

Weddings

Greetings, you are planning your marriage ceremony we, at Stairs Memorial United Church, are pleased that you are considering having your wedding at our church and we are here to help you in this journey.

Marriage is seen as a Holy Estate in which two people pledge themselves to one another in the presence of God and the Worshipping Community – the Church. This is an ongoing commitment and is not to be entered into lightly, the end pursuit being that the bonds of marriage are enriched and strengthened, and love, in all its fullness, might find a place for expression without fear and insecurity. To this end we invite Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, to be the honoured guest at this marriage celebration as he was at the wedding at Cana of Galilee.

Planning - If you are interested in a church wedding, then we assume you are also interested in church. It is a requirement that you attend worship at least three times between when you first approach us and the wedding. We will be lifting you up in prayer on the Sunday before your wedding, so if it is possible to attend that Sunday, we would appreciate it, although we know that work schedules and other demands may not make that particular Sunday possible for you.

Requests for marriage should be made at least four months in advance. You will meet with the minister a couple of times. The first meeting will take place soon to begin the process, and closer to the wedding date there will be another one to plan the actual service. You will have some choice in the wording of the prayers and vows, in what scriptures are read, etc. If you are planning to have singers at your wedding, or readings other than the Bible, then the words need to be approved by the minister. Anything that is consistent with the United Church understanding of marriage will likely be approved.

A rehearsal date for your wedding will also need to be booked unless it is a small wedding. You can do this through the minister when you are ready. It is usually held on the Thursday afternoon or evening before the wedding. Everyone involved in the wedding is asked to be present. The caretaker will open the church for you if you need to decorate the sanctuary. Please call to set up a time.

Pictures - We allow weddings to be videotaped but ask that the person responsible check with the minister about the appropriate place to stand. Flash photographs are allowed as you walk up the aisle, sign the documents and leave. They are not permitted during the actual service. You are, however, welcome to remain after the service to “re-stage” pictures. Please note that we don’t allow the use of **real flowers, confetti, rice or bubbles** inside the church or on the church steps and decorations may not be attached to the pews using tape.

Music – If you are using piano or organ music, you must use Byron Hermann, the musician on staff at Stairs. If you are using recorded music, it’s your responsibility to have the music approved by the minister, and to bring the music to the rehearsal and wedding (your phone can be plugged into our sound system easily) and also to arrange for someone to play the music at the appropriate time. Soloists and other musicians are also welcome but please consult with us about your plans.

Deportment - The consumption of alcoholic beverages or un-prescribed drugs prior to or during the ceremony by the wedding party, contributing to the state of intoxication, is unacceptable. If wedding couple, official witnesses or presiding minister are intoxicated the wedding cannot legally proceed.

Cost Recovery - Our Office Administrator will be the one you deal with around payment. Our cost recovery amounts are as follows:

Minister	\$300 (church, if offsite, fee is \$350)
Organist	\$200
Caretaker	\$ 75
Church Admin	\$ 50
Sanctuary	\$150
Livestreaming	\$100
Total Cost	\$700-750

- You will receive a tax receipt for the portion to the church (charitable donation).
- A deposit of \$100 is required before your wedding can be booked, and the remainder is due two weeks before your wedding date.
- All legal documents for signature at wedding to be given to Office Admin.
- The license and registration from Access Nova Scotia is to be given to Office Admin no later than two weeks before your wedding.



Wedding Policy

Stairs Memorial United Church

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Dartmouth, NS
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Faith that Matters,

Love that Matters,

Community that Matters



“Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful, nor conceited, nor rude; never selfish, nor quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs; does not gloat over the other person’s sins, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and its endurance. Love will never come to an end.”

September 25th, 2023

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)