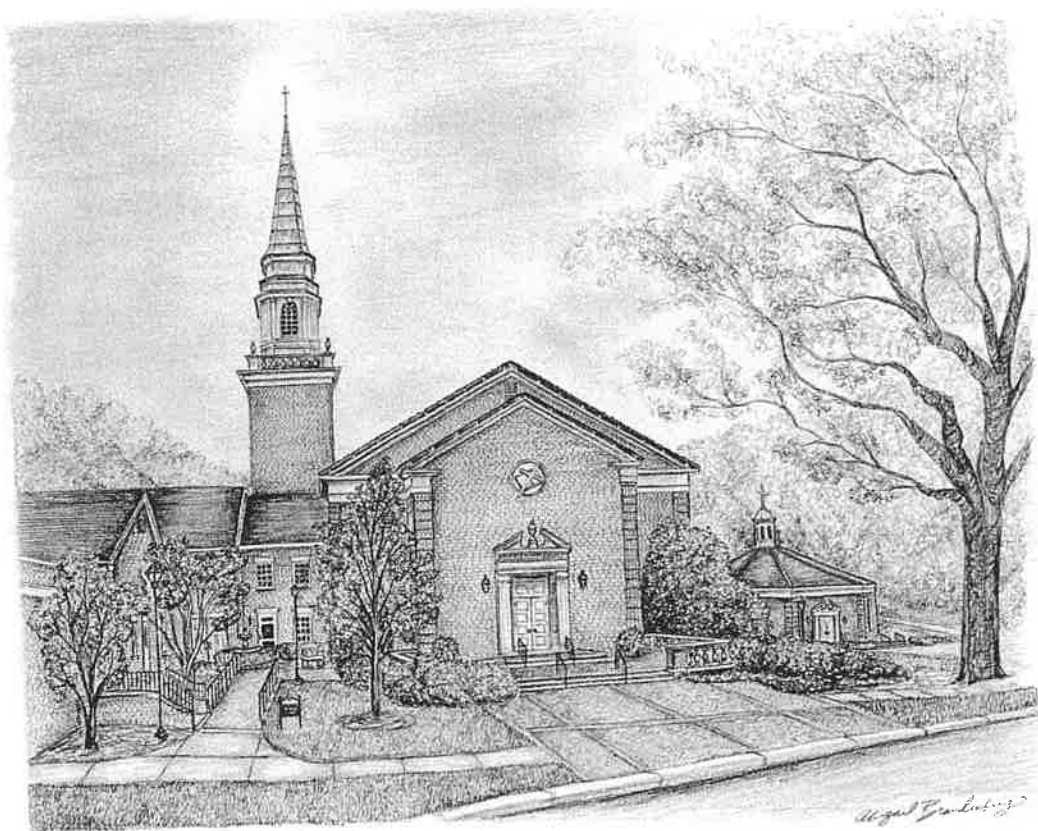


Wedding Guide



Canterbury
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Canterbury Wedding Coordinator

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TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

**May your time of planning for this service of commitment
be filled with joy and anticipation.**

**May the love that all have for you and that you have
for each other surround you and sustain you.**

**May you love, honor and cherish each other always and
so live together in faithfulness and patience
that your lives will be filled with joy,**

**And may the home that you establish become a haven
of blessing and a place of peace.**

Through Jesus Christ.

Weddings at Canterbury United Methodist Church

We at Canterbury United Methodist Church are delighted you have chosen to have your wedding here. Among the sacred ordinances performed within this church stands the pledging of the marriage bonds through which, in God's providence, two lives are made one and a new home is established. A church wedding is a service of worship and consecration—a religious ceremony—and all preparations should be made with this in mind. The Staff wishes to assist in making each wedding a meaningful and memorable experience for all who participate.

The clergy, the Church Council and the Board of Trustees have approved the following regulations for the use of church facilities for the wedding ceremony and related functions.

Where to Start

- A couple desiring to use the Sanctuary, Chapel, or other areas for a wedding should first contact the Wedding Coordinator, Ann Vaughan (205)-903-4710, Ann.vaughan@canterburyumc.org) about a date and time.
- This Wedding Guide should be read thoroughly. The bride, groom, and their parents should sign in the appropriate places on the last page to signify their understanding of the wedding policies. The signed form must be returned to the Wedding Coordinator.
- A Wedding Application (found online) should be completed and returned to the Wedding Coordinator at least 90 days before the wedding date.
- All brides should plan to attend an orientation meeting scheduled through the Wedding Coordinator.
- Church members should have been members at least one year prior to requesting a date for a wedding.
- As of January 1, 2022, Canterbury United Methodist Church will not be scheduling non-member weddings. Exceptions may apply to children or grandchildren of active members only.

