

**North Bethesda United Methodist Church**  
**10100 Old Georgetown Road**  
**Bethesda, MD 20814**  
**301-530-4342**

It is a pleasure to know that you contemplate a church wedding. This is the most sacred experience, of the utmost importance both to you and the Church. In order to better serve you in planning for the ceremony, this guide has been prepared. Please read it carefully.

**MARRIAGE:**

North Bethesda United Methodist Church recognizes and honors opportunities to be in ministry with couples who decide to be married. When two people come together in life and in spirit and develop a primary, committed relationship, the church is often asked to celebrate and bless the union of their lives and spirits.

A wedding is a religious celebration wherein two people ask for God's blessing, declare and affirm their faith, love, and commitment before God and their community; commit their common journeying into the hands of God; and join their lives to be the fullest of their capacity.

We offer our space and pastor to couples who seek to be married. We extend this ministry to members and non-members alike, seeing weddings as an opportunity to nurture the shared life journeys of members and to extend hospitality to non-members.

**General Information for the Planning of Your Wedding**

**Church Address:** North Bethesda United Methodist Church  
10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814  
(2 traffic lights south of Democracy Blvd. at Lone Oak Drive)

**Pastor:** Rev. Kara Scroggins  
Church Office: 301-530-4342

**Church Organist:** Tony Ashur: 703-405-8181

**Fees (For non-members only)**

- Use of Sanctuary: \$500 for wedding only, \$600 for wedding & rehearsal (limited to 1 hour)
- Organist: \$250 for wedding only, \$300 for wedding and rehearsal
- Pastor: Sliding scale
- Wedding Coordinator: \$150 (cash) for two coordinators (non-members **must** use the Church's appointed Wedding Coordinators) - this includes 1 hour for the rehearsal and 2 hours for the wedding. If the rehearsal or wedding runs longer than this, the additional charge will be \$20 per hour.
- Janitorial Fee: \$75 (cash)
- Candles: Extra candelabra available for \$75, wedding couple may arrange for purchase of Unity Candle

Checks should be made payable as follows:

North Bethesda United Methodist Church  
\$600 for wedding and rehearsal  
\$500 for wedding only  
\*\$500 for Security Deposit

Tony Ashur: \$250 (\$300 with rehearsal)  
Rev. Kara Scroggins (pastor's fee)  
Wedding Coordinator: \$150 (cash only)  
Janitor: \$75 (cash only)

**Note:** Rehearsal is limited to 1 hour. If more time is taken, the additional charge is \$100 per hour for use of the sanctuary.

\*Security Deposit of \$500 will be returned one week following the wedding if all is in order. If there is any damage or if additional cleaning is needed, this charge will be deducted. Additional rehearsal time will also be deducted from the Security Deposit.

**Wedding License:** The license for your wedding must be obtained from the Circuit Court, Rockville, Maryland. A 48-hour waiting period is required by the County, and your license is good for a period of six months. It is recommended that you obtain your license as early as possible, and that you present it to the pastor prior to the ceremony, no later than at the rehearsal. If you are not using the pastor of NBUMC, a copy of the license needs to be given to the wedding coordinator at the rehearsal.

**Photographs:** Flash pictures are not to be taken during the ceremony except as the bride and groom process to the altar and recess from the altar. During the ceremony, pictures may be taken using available light. Videotaping is permitted during the entire service at the direction of the pastor. You are welcome to pose for pictures after the ceremony.

**Music:** We recommend the services of our Organist/Director of Music, Tony Ashur. Music selections are to be made in consultation with the Pastor and Organist.

**Flowers:** Flower arrangements are the responsibility of the couple. It is recommended that you assign a member of your family or wedding party to be responsible for picking up the flowers from the florist on the day of the wedding; this will avoid any problems or delays in delivery of your flowers. If flowers are delivered to the church by the florist, the church must be notified in advance of delivery time. No floral tape or tacks of any kind are to be used to attach flowers to sanctuary furniture or walls.

**Matters of Courtesy:** No smoking is allowed anywhere within the church building. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on church property or within church building. Instead of rice, birdseed is recommended for throwing outside of the building.

**Seating Capacity in the Sanctuary:** Maximum Seating - 430 persons

**Length of Aisle:** 19 yards from back pew to first step in altar area, 21 yards to go up into altar area

**Wedding Bulletin** is the responsibility of the couple.

**Security:** The bridal party is responsible for securing their own valuables. Do not leave valuables unattended in the church.

