

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

“Make plans for a good marriage... Not just a good wedding day.”

We at the *Old Stone Church* believe that a marriage service is primarily a service of worship. With that in mind, it is our responsibility to help prepare couples for a Christian marriage by, a) Encouraging the couple to consider their relationship in God’s eyes, and b) Encouraging them to find a church-home in order to continue building their relationship with God and one another. Weddings are planned with a desire that the ceremony be remembered for the simplicity of the worship experience, the sanctity of our conduct, and the sacred surroundings within which the service is held. We extend every possible courtesy to those getting married and their guests in conformity with the highest standards of Christian fellowship and hope the service is a reflection of these standards.

THE SERVICE

The service is to be performed by the pastor of *The Old Stone Church*. Pastors with good standing within the *United Church of Christ* may also be granted privilege to celebrate the rite of marriage. Pastors from other denominations would be considered on a case by case status and would be approved by the pastor of *The Old Stone Church* or the Board of Deacons if no called pastor is currently serving the congregation. The pastor takes the marriage of two people very seriously and requires at least two pre-marital counseling sessions in anticipation of the wedding ceremony. Together the pastor and couple will talk about a healthy relationship in God’s eyes and develop the marriage ceremony according to the Book of Worship of the *United Church of Christ*.

The Sanctuary furnishings (pulpit, communion table, and baptismal font) are important symbols of worship and should not be moved except in consultation with the pastor. In the same light, we ask people not to use tape in securing flowers or decorations anywhere in the sanctuary so the sanctuary itself is not diminished.

MUSIC

The main pianist/organist from our congregation has the first right to play for a wedding ceremony. The music will be approved by the pastor and couple during the pre-marriage counseling. It is required that music within the church be live music unless a soloist is singing to the background of a CD or MP3. Arrangements for the music are the couple’s responsibility. All music must be approved by the pastor and/or pianist.

PHOTOGRAPHY

No flash photographs are to be taken between the processional and recessional. The photographer should consult with the pastor as to what will be permitted during the wedding service. It is permissible to videotape the service and the pastor will help the videographer find a place where he/she will set up the camera. It should be understood that the only people moving in the front of the church should be related to the wedding party and the service of worship we have gathered for.

DRESSING ROOMS

The pastor will direct both the men and women toward areas they may use to prepare for the worship service. Please designate a person to remain after everyone leaves in order to pick up the areas and collect any forgotten items.

OLD STONE CHURCH POLICIES

No smoking is permitted inside the church building and no alcoholic beverages are to be consumed on church property. The throwing of rice, confetti or other items on the church property is prohibited by the congregation for environmental and safety reasons. Birdseed and/or bubbles are allowed outside of the church building.

FEES AND RENTAL SCHEDULE

MEMBER RENTAL OF FACILITIES:

Organist/Pianist-----	\$100
Pre-Marriage Inventory-----	\$50
Ministerial Fee-----	\$300

NON-MEMBER RENTAL OF FACILITIES:

Organist/Pianist-----	\$100
Pre-Marriage Inventory-----	\$50
Ministerial Fee-----	\$300
Sanctuary-----	\$400

All fees for the wedding are to be paid in full one month before the wedding. The pastor should be contacted as far in advance as possible to prepare for premarital counseling and the planning of the wedding itself. All arrangements for the use of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall must be coordinated through the pastor.

We look forward to serving you and making your wedding a special event at the Old Stone Church.

oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net

The Old Stone Church

The First Congregational United Church of Christ

Wedding Information



*101 E. Union St. – Rockton, IL
(815) 624-6212*