Ministers

We affirm men and women to be equal in every aspect of common life and ordain both men and women as pastors into the full leadership of the church. If there is a particular minister you would like to officiate your wedding, every effort will be made to accommodate your request based on the minister's schedule and availability. If not, ministers will be assigned on a scheduled rotation.

The Senior Minister or one of the associate ministers of Canterbury United Methodist Church will officiate all weddings at Canterbury and will be in charge of the service.

In the rare instance, a non Canterbury minister is allowed to participate in the marriage ceremony, he or she must be issued an invitation by the Canterbury officiant. If there is a non Canterbury minister participating, the Canterbury minister will conduct the major parts of the ceremony and will have final approval of all parts of the service including vows, scripture, and homily.

Counseling

Couples being married at Canterbury are required to participate in pre-marital counseling with the Canterbury minister. Once the bride and groom know which Canterbury minister will officiate their marriage ceremony, it is their responsibility to contact the minister and schedule their pre-marital counseling.

Wedding Director

A Wedding Director from Canterbury will be assigned to each wedding. She will advise the bride during planning, conduct the rehearsal, and be present at the wedding. The church holds the Wedding Director responsible for seeing that all aspects of the wedding run smoothly. For this reason, the Wedding Director should be consulted on all details of the wedding. It is strongly recommended that any children participating in the wedding be a least four years old.

If the bride is engaging an outside Wedding Planner, please know that the Wedding Planner may help the wedding party in the Bride's Room before the service but will have no role at the rehearsal or during the ceremony.

Music

The Canterbury Church organist plays the organ for all weddings. If he should be unavailable, the Canterbury organist will engage another organist for the occasion. **You may not engage your own organist!** You should contact the Canterbury organist well in advance of your ceremony. The choice of music and solos will be decided in consultation with him. Secular music will not be used.

Decorations

The natural beauty of the Sanctuary and the Chapel at Canterbury is enhanced most effectively by minimal decorations. Only fresh flowers and greenery are to be used. Typical floral decorations are two arrangements, one on each side of the altar. A total of four pew markers may be used to mark the first and last row of the family pews. No tacks, nails, pins, screws, or tape which will permanently mar the furniture or walls (inside or outside) may be used to secure any decorations.

A pair of candelabra are available to be used in the Sanctuary and in the Chapel for a nominal fee. Greenery may be used to decorate the candelabra, if desired.

The wedding altar flowers will be used for worship the following Sunday. It will be noted in the Sunday bulletin that the flowers are in honor of the wedding of the bride and groom.

Photography and Videography

There shall be no photography within the doors of the Sanctuary from the time the guests begin to arrive throughout the ceremony. Likewise, there shall be no flash photography during this time. During the ceremony, photographers should stand in the balcony of the Sanctuary or Chapel. We appreciate the photographer honoring the reverence of the ceremony by remaining as quiet as possible while photographing the ceremony.

Video taping of the wedding may be done from the balcony with no added lights. An unmanned camera may be placed in the right rear door of the chancel as long as it remains unseen by the guests.

All photographic equipment should be removed from the Sanctuary or Chapel at least 50 minutes before the ceremony and no longer than 30 minutes after the ceremony.

Photographers and videographers violating these rules will be forbidden from photographing/video taping weddings at Canterbury in the future.

There shall be no photography or video taping by the wedding guests.

Facilities for the Bridal Party

The Bride's Room and a room for the bridesmaids are adjacent to the Narthex. The groom and groomsmen may use the room to the left of the chancel. The bride, groom and bride's attendants may dress at the church if they wish. We suggest that the groomsmen arrive at the church dressed in their wedding attire. Canterbury cannot be responsible for clothing, valuables or jewelry left at the church.

Altar Guild

Acolytes and crucifers are trained by the Altar Guild and may be used as needed during the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Director will be able to assist you with this.

A member of the Altar Guild will be present an hour before and during Sanctuary weddings to assist you and the Wedding Director.

Orientation

Wedding Orientation should be scheduled by contacting the Wedding Coordinator. Each bride is required to attend an orientation. Mothers, grooms and others the bride wishes to attend are welcome.

Miscellaneous

Canterbury is designated a NO SMOKING facility. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

Marriage Certificate

Effective August 29, 2019, marriage licenses in Alabama have been replaced by the Alabama Marriage Certificate form. This certificate is to be signed by the bride and groom and must be notarized. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to obtain the notarizations and to submit the certificate to the probate court for recording. Information, forms and instructions are available on the Alabama Department of Public Health's website at <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/vitalrecords/marriage-certificates.html>.

Receptions

Information regarding receptions at the church is available upon request.

Wedding Fees

There is no charge for the use of the Sanctuary, Chapel and bridal facilities for members of Canterbury.

The following fees will be paid by members to individuals who are assisting the wedding party. These fees are payable in cash and should be given to the Wedding Director at the rehearsal. She will disburse them to the appropriate recipients.

