

Use of The Church Property

Please remember that this church is, above all, a house of worship. Accordingly, the church has rules which pertain to the use of the Sanctuary property. The wedding couple should inform all participants of these rules:

- ☞ There is no charge for use of the church for weddings of members, but non-members are asked to pay a fee.
- ☞ A custodial service fee is due for all weddings. Costs may also be involved for a sound operator and program printing.
- ☞ Use of the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and other rooms for the reception may be arranged.
- ☞ Decorations should be in keeping with the sacredness and dignity of the Sanctuary.
- ☞ Protective material must be placed under potted plants and special wedding candles.
- ☞ Wedding decorations must be removed as soon as possible after the ceremony and the property left in order as found.
- ☞ No flash photographs may be taken in the Sanctuary after the prelude begins. Photos, with available light, may be taken from the sound booth once the ceremony begins. Positioning of a videographer may be arranged in consultation with the pastor or wedding coordinator.
- ☞ No rice, birdseed, or confetti may be used at the church.
- ☞ Alcohol is not permitted anywhere on church property; tobacco is not permitted anywhere in the church building.

Costs

We rejoice at Church of the Apostles to celebrate services of marriage. We welcome non-members as well as members to be married in the Sanctuary.

Pastor - No charge for active members
\$250 for non-members (write personal check to assigned pastor)

Organist/Director of Music Ministries
- \$175 for consultation, wedding rehearsal & ceremony (rehearsal with soloist/instrumentalist add \$50) (write check to Director of Music Ministries)

Custodial - \$100 for set-up and break-down (write check to Property Manager)

Sanctuary - No charge for active members
\$250 for non-members (write check to Church of the Apostles)

Sound & Video - \$25 for microphone and/or video system (write check to Property Manager)

Programs - No charge for members
\$50 for non-members (\$25 if paper is supplied). Write check to Church of the Apostles.

Receptions - Fees will be followed under the rental fee guidelines

Note: All fees are due at or before the wedding rehearsal.

Weddings



"My beloved is mine and I am his. This is my beloved, and this is my friend."
(Song of Songs 2:16; 5:16)

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."
(Matthew 19:6)



Church of the Apostles
United Church of Christ
1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-392-5718
www.apostlesucc.org



Dear Friends:

We welcome the opportunity to plan with you a Christian wedding and to help guide you in preparation for marriage. At Church of the Apostles, we welcome non-members as well as members to be married in our Sanctuary.

Marriage is a gift of God, a gift to be embraced joyfully. Your wedding is an occasion to worship God in thanksgiving and prayer for divine love. The forming of a marriage covenant, as numerous passages in the Bible testify, is not merely a human agreement but a bond sanctified by God.

If you are not an active member of a church, now is the time to explore membership in a church. We welcome you to do that with Church of the Apostles. Establishing a regular pattern of worship is an important part of marriage. Every family needs a spiritual foundation in order to grow in love.

We look forward to a series of counseling and planning sessions prior to your wedding. In addition to informing you of the rules, fees and procedures that apply, we will help you shape your wedding service and prepare yourselves for the lifelong commitment of marriage.

May God bless you during these very special days of your life together.

Sincerely,
Church of the Apostles

From The United Church of Christ Book of Worship

The essence of marriage is a covenanted commitment that has its foundation in the faithfulness of God's love.

The marriage ceremony is the glad occasion on which two people unite as husband and wife in the mutual exchange of covenant promises. The pastor acts as an official representative of the church and gives the marriage the church's blessing. The congregation joins in affirming the marriage and in offering support and thanksgiving for the new family.

It is the responsibility of the pastor to meet with the couple prior to the marriage ceremony in order to counsel them concerning the Christian understanding of the marriage relationship.

Congregational participation, ethnic traditions, and local customs may be taken into consideration when planning the Order for Marriage. The pastor may invite the couple to share in the writing and planning of the service. A Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship offered to God. Family and friends of the couple may be invited to share the leadership of the service by reading scripture, by offering prayers, or in other ways.

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"There is no more lovely, friendly, and charming relationship, communion, or company than a good marriage."

-Martin Luther



Music For Your Wedding

Music plays a significant role in the wedding service, setting a tone of reverence and celebration.

Selection of wedding music is done in consultation with the Organist/Director of Music Ministries who normally serves for the wedding. An appointment with the Organist/Director of Music Ministries should be made when the wedding is scheduled.

A 20-minute prelude usually accompanies the seating of guests. The couple may wish to include other instruments such as trumpet or strings in addition to the organ. Vocal solos and the singing of hymns by the congregation may also be part of the service. The organist will be able to assist in arranging for other musicians.

Since the wedding is a service of worship, the music should bring glory to God who sanctifies marriage. Our church is committed to helping couples choose music that reflects the sacredness of their wedding. The Christian church's vast repertory of sacred music, which includes many styles and traditions, is the most important source of music for weddings. Often a couple will have a special love song in mind; an excellent time to feature such a song is at the rehearsal dinner or reception.

Church musicians' fees are charged according to the American Guild of Organist's guidelines. Other musicians may set their fees according to Musicians' Union guidelines.