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### Marriage takes three

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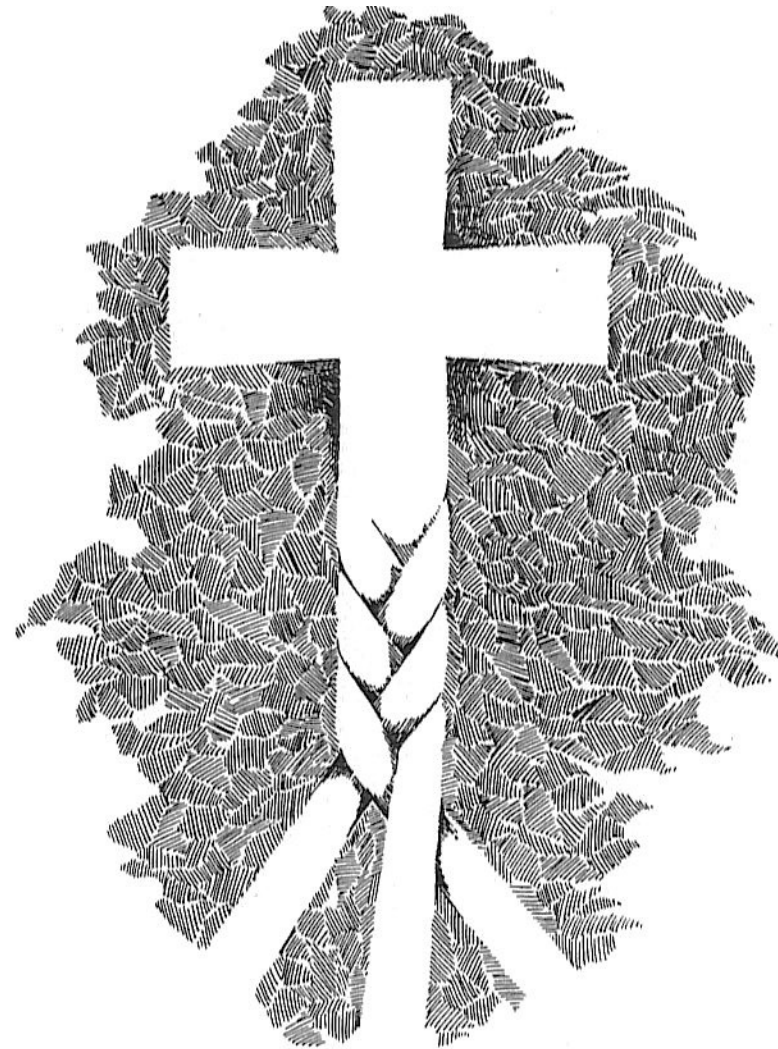
Marriage takes three to be complete;  
It's not enough for two to meet.  
They must be united in love by love's  
Creator, God above.

Then their love will be firm and strong;  
Able to last when things go wrong.  
Because they've felt God's love and know  
He's always there, He'll never go.

And they have both loved him in kind  
With all the heart and soul and mind.  
And in that love they've found the way  
To love each other every day.

A marriage that follows God's plan  
Takes more than a woman and a man.  
It needs a oneness that can be  
Only From Christ—  
marriage takes three.

—Submitted by Pat Roach



A CORD  
OF THREE STRANDS  
IS NOT QUICKLY  
TORN APART.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

## **Your Wedding**

**at the**

### **BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*THE BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH* wishes to make your wedding a memorable experience.

Included in this booklet is information to help you complete your wedding plans. The Pastor and staff look forward to ministering to you in the days ahead. Should answers to your questions not be covered in these, please feel free to phone the church office at 814-266-9588.

Or you may email the church office at:

[bethanyumcjohnstown@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyumcjohnstown@gmail.com)

or the Pastor at:

[circuitdr@gmail.com](mailto:circuitdr@gmail.com)

## **Pastoral Conferences**

The wedding date should be set in consultation with the pastor and the church office at the earliest possible time.

The couple should establish an appointment schedule for premarital counseling with the pastor. The purpose of the counseling session is to help you through the dynamics of your new relationship as well as the mechanical aspects of your wedding.

Bring the marriage license with you to the wedding rehearsal.

## **Wedding rehearsal**

The rehearsal is generally scheduled the evening before your wedding ceremony. The time for the rehearsal should be set in consultation with the pastor.

If you are inviting the pastor and his family to the rehearsal dinner and/or reception, this should be a written invitation and should be given at least one (1) month in advance.

## Preceding the ceremony

The Bride, her attendants and the mothers of the Bride and Groom may dress and prepare for the wedding at the church. The pastor will suggest the area which will best suit your needs. It is advised that sufficient time be allotted to be fully ready at the appointed hour.

The Groom and the Best Man will meet the pastor in the church office one hour before the ceremony.