Wedding Director	\$300
Organist	\$300
Building Super, Sanctuary	\$200
Building Super, Chapel	\$175
Sound (Sanctuary only)	\$60

Optional Services

Pair 15-branch Candelabra (Sanctuary)	\$25
Pair of Candelabra (Chapel)	\$10
Crucifer	\$20
Acolyte	\$20
Nursery	\$40 per worker
A minimum of two workers required	

There is no set amount for the minister's honorarium. This amount should be thoughtfully decided upon by the family.

Sanctuary Weddings

The Sanctuary at Canterbury needs little adornment. There is beauty and reverence in simplicity, and the spirit of worship is served by restraint in the use of flowers. This diagram illustrates the maximum in decorations acceptable.

Fewer arrangements will be in good taste. No more than four arrangements of flowers, candles, or greenery may be used in the Sanctuary with NO artificial flowers or greenery. Arrangements placed on each side of the Altar should be no higher than the top of the cross (52 inches from the top of the pedestal to the top of the cross). They should not hang over the Altar where they are a fire hazard for the candles and may soil the fair linen. **The Altar may not be changed; nothing can be moved or removed from the Altar.**

Candles, other than those on the Altar, with simple greenery or flowers may be used as suggested. The Church has a pair of fifteen light candelabra that may be used at a nominal charge. The dripless candles for these candelabra are supplied by the Church. Candles for other candelabra used must be supplied by the florist. Suitable material (nonflammable) must be used to protect floors and carpets from candle drippings, even though dripless candles must be used.

Family pews **only** may be decorated with small arrangements of flowers, greenery, and/or ribbon (a total of four, one at the first row and one at the end of the family pews).

If badges of flowers or bows are to be used on the outside doors, they should be hung from the nails which are below the light fixtures.

The altar flowers used for the wedding will be used for worship the following Sunday. Your Wedding Director will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

(Please refer to Sanctuary Weddings illustration at the back of the Wedding Guide.)

Chapel Weddings

The Chapel at Canterbury needs little adornment. There is beauty and reverence in simplicity, and the spirit of worship is served by restraint in the use of flowers. This diagram illustrates the maximum in decorations acceptable.

Fewer arrangements will be in good taste. No more than four arrangements of flowers, candles, or greenery may be used in the Chapel with NO artificial flowers or greenery. Arrangements placed on each side of the Altar should be no higher than the top of the cross (30 inches from the top of the pedestal to the top of the cross; 72 inches from the floor to the top of the cross). They should not hang over the Altar where they are a fire hazard for the candles and may soil the fair linen. **The Altar may not be changed; nothing can be moved or removed from the Altar.**

Candles, other than those on the Altar, with simple greenery or flowers may be used as suggested. The Church has a pair of seven light candelabra that may be used at a nominal charge. The driplless candles for these candelabra are supplied by the Church. Candles for other candelabra used must be supplied by the florist. Suitable material (nonflammable) must be used to protect floors and carpets from candle drippings, even though driplless candles must be used.

Family pews **only** may be decorated with small arrangements of flowers, greenery, and/or ribbon (a total of four, one at the first row and one at the end of the family pews).

If badges of flowers or bows are to be used on the outside doors, they should be hung from the nails which are below the light fixtures.

The number of attendants in the wedding party may not exceed 16. The chapel will hold 100 -120 guests.

Your Wedding Director will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

(Please refer to Chapel Weddings illustration at the back of the Wedding Guide.)

The Wedding Ceremony

You will find on the next few pages the United Methodist Services of Christian Marriage. One of these two services must be used. Approved scripture may be read as well as approved songs sung during the wedding ceremony. Talk with the minister concerning these matters before making decisions or having programs printed. The minister can advise you as to what will make your ceremony a truly worshipful experience. The Canterbury minister will give the final approval of all segments of the ceremony.

The Order for the Service of Marriage

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together (Groom) and (Bride) in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence in Cana in Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are kept inviolate, as God's word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

(Groom), will you have (Bride) to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others, keep you only unto her so long as you both shall live? **I will.**

(Bride), will you have (Groom) to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep you only unto him so long as you both shall live? I will.

Who presents (Bride) to be married to (Groom)?

I, (Groom), take you, (Bride) to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

I, (Bride), take you, (Groom) to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge you my faith.

The wedding ring is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to all the uniting of this man and this woman in holy matrimony, through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In token and pledge of our constant faith and abiding love, with this ring I thee wed, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forasmuch as (Groom) and (Bride) have consented together in holy wedlock and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let no one put asunder. Amen

Let us pray.

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send thy blessings upon (Groom) and (Bride) whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. Amen.

A Service of Christian Marriage

Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God to witness and to bless the joining together of (Groom) and (Bride) in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God, who created us male and female for each other. With his presence and power, Jesus graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee and in His sacrificial love gave us the example for the love of husband and wife. (Groom) and (Bride) come to give themselves to each other in this holy covenant.

