

WEDDING GUIDELINES
St. Peter's United Methodist Church
15599 Mountain Road, Montpelier, VA 23192
Phone: (804) 883-5596
[**stpetersumc@gmail.com**](mailto:stpetersumc@gmail.com)

Christian marriage is a gracious gift of God! The service of uniting a man and woman in Holy Matrimony is a joyous act of worship! It affirms and celebrates God's blessing of the couple. By words and symbolic acts, they commit themselves to each other. Family and friends, by their presence and participation, may also commit themselves to support the couple's growing relationship. To these ends, the members, staff and minister of St. Peter's United Methodist Church stands ready and eager to offer help to you in any way possible.

Seeking to share God's grace with each bride, groom, family and friends, while taking care of God's house, we have established the following guidelines for conducting Christian weddings and receptions, using church properties/facilities.

Our hope and excitement about your marriage covenant are based upon our faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ, and in the presence, work and covenant relationship that God continues with us even today.

May God richly bless your very special day, and may your life together be full and rewarding! We pray for the home you both will establish, that you will experience happiness and fulfillment. May the love of God that joins you together as one, guide, support, comfort, and strengthen your lives on this day and forever.

THE OFFICIATING MINISTER

- Persons desiring to use St. Peter's facilities for a wedding shall first contact the minister or church office (804-883-5596), to arrange a suitable date.
- The minister shall meet with the couple to discuss the wedding ceremony and offer premarital counseling. The number and dates of such conferences shall be determined by the minister in consultation with the couple.
- Our church's minister serves all our members and leads in the use of our facilities for Christian ministry. You will need to discuss the full details of your wedding with the minister. In the event you wish another minister to assist or to perform the ceremony, the minister of this church must give approval, and will extend the invitation. The ritual of the United Methodist Church will be used for ceremony by our minister.
- The officiating minister will determine the content and order of the wedding ceremony, taking into account, as far as possible, special requests of the couple. The United Methodist Church offers a time honored rendering of the marriage covenant that briefly and beautifully expresses the sacred elements of this holy union. It will be available at the pre-marital sessions.

- The officiating minister directs the wedding rehearsal. Any Wedding Director enlisted must contact the officiating minister in advance to coordinate rehearsal plans.
- Persons being married are responsible for securing in advance and providing to the officiating minister a marriage license. This license needs to be in the hands of the officiating minister by the night of the wedding rehearsal.

THE PROPERTY AND FACILITIES

- The Sanctuary seats 285.
- The church facilities shall be reserved in advance of the date needed. This may be done through the minister or by calling the church. Upon selecting a date in consultation with the minister, the couple must complete the Wedding Reservation Form.
- Under no circumstances are chancel furnishings to be moved or rearranged without permission from the minister.
- Our minister has the privilege of approving or disapproving any decorations of our church facilities. The person(s) responsible for decorating the church must be made known to our minister.
- If a fresh flower arrangement is placed on the altar, they can be left for the regular Sunday morning worship service. An acknowledgment of such will be placed in the church bulletin. To protect the floor, plastic must be placed under floor candelabra and saucers under potted plants.
- No rice or confetti is to be used. If flower petals are used they must be silk or paper since the oil in real flower petals will damage the carpet. Birdseed and bubbles may be used, but only outside the buildings.
- No alcoholic beverages shall be served, nor are they to be brought on the church premises. No smoking is allowed in the church building.
- St. Peter's United Methodist Church requires that our custodian be used.
- All use of the buildings and facilities shall be consistent with the United Methodist Church Social Principles, the United Methodist Book of Discipline, and these guidelines.

THE MUSIC AND SOUND SYSTEM

- The wedding couple must make advance arrangements for any accompanist. The name and phone number of our church organist and the Director of Music are available from the minister. Musicians other than our organist must be approved by our minister.
- All musical selections must be made in consultation with our minister and the accompanist(s). Since this is a celebration of worship, all music should reflect the honor of God.
- If the use of the sound system is anticipated, and our minister is not part of the wedding ceremony, arrangements must be made with the church staff to explain how to use the sound system.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- The couple may select a photographer and/or videographer to record the wedding. Flash or lighting equipment is to be used during the ceremony, at discretion of the Pastor, nor should the photographer cause unnecessary distraction by changing position, etc. during the ceremony.
- It is the responsibility of the couple being married to communicate these guidelines to the photographer.

