and Sexton. The following are suggested honorariums:

MEMBER

Music Director	\$ 250.00
Sexton	\$ 200.00
Pastor	\$ 300.00
Use of Social Hall	\$ 100.00

Deposit for clean-up of Social Hall of \$100.00 will be refunded upon inspection at the end of the event.

Suggested honorariums for use of church resources
\$ 750.00

INACTIVE & NON –MEMBERS**

Music Director	\$ 300.00
Sexton	\$ 250.00
Pastor’s fee	\$ 450.00
Use of church	\$ 200.00

Use of social hall /

Tent Rental Space	\$ 200.00
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Deposit for clean-up of Social Hall of
\$100.00 will be refunded upon
inspection at the end of the event.

Total potential fees for use of church and resources
\$1,400.00

****An inactive member is defined by our Constitution, By-Laws and Policies and Procedures and is anyone who has not fulfilled the responsibilities of membership. Please refer to the Constitution and By-laws and Policies of the church for more information.**

- 1) All honorariums should be received on the night of the rehearsal or by prior arrangement with the Pastor, at another time prior to the wedding.
- 2) Bulletins can be prepared for the wedding service. You may elect to purchase your own cover, or one can be designed for you. Please consult with the Pastor during planning should you desire a bulletin for your special day. Cost to prepare bulletins will be \$75 per 100 bulletins with a minimum of 50 bulletins as the covers typically come in packs of 50. If less than 100 bulletins will be prepared, the minimum cost will be \$75.

WEDDING PLANNING WORKSHEET:

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Full Names of Participants (First Middle Last):

Address:

Father's Names:

Mother's Names:

Children's Names (if applicable):

Date & Time of Wedding Ceremony:

Place of Wedding Ceremony:

Bridal Party Names:

Photographer or Videographer:	Yes	No
Use of Music Director:	Yes	No
Use of Church:	Yes	No
Use of Unity Candle or other symbol of marriage?	Yes	No
Would you like to include communion in the service?	Yes	No
Will you exchange rings, or some other symbol of wedding vows taken?	Yes	No

Musical Selections to consider:

Prelude (music before service) _____

Entrance (wedding party) _____

Entrance (mothers) _____

Special Entrance music _____

Hymns:

Other special music: _____

Exit Music for wedding party _____

Postlude (music after service) _____