



*Christ United
Methodist Church*

Rev. Daven Oskvig

350 Saratoga Road
Amherst, New York 14226
Phone (716) 839-2460 | Fax (716) 839-2166
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www.ChristChurchAmherst.org



*Christ United
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*Wedding
Booklet*



350 Saratoga Rd.
Amherst, NY 14226
Phone (716) 839-2460
cumc350@gmail.com

This booklet is designed to acquaint you with the facilities and recommended procedures as prescribed by the Church Council of Christ United Methodist Church. We trust that this will help you as you plan the details involved in your wedding.

Wedding Coordinator/ Office Manager

Phone 716-839-2460

Email..... cumc350@gmail.com

**Christ United Methodist Church
WEDDING APPLICATION FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES**

Names: _____

Date(s) of building use: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Use for (select all that apply):
Rehearsal | Rehearsal Dinner | Wedding | Reception

Attendance Expected: _____

Times: From _____ to _____

We agree that: (1) We will arrange with the Office Manager to have the building open and available for the agreed upon time and date,

(2) We will pay all agreed-upon donations promptly. Checks will be made payable to each individual involved in the ceremony and to Christ United Methodist Church,

(3) We will leave the facilities in a clean and neat condition,

(4) We will assume the cost of repair to facilities or equipment damaged through misuses,

(5) We will use only the facilities noted above,

(6) No alcoholic beverages or smoking allowed on the premises at any time.

(7) No gambling permitted in any form. Gambling includes bingo and all raffles.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Breakdown of Wedding Expenses

All payments should be made at the Wedding Rehearsal.

Please make checks out to each individual involved.

Checks for church use and the Altar Guild may be made out to:

Christ United Methodist Church.

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Church Use	Donation	\$200
Clergy	Donation	\$250
Organist:		
Ceremony	\$200	\$200
Rehearsal	\$50	\$50
With Soloist/Vocalist	\$25	\$25
Guest Organist Consult Fee	\$35	\$35
Church Wedding Coordinator	\$100	\$100
Custodian	\$75	\$75
A/V Technician	\$50	\$50
Church-Supplied Vocalist	\$50	\$50
Altar Guild	\$25	\$25

The Christian Wedding

We are happy to welcome you as you have come to our Church to be married! Celebrating the marriage ceremony in the Christian Church is a service of worship in which a man and a woman promise before God to establish a growing and mutually fulfilling relationship. As the vows state, “[marriage] was established by God [...] and in it is represented the covenant between Christ and His church.”

A marriage “in the sight of God” differs from a civil ceremony in several important aspects. The state is concerned with marriage as a legal contract of civil relationships; the church is concerned with the covenant between two people who call upon God to witness their union, bless their union, and be a participant in their union.

You will spend a great deal of time and energy planning for the wedding ceremony itself. In the midst of this busy time, we would like to encourage you to devote special time and energy to the marriage that will follow. In coming to the church, we believe that you are taking your future years together very seriously, and we are more than happy to offer our help and support. The pastor will help to guide you through the process that will encourage your growth in the areas of communication and understanding.

The pastor will be glad to help in any way as you plan your service. Please share your thoughts and questions with him as you meet to discuss the ceremony.

The people of Christ Church are happy that you have chosen to use our church facilities for your wedding! We hope that your service will be beautiful and that you will be blessed by our facility. It is our desire to add joy to your wedding and help to make it a very memorable occasion.

The Pastor's Role

The Pastor will play a key role in the preparation, planning, and celebration of your marriage ceremony. The pastor is available for weddings, and may be called upon to perform them individually or with other clergy.

Ordinarily, the pastor of Christ Church is involved in every wedding that takes place in our building. Because of busy schedules, it is necessary to make contact with the pastor as early as possible, preferably prior to entering the date on the church calendar and before the scheduling of the reception hall.

There will be a minimum of three premarital counseling sessions with the pastor, in addition to the rehearsal. *The pastor may use his own discretion to decide if more counseling sessions are necessary.* Counseling is designed to help the couple adequately prepare for a Christian marriage and to deepen their awareness of and appreciation for the complexities of married life. The counseling sessions will include the sharing of ideas, expectations, values, and goals for the couple's life together.