FEES

- **Minister** - \$200.00
- **Organist** - if available, \$ 200.00
(consultation, rehearsal, and wedding)
- **Director of Music** – if available, \$150.00
(consultation, rehearsal, and wedding)
- **Custodian** – Mr. Terrance Bailey, Sr.
Bailey's Janitorial Services, 804/448-2818
\$250.00 (wedding and reception)
\$150.00 (wedding only)
- **Church Facilities** are available to the church members and their children for weddings and receptions without a usage charge.
- **For non-members** the usage fee is:
\$100.00 – wedding
\$100.00 – reception
\$100.00 – rehearsal dinner

Additionally:

A \$200 damage/cleaning and key deposit will be required. This will be refunded no later than seven (7) days after the wedding, provided there has been no damage to church property, additional cleaning expense incurred and key returned. Should damage to church property exceed \$200.00, the wedding couple will be held responsible.

All fees and deposits must be given to the minister or church office two weeks prior to the wedding ceremony. All fees and deposits are refundable in the event of cancellation.

The Bride and/or Groom are required to sign the attached Release of Liability form prior to the wedding being scheduled.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

In consideration of the risk of injury while participating in _____ and as consideration for the right to participate in the Activity, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or personal representatives, knowingly and voluntarily enter in this waiver and release of liability and hereby waive any and all rights, claims or causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising out of my participation in the Activity, and do hereby release and forever discharge St. Peter's United Methodist Church, located at 15599 Mountain Road, Montpelier, Virginia 23192, their affiliates, managers, members, agents, attorneys, staff, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns, for any physical or psychological injury, including but not limited to illness, paralysis, death, damages, economical or emotional loss, that I may suffer as a direct result of my participation in the aforementioned Activity, including traveling to and from an event related to this Activity.

I am voluntarily participating in the aforementioned Activity and I am aware of the risks associated with traveling to and from as well as participating in this Activity, which may include, but are not limited to, physical or psychological injury, pain, suffering, illness, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability (including paralysis), economic, or emotional loss, and death. I understand that these injuries or outcomes may arise from my own or others' negligence, conditions related to travel, or the condition of the Activity locations(s). Nonetheless, I assume all related risks, both known or unknown to me, of my participation in the Activity, including travel to, from and during this Activity.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless St. Peter's United Methodist Church against any and all claims, suits, or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related costs, if litigation arises pursuant to any claims made by me or by anyone else acting on my behalf. If St. Peter's United Methodist Church incurs any of these types of expenses, I agree to reimburse St. Peter's United Methodist Church.

I acknowledge that St. Peter's United Methodist Church and their directors, officers, volunteers, representatives and agents are not responsible for errors, omissions, acts or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of St. Peter's United Methodist Church.

I acknowledge that this Activity may involve a test of a person's physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by terrain, facilities, temperature, weather, lack of hydration, condition of participants, equipment, vehicular traffic and actions of others, including but not limited to, participants, volunteers, spectators, coaches, event officials and event monitors, and or/producers, or in the event and lack of hydration.

In the event that I should require medical care or treatment, I agree to be financially responsible for all costs incurred as a result of such treatment. I am aware and understand that I should carry my own health insurance.

In the event that any damage to equipment or facilitates occurs as a result of me or my family's willful actions, neglect or recklessness, I acknowledge and agree to be held liable for any and all costs associated with any actions of neglect or recklessness.

This agreement was entered into at arm's length, without duress or coercion, and is to be interpreted as an agreement between two parties of equal bargaining strength. Both the Participant,

_____ and
St. Peter's United Methodist Church agree that this Agreement is clear and unambiguous as to its terms,
and that no other evidence will be used or admitted to alter or explain the terms of this Agreement, but
that it will be interpreted based on the language in accordance with the purposes for which it is entered
into.

In the event that any provision contained within this Release of Liability shall be deemed to be
severable or invalid, or if any term, condition, phrase or portion of this agreement shall be determined
to be unlawful or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement shall remain in full force
and effect, so long as the clause severed does not affect the intent of the parties. If a court should find
that any provision of this agreement to be invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting said provision
it would become valid and enforceable, then said provision shall be deemed to be written, construed
and enforced as it was intended.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the following person(s) in the order presented:

EMERGENCY CONTACT	Contact Relationship	Contact Telephone
-------------------	----------------------	-------------------

I, the undersigned participant, affirm that I am of the age of 18 years or older, and that I am freely
signing this agreement. I certify that I have read this agreement, and that I fully understand its content.
I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract and that I am signing it of my own free will.

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Address: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN WAIVER FOR MINORS

In the event that the participant is under the age of consent (18 years of age), then this release must be
signed by a parent or guardian, as follows:

I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of _____,
the name above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this
individual.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised 5/3/2015