Wedding Information

Glade Run Church

1091 Pittsburgh Road

Valencia, PA

724-898-3503

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Congratulations on your decision to enter into marriage! We are happy you are considering Glade Run Church as a place to celebrate this momentous event and to recognize God's participation in your marriage. If you haven't had a chance to join us for a Sunday worship service, we invite you to do so. Our worship service times are available on our website or by phone from our church office staff. A marriage gains tremendously in having a community of fellow Christ-followers to help nurture the couple's relationship with one another and with God.

In Christian marriage, we recognize that God has gifted humanity with the marriage relationship. Further, we believe that when a couple chooses to anchor their relationship to God, the marriage grows stronger. Even during seasons and times when a couple may begin to grow apart, God can draw them back together through faith and through the community of faith.

The Christian Wedding Service is foremost a worship service. Because marriage is a gift God has given us, we turn ourselves to God in thankful worship for this gift and in prayer that he would continue to nurture the relationship through the couple's lifetime. We understand from scripture that marriage is a life-time commitment of husband to wife and wife to husband including mutual love, faithfulness, and service. As God has created a humanity of a tremendously diverse set of individuals, weddings can also express the personalities of the couple within the bounds of sacred and reverent worship. These are often expressed in the selection of scripture passages and choice of sacred music. We, also, invite family members and friends to read scripture and to share solos as approved by the Director of Music and the pastor.

The order of worship is based upon the Service for Christian Marriage of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in a recent edition of the *Book of Common Worship*. The service is under the supervision of the pastor of Glade Run Church or the designee of the pastor and Session. Regardless of whether the church is printing the bulletin or the couple is managing this effort, the pastor must approve the final copy of the bulletin before printing.

Weddings do usually require a significant amount of preparation, and the pastor and Session will have to discern whether the

pastor and Glade Run Church can lead and host your wedding. This process begins with an introductory meeting with the pastor. Neither the pastor nor the Session are under any obligation to perform or host any wedding ceremony. Please note that our office staff can only tentatively reserve a date for your wedding. As a result, we ask that an introductory meeting with the pastor be schedule at least six months (preferably about a year) before the desired wedding date to ensure appropriate discernment and options for the couple.

COUNSELING

Couples are required to meet with the officiating pastor prior to the wedding, and completion of counseling is required for the wedding to be performed. The number of meetings will be determined by the pastor. In order that a thorough job be done, the couple should contact the pastor well ahead of the wedding date. Premarital counseling is a vital part of the process couples go through when contemplating marriage. It involves more than simply planning the wedding service. It helps to assure the couple that they are making a wise decision concerning marriage. At the pastor's discretion, counseling will include use of a pre-marital assessment tool such as Prepare-Enrich at a small cost to the couple.

THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license, under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania, is required for the marriage ceremony to proceed. It is the couple's responsibility to obtain this in a timeframe that meets state requirements for any waiting period or expiration of the license. This should be submitted to the pastor at least one week prior to the rehearsal. The pastor will not perform the wedding without possessing the original license.

MUSIC

It is important to understand that a Christian wedding is a service of worship. Therefore, the musical selections shall have a Christian, sacred focus (traditional or contemporary). Music in worship is intended to glorify God and not humans. Secular or

popular songs of special meaning to the couple should be reserved for the wedding reception. The Director of Music and the pastor are responsible for approving all musical selections. Please make an appointment with the Director of Music well in advance of the wedding date. Arrangements can also be made at that time for use of an organist or keyboardist and other musicians as needed. If a soloist is to be used, please inform the Director of Music; arrangements will be made for rehearsal time. Any substitute organist, keyboardist or musician must be approved by the Director of Music. Any paid musicians, soloists, or others assisting with the service outside of those arranged by the Director of Music will need to be compensated directly by the couple. Our congregation uses *The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship* (1997) regularly for worship, and this may be a good starting place for musical selections. Copies are typically available in the pews.

If the church does not already have a license for music selected by the couple, the couple will be responsible for any work to secure that license including for recording, video streaming, or uploading.

WEDDING GUIDELINES

Members of sister Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations may use our facilities and have their own pastor conduct the service. Professional ministerial ethics indicate that except for sister PC(U.S.A.) congregation weddings held at Glade Run, all weddings must be conducted by a Glade Run pastor. More than one pastor may be used. If it is desired that another pastor assist, the invitation is to be extended by the Glade Run pastor performing the ceremony and at his/her discretion. Exceptions to these rules will require approval by the current pastor and Session. In the case Glade Run does not have a pastor, the Session will discern any requests. The church does not normally rent the facilities to other churches for weddings.

The Session of Glade Run United Presbyterian Church has resolved that marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman as revealed by scripture in Genesis 2:24. As such, only traditional, Biblical weddings between a man and a woman will be performed by the pastor or invited officiants on the church

premises[1]. Further, at least one member of the couple should be a professing Christian and member of a Christian church; further requirements are at the discretion of the pastor and the Session.

Because the wedding is a Christian worship service and should be held in good decorum, we do turn away anyone who arrives to or attends the service while under the influence of any substance. Should this require turning away an essential participant such as a member of the wedding party, the groom, or the bride, the wedding will need to be canceled.

Payment for all facilities and services are due at least one week before the wedding rehearsal.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Photographers and videographers should consult with the pastor before the ceremony for appropriate positioning and timing of photos. So as not to interrupt the worship service, we require that there be no flash photography or video lights during the service. We, also, request that videographers be stationary either in the balcony or below the balcony. Photographers should limit movement so as not to interrupt the service. At the beginning of the service, we *encourage* photography from the front corners during the entrance of the wedding party. After the wedding party has entered, we *recommend* photographers discretely transition to any of the following locations: a front corner, beneath the balcony, or on the balcony.

