

Rice Tossing

At Central Park Complex, we feel rice can be a dangerous cause of clips and falls, and when ingested it is harmful to birds and other creatures. Furthermore, since rice is a food staple for so many of the world's hungry, its waste in such a custom is inappropriate.

Honoraria & Fees — Pastor:

For active members of the congregation, no honorarium is required for the pastor; all others are expected to provide an honorarium of \$400. If you pay by check, make your check payable to: Mary A. Kelly.

Organist: All persons, including members of the congregation, are expected to provide an honorarium for the organist in the amount of \$150 (\$200 if special additional music is to be included in the service). If you pay by check, make your check payable to: Paul Homer.

Building Use:

Members of the congregation are encouraged to make a donation to cover the cost of using the church building. All other persons are expected to cover the cost of using the church building through a donation of \$500. If you pay by check, make your check payable to: Central Park United Methodist Church. In addition, a custodial fee of \$75 will be charged. Please make your check payable to Donald Plummer.

All honoraria and fees are expected to be delivered to the pastor at least one week prior to the wedding. In situations of special need, some or all of these honoraria and fees may be waived after consultation with the pastor. All flowers, décor and materials must be removed by the wedding party or their delegates from the church prior to their departure.

Consider also our Great Hall reception space, alcohol free, perfect for afternoon luncheon following a 2pm service. If desired, adults can meet to celebrate in the evening at perhaps a high-end cocktail lounge.



Christian marriage is a sacred covenant reflecting Christ's covenant with the church. It is expressed in a life-long relationship of love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared faithfulness between a man and a woman. Marriage is firmly rooted in the sacrament of baptism. In baptism, persons are given a new identity and are called to a special way of life.

For Christians who marry, marriage is one of the ways in which the baptismal identification with Christ is seen and where the calling to work for the cause of Christ is expressed. The unity between husband and wife and the steadfast promises they make to each other, represented in their wedding service, point to the unity and covenant love between Christ and the church. Church buildings do not create strong marriages. What *is* essential is that you desire and intend to live together in a way that embodies the way of life Christ invites us to live.

CentralParkWeddings.Co

CentralParkComplex.com

PastorMaryAKelly.com

Email: **Help@CentralParkComplex.com**

Central Park United Methodist Church
216 Beard Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214-1742
Office: 716-833-3193, Tues-Fri, 10am-2pm



Wedding Service

The service of Christian marriage is essentially a service of worship similar in its intent to any regular service on Sunday morning. Everything about it is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.

Both the words and the actions of the service consistently reflect the belief that the man and woman are equal partners in the marriage and that they are entering into the marriage of their own volition. Those who attend the marriage are understood to be an actively supportive congregation rather than passive witnesses.

Pastor Mary will design with you your customized service. Remember, however, that Christian marriage is not a private or family event; it is a public act of worship, and its elements reflect that understanding.

Introductory Meeting

Before settling your wedding plans, you will be invited to meet with the pastor to get acquainted and to discuss the nature of the marriage service and be certain everyone agrees on what the service represents. After this meeting the pastor will look with you to set the date and time for the marriage.

Marriage License

You must bring the marriage license to the rehearsal or deliver it to the pastor prior to the day of your wedding. *Nothing can proceed without the license!* After it is signed by witnesses to the wedding, the pastor will complete the license and return it to the office from which you obtained it.



Rehearsal

A rehearsal, not necessary but always helpful, is usually scheduled for the evening prior to the marriage and is best done when all of the wedding party can be present.

Musicians & Service music

The congregation's organist is the primary musician when you choose to include organ music in the service. You are encouraged to contact the organist as soon as possible after setting the date of your wedding to arrange for him/her to play on the date you have chosen and to select music appropriate to the occasion. If the organist is unavailable, the organist or the pastor may provide the names of other musicians, or you may invite someone of your own choosing. If someone other than the church organist is asked to play the church organ, that person may do so only with the approval of the church organist.

The organist at Central Park Church is Paul Homer, and you may reach him through the church office (833-3193) or at his home (688-6802).

Photography

Still and video photography is a meaningful addition to the service for most couples, and you are welcome to include the services of one or more photographers of your choice. In order to keep distractions to a minimum and preserve the sacred nature of the worship service, no photography is allowed between the conclusion of the processional that begins the service and the start of the recessional at the end of the service, with the exception of available-light photography from the rear of the gathered congregation.