

Planning Your Wedding

IS PATIENT
IS KIND
DOES NOT ENVY
ALWAYS
HOPES
ALWAYS
PERSE
VERES
AL
WAYS
TRUSTS
DOES NOT BOAST
REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH
NOT SELF-SEEKING ALWAYS
PROTECTS NOT EASILY ANGERED
D KEEPS NO RECORDS OF WRO
NG DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS
LOVE NEVER FAILS 1 COR 13:4-8

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

Your wedding involves some important decisions as you begin life together. The staff at Onalaska United Methodist Church want to help you have a meaningful and memorable experience.

This booklet is designed to help you get started on your preparations for a Christian marriage. Read it, and contact us to speak with the pastor about planning your special service.

We pray that God will bless you throughout this time of planning and preparation, and that your marriage will bear fruit to last a lifetime.



PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

SELECTION OF THE DATE

The first thing to do is to decide upon the date. This is best done as early as possible, at least four months before the ceremony. Contact the pastor you would like to have officiate and agree upon the date. At this time the church also needs to know if you want to have your reception in the fellowship hall.

DO WE HAVE TO BE MEMBERS OF ONALASKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH?

Not necessarily. But it is hoped that you are giving serious consideration to membership at this church or another church of your choice.

OUTDOOR OR OFF-SITE WEDDINGS

Outdoor weddings, or weddings at other meaningful locations can be very appropriate and beautiful. However, they usually require much more planning and it is best to have an alternate indoor site in the event of poor weather. Please let the pastor know of your plans during your initial contact.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

It is your responsibility to contact the pastor to schedule your wedding planning and counseling sessions. It is typical to meet several times prior to the wedding.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Both of you must apply for your marriage license in person at the County Clerk's office in the county in which at least one of you live. You may have to present a certified birth certificate and any divorce decrees. The fee is \$90 (as of 2021). The license should be applied for at least 7 days before the marriage date and is valid for 30 days from the date of issue. Bring the license with you to the rehearsal. At that point it becomes the legal responsibility of the officiating pastor.

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/countyclerk/marriage.asp>

WEDDING REHEARSAL

Usually wedding rehearsals are held the evening before the ceremony itself. They usually take about an hour. All people involved in the ceremony need to be present.

THE CEREMONY

We recommend you use the standard United Methodist wedding service, customized with your choice of scripture, music, or other special additions in consultation with the pastor. A normal wedding ceremony is about 30 minutes or less.

MUSIC

Musical tastes vary widely. Remember, the wedding ceremony is a service of worship. All music selections are subject to the approval of the pastor. Lyrics must not be offensive or crude in any way. You may hire one of our church musicians, or you may supply your own. You must take the initiative to meet with the musician and choose the music you want to use. Although live music is recommended, we have the ability to play pre-recorded music from CD or audio files.

SANCTUARY, CHANGING ROOMS & NURSERY

The sanctuary seats 250 people; the Heritage Chapel is a more intimate space for 10-20 people. The church has air conditioning. We can designate changing rooms for the wedding party. If you need to use the nursery for young children, an adult must be present at all times as well. You can leave snacks and drinks in the kitchen refrigerator. You can usually leave clothing at the church after rehearsal. You are responsible for removal of all trash items such as boxes and hangers after the ceremony.

ALCOHOL & TOBACCO

The consumption of alcoholic beverages on church property is prohibited and may result in the cancellation of your wedding. Members of the wedding party who are intoxicated will not be allowed to participate. We are a smoke-free facility.

DECORATIONS

You can usually decorate the church any way you wish in consultation with the pastor. Usually you can decorate the night before the ceremony . All decorations must be done so as not to damage any of the church furnishings. Helium balloons are not allowed in the sanctuary because of the problem of getting them down from the ceiling. Aisle runners should be at least 70 feet long. Unity candles must be supplied by you. You may throw bird seed or blow bubbles outside if you wish. Rice is not allowed. You are responsible to see that all items are removed after the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Good photographers can record this special occasion for your enjoyment in the years to come. If you don't have a professional photographer in mind, we can make recommendations. We ask that no flash pictures be taken during the ceremony except by your designated photographer. Plan the time for your picture session with your photographer.