The mothers should be seated before the time of the ceremony as per instructions received at the rehearsal.

The procession of the attendants should begin at the time designated on the wedding invitation.

## Photographs

The photographer and pictures to be taken are the decision of the Bride and Groom.

To keep the religious and reverent atmosphere and for the best photographic results, our experience has proven that the best pictures of the wedding party are taken after the ceremony. The pastor should be informed during pre-marital counseling sessions if he is to be included in the pictures.

***No flash pictures are to be taken during the ceremony***

A video recorder can be used with permission from the pastor and under his guidance.

## Wedding Fees

### Member in Good Standing

The Sanctuary and dressing areas are available to current church members who are in good standing<sup>1</sup> without charge.

It is your responsibility to take care of the Pastor's compensation for counseling sessions, rehearsal and the wedding ceremony.

The church organist should be given not less than \$75.00. If a soloist is used, the organist should be compensated an additional \$25.00 per soloist.

Permission must be received from the pastor if you plan to use your own organist. It is the responsibility of the Bride and Groom to negotiate this fee.

The custodian is to receive \$75.00.

### Non-Members:

Non-members will pay a flat fee of \$300.00 for the use of the church facilities.

The pastor is to receive no less than \$200.00 which includes the wedding ceremony, the rehearsal and counseling sessions prior to the ceremony.

The church organist should be given not less than \$80.00. If a soloist is used, the organist should be compensated an additional \$25.00 per soloist. You may elect to use your own organist but there will be no change in the fee unless our church organist is not available.

The custodian is to receive \$80.00.

***All Fees are due no later than the evening of the Dress Rehearsal prior to the date of the wedding ceremony.***

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<sup>1</sup> Member in good standing is one who regularly attends worship and participates in church related activities. Members who are not in good standing will be treated as non-members

## **Wedding Bulletins**

Wedding bulletin stock is provided by the Bride and Groom. The pastor can give you suggestions as to where you can purchase the stock.

The church office secretary can print the bulletin for the ceremony. The fee for producing the bulletins will be:

\$35.00 per 100 bulletins plus a flat fee paid to the secretary of

\$50.00 per production.

Fees are payable when the bulletin stock is brought to the church office.

## **Other Needs**

Altar candles are provided by the church. Special or additional candles are the responsibility of the Bride and Groom.

An aisle runner or any other special items to decorate the sanctuary should be available from your florist. The aisle runner needs to be 75 feet long for the aisle at Bethnay.

## **Music for the church wedding**

Even at the smallest wedding, worshipful music will add dignity and reverence to the ceremony.

Most sacred or religious music, which has a joyful or prayerful character, is suitable for a wedding. The use of hymns that denote the spirit of such an occasion and make the ceremony more meaningful spiritually is widely accepted. Certain popular songs may be used in your wedding provided the music is in keeping with the religious significance of the service and maintains the dignity of this holy event. No secular or popular songs should be used in the service, however, without consultation with the pastor.

It is the responsibility of the Bride to make contact with the organist and to setup an appointment to discuss the selection of wedding music. This should be done at least two months in advance of the wedding date. The pastor can provide a listing of persons available to serve as organist if the church organist is not available.

Should you desire a soloist, it shall be the responsibility of the soloist to contact the organist and provide the organist with copies of the compositions to be sung and to arrange a mutual rehearsal time.

## WEDDING DIRECTORY

MINISTER \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH OFFICE – 724-446-7200

ORGANIST \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

SOLOIST \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTODIAN \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

FLORIST \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOGRAPHER \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

RECEPTION:HOSTESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR WEDDING

A wedding is an act of worship, a service of praise and thanksgiving to God celebrating the union of two persons. Although social events are held in conjunction with it, it is not a social event in itself. Within the structure of the church, the pastor stands as a representative of the people of God. Those who seek to be married within this Christian community do so because they seek not only the pastor's guidance, but because they wish to devote their love and life to God and to each other in covenant. Publicly the church wedding proclaims the establishment of a Christian home for themselves and for whatever children may bless their lives.

A congregation of Christian friends is present at a wedding to participate with the couple in the act of worship as witnesses to the vows and as petitioners to God that His blessing might be experienced in the establishment of this new family.

Every effort will be taken to make your wedding a meaningful occasion in good taste and with religious sincerity.

We remind you there is to be no beer or alcoholic beverages on Church premises.

### CHECK LIST

_____ License	_____ Minister	_____ Organist
_____ Soloist	_____ Florist	_____ Aisle runner
_____ Reception	_____ Gowns	_____ Gifts
_____ Fees	_____ Candles	_____ Unity candle
_____ Candelabra	_____ Bulletins	_____ Photographer
_____ Newspaper	_____ Rings	_____ Physical exam
_____ Attendants	_____ Ushers	_____ Boutonnieres
_____ Attendants' bouquets		_____ Music (sung)
_____ Music (played)		