As the wedding party enters, we *limit* movement to the back of the sanctuary, to the outer aisles, and between the front row of pews and the chancel. For the remainder of the service, movement is *limited* to the back of the sanctuary and the outer aisles. Formal, posed photographs of the wedding party *should conclude* by thirty minutes before the service and until after the service has completed.

[1] Passed by the Session March 2015.

WHAT FACILITIES MAY BE USED?

The sanctuary or the gym are the normal locations for the marriage service. The sanctuary can generally accommodate about 150 people, and the gym may accommodate about 280. Do note that our sanctuary does not have a central aisle, which is a concern of some couples who consider our facility. If the wedding reception is to be held at Glade Run, either the Fellowship Hall or the Heritage Hall may be used. The Fellowship Hall may accommodate about 150 people, and the Heritage Hall may accommodate about 75 people. Use of the facilities and staff requests are to be cleared with the Administrative Assistants well in advance of the wedding date. Please note that outside of the sanctuary, the capacity figures may require the couple to rent additional chairs and/or tables; we are happy to work with the couple to determine whether our furniture will be adequate and satisfactory.

The use of tobacco products is not permitted in the interior of the church and wine and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the interior of the church or on the exterior grounds or parking lot. We do not allow food in our gymnasium for receptions, and we do not allow pets anywhere in our facility for weddings and receptions. Please see the Site Regulations and Fee Schedule document for complete details.

The pastor may also conduct Christian wedding services in locations removed from the church complex in special circumstances. Costs incurred for the pastor's travel, lodging, parking, mileage, meals, etc.. plus pulpit supply costs should the pastor be absent for a worship service will be at the expense of the couple.

FLOWERS, CANDLES, ETC.

Please make arrangements with your florist for flowers, candelabra, aisle runner and other flower holders as desired. Be sure to notify the church office as to when your flowers will be delivered. This will ensure that the church complex is open and ready to receive the delivery. Florists should have flowers

arranged at least one hour before the service. Flower and other decorations removal are the responsibility of the bridal party. Anything left at the church after the departure of the wedding party may be disposed of at the church's discretion.

Please note that only dripless candles are to be used; floor tile and/or carpet must be protected at all times. Fire regulations require that all candles (except those on the communion table) be enclosed in globes. Do consider that flowers, candles, decorations, and other items must be configured such that no permanent damage or residue is left after the service. Please refer to the Site Regulations and Fee Schedule document for complete details as to prohibitions, etc.

The couple should ensure that all items are removed from the church within two hours of the service. If the couple desires to leave flowers for use in future worship services, this needs to be coordinated and approved by the office staff within two weeks of the service.

THE REHEARSAL

Unless excused specifically by the pastor, all wedding party members, parents, readers, ushers, soloists, and musicians should be present for the rehearsal which is usually held the evening before the wedding. The rehearsal lasts approximately one hour; please be prompt in your arrival. The music, the processional, the service, the recessional and the seating of parents and guests, the lighting of candles, the receiving line, and any pertinent details will be reviewed.

OTHER SERVICE DETAILS

Ushers should arrive at least 45 minutes before the start of the service and station themselves in the Narthex (the back of the church) until guests begin arriving.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

Due to environmental concerns and regulations, the use of birdseed, rice, balloons, confetti, or sparklers is prohibited. Bubbles may be used as a substitute as long as it is distributed outside the church building. Any other items to be released must receive prior approval from the pastor and/or Session; please check with the church office.

SCRIPTURE COMMON FOR WEDDINGS

The following are scripture passages commonly used in weddings as noted in the *Book of Common Worship* (1993); though, the couple may suggest passages outside this list. It is common for weddings to include passages from 3-4 sections below. All scripture passages and translations must be approved by the pastor. We typically use the *New Revised Standard Version* in our worship services, and the full passages below can be provided by the pastor in the introductory meeting.

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31	Humankind created in the image of God
Genesis 2:18-24	Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	Set me as a seal upon your heart
Proverbs 3:3-6	Trust the Lord with all your heart
Isaiah 54:5-8	Your Maker is your husband
Jeremiah 31:31-34	The Lord will make a new covenant

Psalms

Psalm 8	Mortals crowned with glory and honor
Psalm 67	May God be gracious to us
Psalm 95:1-7	O come, let us sing to the Lord
Psalm 100	Make a joyful noise to the Lord
Psalm 103:1-5, 15-18	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalm 117	Great is God's steadfast love
Psalm 121	Lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalm 128	Happy is everyone who fears the Lord
Psalm 136:1-9, 26	O give thanks, for God is good
Psalm 145	I will exalt you, O God my King
Psalm 148	Praise the Lord
Psalm 150	Everything that breathes praise the Lord

Epistles

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	A living sacrifice … let love be genuine
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Faith, hope, love … greatest is love
Colossians 3:12-17	Clothe yourselves with love
1 John 4:7-12	Let us love one another … God is love
Revelation 19:1, 5-9	Rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb

Gospels

Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:13-16	Salt of the earth … light of the world
Matthew 19:3-6	No longer two, but one flesh
Matthew 22:35-40	Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind
Mark 10:6-9	What God has joined, let no one separate
John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
John 15:1-17	Jesus, the true vine

NOTES

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Andrew Smothers ..……. Pastor

Gloria Dillner…….. Pastoral Assistant

Carol Jamison…….. Director of Music

Kris Cress ……. Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:30am – 3:30pm

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OUR VISION:
Love Jesus, love people, make disciples
while anchored in Biblical truth.