VIDEO

Videos are another good way to record the memories. Video cameras must be used discreetly. Video operators cannot be in the chancel area during the ceremony. They may be at rehearsal so they can experiment with lighting and camera angles. We have a dedicated camera platform at the back of the sanctuary.

BULLETINS

If you want to have a bulletin for your ceremony, the pastor can help you outline the ceremony for the congregation to participate appropriately. The church office can copy your bulletin for a small fee; this should be done at least a week before the ceremony.

PETS

No animals are allowed inside the church.

FEE SCHEDULE

Member Wedding \$600

This applies to those who are members of Onalaska United Methodist Church. This cost includes use of the facilities, the musician, custodian, and the pastor's honorarium for counseling and the wedding. Separate checks should be written to the church for facility fee and to each person for their services. See the Pastor or Office Manager for correct names.

Church Facility:.....	\$150.00	Pastor:	\$200.00
Musician:.....	\$75.00	Cleaning:	\$50.00
Coordinator	\$75.00	Tech (if needed):..	\$50.00

Non-Member Wedding \$800

This applies to those who are NOT members of Onalaska United Methodist Church PRIOR TO THE DATE of the wedding. The cost includes the use of the facilities, organist, custodian, and the pastor's honorarium for counseling , and the wedding. This will be adjusted if you become members PRIOR to the wedding date. Separate checks should be written to the church for facility fee and to each person for their services. See Pastor or Office Manager for correct names.

Church Facility:.....	\$350.00	Pastor:	\$200.00
Organist:.....	\$75.00	Cleaning:	\$50.00
Coordinator	\$75.00	Tech (if needed):..	\$50.00

Additional Costs

Soloists, other musicians or clergy other than the pastors of Onalaska United Methodist Church are not included above.

If wedding programs will be printed by the church there is a cost of \$0.20 per program.

Deposit..... \$100

Deposit must be made within two weeks of reserving date of wedding with the church office.

The deposit will be applied to the facility cost due. All costs must be paid in full at least one week prior to the wedding.

Checks may be sent to:
Onalaska United Methodist Church
212 4th Avenue North, Onalaska, WI 54650

WEDDING WORSHIP

OPTIONS SHEET

Contact the church office for an outline of the wedding service with vows and other options.

1. Suggested Scripture Lessons

Song of Songs 2:10-14, 16a; 8:6-7	Wisdom teachings of love
Isaiah 43:1-7	You are precious in God's eyes
Isaiah 55:10-13	You shall go out in joy
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of the Lord
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	The life of a Christian
1 Corinthians 13	The greatest of these is love
2 Corinthians 5:14-17	In Christ, a new creation
Ephesians 2:4-10	God's love for us
Ephesians 3:14-19	Rooted and grounded in love
Ephesians 4:1-6	Called to the one hope
Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Members one of another
Philippians 2:1-2	The Christ like spirit
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord
Colossians 3:12-17	Live in love and thanksgiving
1 John 4:7-16	God is love
Matthew 5:1-10	A house built upon a rock
Matthew 22:35-40	Love, the great commandment
Mark 2:18-22	Joy in Christ as at a wedding
Mark 10:42-45	True greatness
John 15:9-17	Remain in God's love

2. Suggested Hymns from United Methodist Hymnal

642	Man and Woman We Were Made
451	Be Thou My Vision
158	Come, Christians, Join to Sing
164	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
695	O Lord, May Church and Home Combine
645	O Perfect Love
408	The Gift of Love
138	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
643	When Love is Found
549	Where Charity and Love Prevail
646	Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

 **ONALASKA**
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LOVE | PREPARE | SERVE | CELEBRATE

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