

## WEDDING GUIDELINES

Park United Methodist Church  
Coudersport, PA.

(814)274-9365

parkumc@zitomedia.net

**“We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests on such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union.”** (*Social Principles of the United Methodist Church*)

Park Church is honored that you would like us to host one of the most important events of your life. You do not need to be a member of Park UMC to be married in our sanctuary. We welcome our neighbors to begin a new life of marriage together with God’s blessing. In order to maximize the spiritual significance of your wedding, we want to share these Guidelines to help the planning process:

### Before the Wedding

1. Contact the church as early as possible to reserve the date for your wedding. If possible, notify the church at least three months in advance of your wedding date. Dates will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. We will confirm both the availability of t our church sanctuary and our pastor.
2. Since it is important for engaged couples to prepare for their marriage as well as their wedding, all couples are required to meet with the pastor for pre-marital counseling. We will use the Prepare/Enrich Inventory which will identify areas of strength and areas for growth in your relationship. There is a fee of \$35.00 (a couple) for processing the inventory. You will be able to pay for this online with a credit card.
3. Music can be a wonderful part of your wedding. Reserve the date with our church organist, Joy Glassmire, at least eight weeks prior to your wedding date to preview and select the music for your wedding. Call the church office for this information. Keep in mind, as you choose music, that your wedding is a service of worship. The organist will provide:
  - a. Music 15 to 30 minutes prior to the wedding
  - b. A processional and music for the service
  - c. A recessional and postludes
  - d. If your music selection includes vocal selections and or accompaniment for your soloist, you will need to make arrangements with the organist about 4 weeks prior to

**your wedding date so that we can insure that there are suitable copies of the music and an opportunity to rehearse.**

**Another organist may be used only with the approval of the pastor, in consultation with the church organist.**

- 4. Bulletins for your wedding may be prepared, upon request, by the church office. You will be responsible for purchasing the covers. They are available at Christian bookstores. All information for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office at least four weeks before the wedding**

### **Rehearsals**

- 5. A rehearsal will be scheduled with the pastor and organist, usually for the evening before the wedding. All members of the wedding party should be in attendance. The rehearsal will usually last 30 minutes to one hour.**
- 6. Please designate a person with the wedding party who will be responsible for handling the sound system during the ceremony. The rehearsal will afford an opportunity for this person to see the equipment the Church has available and learn how to use it.**
- 7. Please bring the following to the church no later than the rehearsal:**
  - a. Your marriage license. (All PA counties)**
  - b. All fees due to the church. (All fees should be paid at rehearsal)**

### **Fees**

There are no costs or fees for members of Park Church or for their families since your generosity and ongoing support makes our church ministry possible. Nonmembers are asked for a donation of \$100 for use of the sanctuary as well as a gift of \$50 for the church organist.