I ask you now in the presence of God and these people to declare your intention to enter into the union with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ, who has called you into union with himself through baptism.

(Bride), will you have (Groom) to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

I will.

(Groom), will you have (Bride) to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

I will.

Who presents (Bride) to be married to (Groom)?

We do.

In the name of God, I, (Groom), take you, (Bride), to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

In the name of God, I, (Bride), take you, (Groom), to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to us the union between Jesus Christ and his Church.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may live in your peace, and continue in your favor all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Bride), I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Groom), I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

You have declared your consent and vows before God and this congregation. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace.

Now that (Groom) and (Bride) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands, and the giving of rings, I announce to you that they are husband and wife in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of Christian marriage that in it is represented the covenant between Christ and his Church. Send therefore your blessing upon (Groom) and (Bride) that they may surely keep their marriage covenant and so grow

In love and godliness together, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God the Eternal keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home. Go to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do. Bear witness to the love of God in this world so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Suggested Outline for Programs

Prelude

Seating of the Mothers

Wedding Processional

Bridal Processional

Pastoral Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchanging of Rings

Declaration of Marriage

Blessing of Marriage

The Lord's Prayer

Dismissal with Blessing

Recessional

We sign this document in the good faith that we have thoroughly read this booklet and understand the contents. We agree to carefully follow the wedding policies of Canterbury United Methodist Church.

Bride

Groom

Parents of the Bride

Parents of the Groom

Date _____

Dearly Beloved:

We look forward to working with you at this very important and exciting time. We will be glad to do all we can to make your wedding day a memorable experience. Our desire is that this service of worship and consecration will begin your life together in the very best way.

**The Staff of
Canterbury United Methodist Church**

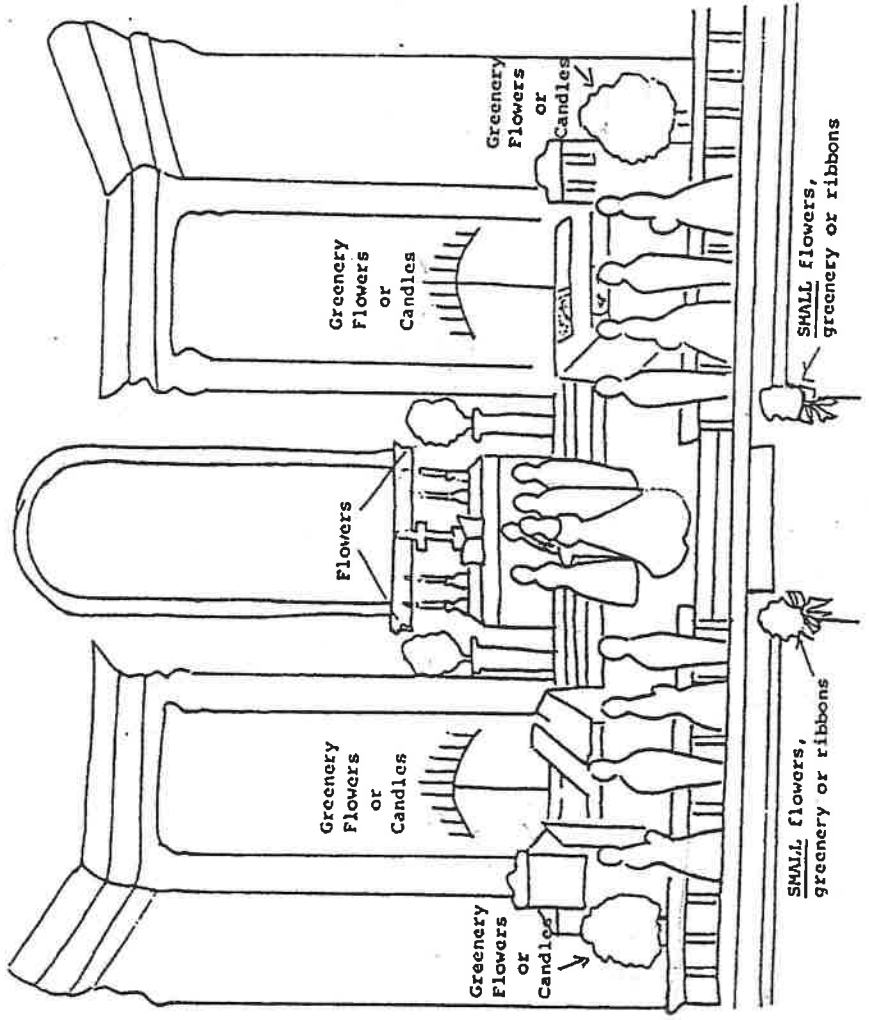


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Sanctuary Weddings



Chapel Weddings