The pastor will provide information regarding the marriage license, guide the couple in planning the schedule for their wedding day, and work with them in designing their marriage ceremony. The church library contains copies of *Write Your Own Wedding*, a guidebook for modern weddings. Please feel free to use the church's library materials.

Invitation to Sunday Morning Worship

The church and its pastor invite the couple, if they are not already so involved, to participate in our church life by attending our Sunday morning celebrations and the many other ministries that are always embracing new participants.

The following is our Sunday morning schedule:

10:00 a.m.—Worship Service

11:00 a.m.—Education Hour & Fellowship

For more information on the life of Christ Church, please visit our website: www.ChristChurchAmherst.org or find us on Facebook under Christ United Methodist Church Amherst.



Church Etiquette

Setting the Date

It is important that all dates be cleared with the pastor's calendar and the church office as soon as possible so that any conflicts can be avoided. For this reason, we ask that both be given as much advance notice as possible—preferably at least four months. We will make every effort to accommodate your request.

The Invitations

In ordering invitations, the address for the church is:

Christ United Methodist Church
350 Saratoga Road (at Harlem Road)
Amherst, NY 14226

Wedding Day Timings

The building will be opened one hour prior to the time set for the wedding. The candles will be lit about one half hour prior to the ceremony. Prelude music will begin about 15 minutes before the ceremony is set to begin. All weddings will begin at the appointed hour with the seating of the couples' parents. Guests arriving after that time may be seated in the rear of the church after the processional.

Rehearsal

We suggest that every wedding have a rehearsal. The rehearsal is usually held the evening prior to the wedding, lasting approximately one hour. It may, however, be scheduled at another time at the convenience of the pastor and the wedding party. The entire wedding party and parents are expected to attend and are urged to be on time.

Wedding Coordinator

Christ Church will provide a Wedding Coordinator. The coordinator will be on hand at both the rehearsal and the ceremony to help with timing and to coordinate any necessary details. The coordinator can be contacted at 716-839-2460.

Photography

The use of either still or video photography is limited during the ceremony. Flash photography and the use of video lights are not permitted and access to the front of the sanctuary is not allowable during the ceremony. The pastor will be willing to reconstruct any part of the ceremony for photographers following the service.

Altar Guild

Christ Church has an active Altar Guild whose members work closely with the Pastor in providing wedding services.

The beauty and dignity of our church requires a minimum of decorations. We recommend that one floral arrangement is all that is needed for the Lord's Table. The table measures 38" x 106" and 34 3/8" high.

Our policy for other decorations is as follows:

1. Nothing is to be attached to the candelabra, as this could create a fire hazard.
2. Floral decorations affixed to the end of the pews must be attached with ribbon, and they must be easy to remove.
3. *Candles:
 - a. All candles for the Lord's Table and the candelabra will be provided by the Altar Guild.
 - b. You will be responsible for providing your own Unity Candle.
 - c. If requested, candles will also be provided for the hurricane lamps for the windows.

**Donations for the cost of the candles are included in the fee for the Altar Guild and will be agreed upon in discussion with the Pastor.*

Use of the Building

The church Sanctuary and Chapel are available for weddings, both for members and non-members of Christ Church. Areas are available for the bridal party to gather before the ceremony, and facilities for dressing are available for the bride and/or her attendants.

Crafts Hall is available for a Rehearsal Dinner and/or Reception. A building use form should be completed and submitted to the wedding coordinator. The building use form can be found on our website. Please address your request to:

Chair, Board of Trustees & Wedding Coordinator
Christ United Methodist Church
350 Saratoga Rd.
Amherst, NY 14226

Please take special note:

- *Smoking and the use of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the church premises, along with any forms of gambling.*
- Because the throwing of rice, confetti, and birdseed can be environmentally harmful and difficult to clean up, we must insist that your guests refrain from participating in these practices. The church recommends the use of bubbles.