

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage! It is our joy to be able to celebrate this time with you.

This is an important time in your life as we seek God's blessings upon your marriage. Before the Lord you will profess your love for each other, giving thanks to God for the love which he has given you for each other. With this in mind we recognize the wedding to be a service in praise and thanksgiving of God. To reach that end we will discuss options and plans that will enrich the worship experience.

During the months ahead we will walk together as we prepare for your wedding day. In this booklet you will find necessary information to help you get things ready. If at any time you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 724-837-7327.

Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate with you. I look forward to the days and years ahead.

In Christ,

Rev. John M. Smaligo



SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Those who wish to have their wedding service held at Harrold Zion are to contact the church at least three months before the wedding day. Please contact the Church Office at 724-837-7327.

A rehearsal is usually held the day before the wedding. The couple will arrive one-half hour before the remainder of the bridal party. Those who should attend the rehearsal are the marriage party, parents, and additional participants.

MEETING WITH THE PASTOR

There will be a minimum of three meetings with the pastor. During these meetings we will plan your marriage service and discuss deadlines and other pertinent information.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Every couple will have the opportunity to pick options for the various parts of the service. Since each couple is unique this allows the couple to choose those items which are meaningful to them.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

The couple is permitted to choose other participants in their marriage service. These participants can include lectors, reader for the prayers, Communion Assistant, and other areas of service.

COMMUNION

It is common for marriage services to include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. When it is included in the service all those present are invited to receive the sacrament.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

There are several choices of scripture lessons that the couple can choose from. The pastor will provide the options at one of the meetings with the couple.

BULLETINS

The secretary of the parish is available to type out the bulletins and copy all of the bulletins once the information is approved by the couple. A rough draft of the bulletin will be sent to the couple about 2 weeks before the service so that the couple can review it for approval before the final copies are made. The couple can order and choose their bulletins from the following sites: www.augsburgfortress.com , www.cokesbury.org or www.cph.org When you are on home page type “wedding bulletins” in to the search box.

WEDDING COORDINATORS

Members of Harrold Zion staff each wedding to serve as coordinators. The Coordinators will assist the couple in any way needed such as pinning the flowers on the groom and groomsmen, decorating the church, and assist the bride and attendants in the procession.

GETTING DRESSED AT THE CHURCH

Couples are permitted to get dressed at the church on the day of the wedding. It is suggested that brides and bridal attendants arrive 1½ hours prior to the ceremony. Grooms and groomsmen are welcome to arrive one hour before the service. You are welcome to bring gowns and tuxes with you to the rehearsal. These will be locked up overnight and then placed in the room where you will be dressing the day of the wedding.

MUSIC, ORGANIST AND OTHER MUSICIANS

Because of the sacredness of the ceremony we ask that only sacred music be chosen for the ceremony. All couples are welcome to have their wedding music provided by our church organist. It is asked that the couples meet with the organist at least two months prior to the wedding.

Guest organists are permitted to play for weddings upon approval from the church organist.

In addition, instrumentalists and/or vocal soloists are welcome to be a part of the wedding's music. For soloists, it is asked there be no more than three selections which are to be cleared with the organists. If you need help in selecting music, the church organist will be willing to help you in your selection.

Our PA system makes it difficult to have recorded music be used in the wedding ceremony.

FLOWERS

While you are welcome to purchase your own Altar flowers for your wedding, you are also welcome to use the Altar flowers that will be used in the church for weekend worship. This will help cut the expense of flowers if you so choose.

ALCOHOL

No alcohol is permitted in the church or on the church grounds and parking lot.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

You are welcome to choose the photographer of your choice. Inserted is a copy of guidelines for the photographer. Please make certain the photographer receives it as you meet with them.

Photographers are welcome to take pictures of the bridal party as they walk down the aisle. During the ceremony the photographer is to be no further than the last pew in which guests are seated. It is asked that no flash be used during the ceremony.

Videos may be taken of the marriage service. They can be placed at the front of the church (stationary) or at some other suggested areas.

If you have any questions about these please feel free to talk with the pastor concerning videotaping the service.

DECORATIONS

Bows, aisle runners, flowers, and unity candle are welcomed to be used as decorations for the wedding. All couples are to bring the decorations to the church the night of the rehearsal. The Wedding Coordinators will put the decorations in place the day of the wedding.

NON MEMBER WEDDINGS

After consultation and joint agreement by the pastor and the couple, non-members of Harrold Zion are welcome to be married at the church. Please see the fee schedule for non-member weddings.

If members of another church request the use of Harrold Zion for their marriage service the pastor of Harrold Zion is to be present for the service.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

You may apply for your marriage license in the Westmoreland County Courthouse or in any other county in Pennsylvania. To receive your certified copy of the marriage license you need to go to the courthouse where you apply for the license.

In Westmoreland County the cost of the marriage license is \$70.00, and you can pay by cash or credit card. No checks are accepted.

You will receive your license at the time you apply. However, please note that you cannot use it for three days. The license is good for 60 days.

If you live outside of Westmoreland County and are returning to Harrold Zion to be married, you can obtain your marriage license in any county courthouse in Pennsylvania.

At Harrold Zion we ask that the marriage license be given to the pastor no later than two weeks before the wedding.

FEES

There is no church-use fee charged to members of Harrold Zion.

For non-members the fee for use of the church is \$150.00. \$50.00 of this fee is due upon reservation of the church for the wedding.

For all being married at the church please note the following fees:

Organist fee - \$85.00

Organist fee with soloist - \$125.00

Janitor fee - \$50.00

All payments are to be made to the secretary of the church no later than two (2) weeks prior to the ceremony.

QUESTIONS

If any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office at 724-837-7327.

*Those whom God has joined together
let no one ever separate.*