

Weddings



Wedding Policy

I. Core Values

The Session, ministers, and members of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church share the belief that the gift of Marriage is ordained by God as the most sacred and inviolable of all human relationships. It commits a man and a woman to a binding and mutual love of unshaken fidelity, forged in the redeeming and sustaining promises of God as witnessed in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”. (Mark 10:7)

We believe it is the calling of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church to extend the opportunity to members of Good Shepherd and people in the community who wish to take the solemn vows of marriage to be able to do so in the context of Christian communion and worship and the ministry of Christ-centered encouragement and counseling. Every effort will be made to witness to the truth and love of Jesus Christ to all those who participate in the joyous occasion of a marriage ceremony.

II. Building Use for Wedding Services

A. The Sanctuary/Multi-Purpose Room of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church is available for wedding services during the week and on Saturdays until 6:00 p.m. The room has a 300-person seating capacity, a piano, and a basic sound system and video projector. The Sanctuary/ Multi-Purpose Room and the adjoining kitchen can also be used for receptions, as can the Parlor/Library area. Use of the building must be arranged and scheduled through the pastor of Good Shepherd Church and the Building and Ground Team.

Building reservations should be made in writing at least three (3) months in advance. Be certain to include in your written request a reservation for the wedding and the rehearsal. Priorities are given to Good Shepherd members and their families; otherwise, reservations are scheduled on a “first come” basis.

B. Items available for wedding services upon request include reserved seating for the families, candlesticks and/or candelabra, flower stand, table for guest book, and Communion table.

A Damage Deposit of \$500.00 to include a \$150 custodial fee, and rental fees: Multipurpose Room, \$500.00, Dressing Area/ Classrooms, **\$50.00** each to be paid in advance. We understand that failure to abide by these guidelines and restrictions could result in forfeiture of our payment and/or cancellation of any reservations made for rehearsal, wedding and/or reception. We further understand that a complete refund of the cleaning deposit will be contingent upon our leaving the building in a clean and undamaged condition. We agree to assume the responsibility for appropriate conduct by all members of the wedding party, families, and guests.

C. All room fees are waived for members of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, but a donation would be gratefully accepted to help defray the costs of maintaining the building.

III. Planning the Wedding Service

A. The pastor and/or a designated Wedding Consultant of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church will supervise any wedding service that takes place at the church building. Clergy-persons from other Christian congregations or denominations are welcome to participate in the wedding service under the coordination and supervision of the pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, and at the invitation of the Good Shepherd Session.

B. Couples who are married at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church are required to participate in some form of counseling and/or marriage preparation, at the discretion of the pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

C. All requests or questions regarding the wedding should be directed to the pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

D. Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church's pastor's fee for services rendered is \$250 for members and non-members payable upon the final pre-martial counseling session.

IV. Receptions

A. The Parlor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church is available for receptions for family members and friends following the wedding service, and can be set up in advance of the service. All arrangements for room set up and clean up for the Parlor are to be scheduled by the wedding party. Note that on Saturdays all activities should be complete by 6:00 p.m. to provide an opportunity for the Building and Grounds Committee and the custodial service to prepare the church for worship service the next morning. Otherwise, 10:00 p.m. is the limit.

B. Groups or caterers utilizing the kitchen are required to thoroughly clean all appliances, counter tops, and floors following the reception. All utensils, pots, dishes, and silverware used are to be cleaned (scrubbed if necessary), and all trash is to be deposited in the dumpster in the parking lot.

C. The use of alcohol and/or tobacco products are not allowed in the facilities or on the property of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

V. Music

A. Christian wedding is a worship service and a sacred event. Therefore, secular music, whether played or sung, is not appropriate during the wedding service.

B. The accompanist of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church may be available to play the piano for wedding services for a \$200.00 fee, which includes rehearsal. Musicians, soloists, CD music and special music for the wedding service are allowed but must be coordinated and approved through the pastor of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

VI. Photography and Videography

A. Since the wedding ceremony is a religious service, all photographers (amateur or professional) are asked to respect the sanctity of the surroundings. The photographer is not permitted up in the chancel area during the ceremony. Time exposures of the wedding ceremony may be taken at the back of the room.

B. Videotaping of the wedding ceremony is allowed, provided all cameras are situated out of the line of sight of the congregation. No videotaping is allowed in the middle aisle or at the front of the room.

C. Pictures of the wedding party can be taken no earlier than ninety minutes before the service and/or immediately following the service, unless otherwise approved by the pastor. It is recommended that a list of desired pictures be given to the photographer well in advance of the wedding day to expedite the picture-taking process.

VII. Flowers and Decorations

A. No decoration of any kind is to be applied to walls, lights, ceilings, or glass. Florist wire, ribbon or pipe cleaners may be used when necessary but nails, staples and adhesives of any kind are not permitted. Flowers, candles, etc., must have bases or stands to support them. All candles must be dripless.

B. No floral or decorative arrangements should obscure the Communion table and cross.

C. Carefully protect the carpet and furnishings from candle wax, moisture, dirt, or other type of damage, and be responsible for the repair of any damage caused.

D. Immediately after the wedding (and reception, if at the church), clean up all debris resulting from decorative or floral arrangements and remove all apparatus used.

VIII. Other Information

A. Marriage License arrangements should be made with Lancaster County by the couple before the wedding. All certificates and documents must be presented to the pastor before the start of the service in order for the wedding to proceed.

B. GSPC is not responsible for printing the wedding program/bulletin. Please contract with an outside printer.

IX. Church Hours and Deliveries

A. The church is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or as scheduled for the delivery of flowers, decorations, etc. All deliveries must be stored in the kitchen or storage room (not in the vestibule, hallways, or Sanctuary/Multi-Purpose Room). Please call the church office in advance to notify of the time of delivery.

B. All off-hour deliveries must be arranged by the wedding party with the office of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church at least two weeks in advance of the wedding date.

X. Special Restrictions

It is expected that those who use the facilities of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church be responsible for maintaining proper church decorum.

Please use birdseed or bubbles instead of rice for the departure of the bride and groom. They may be used outside of the church building, only.

Alcohol, drugs, weapons, fireworks, or pets (other than those specifically trained to assist the disabled) are not allowed in the buildings or on the grounds of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

Any person, whether a guest or member of the wedding party, who violates these special restrictions will be asked to leave the premises immediately.

We have read these policies and agree to abide by them in the planning and carrying out of our wedding at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church.

Signed,

Bride

Date

Groom

Date

