



Your Wedding

at

The Little Home Church  
by the Wayside

United Church of Christ

32 W 128 Army Trail Road  
Wayne, Illinois 60184

Church Office:

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## About Our Church

The Little Home Church by the Wayside is a part of the United Church of Christ, an historic denomination born of the 16th Century Protestant Reformation. It originated from the Congregational and Christian churches coming to this country as pilgrims to avoid religious persecution in England, and from the German line of Evangelical and Reformed Churches. These four strands combined to form the United Church of Christ in 1957.

Founded in 1871, our Church is a community of people who care for one another and for this world. It is a place to be reminded of God's presence in our lives and in the world, a place for giving thanks, and a place for celebration. Rooted in the tradition of religious freedom and commitment, our mission focus is children and families with a special emphasis on homelessness.

We are "*the people of God on a journey of faith.*" We invite you to come journey with us! We worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays and offer Sunday School and child care during worship. Call the church office (630) 584-4013 for more information.

## Welcome!

On behalf of our congregation, congratulations to you on your decision to marry! We celebrate your joy in finding each other and your sense of wonder at the learning and growth that will unfold for you in the years of your marriage.

We hope this brochure will aid you in planning a memorable and meaningful wedding celebration. It is our understanding that a wedding is first and foremost a Christian service of public worship. The "focus," if you will, is not on you, but on the God who created and redeems you, and whom we pray will be the

foundation of your marriage. To that end, the pastor will encourage you to include certain elements in the service that aid in the worship of God.

## Setting the Date

As soon as you know when you want to be married, arrange with our office manager or a pastor to have the date and time reserved. You will be asked to attend a Sunday service and meet with one of our pastors. Your date will be confirmed after your first meeting with a pastor and receipt of your deposit. (See below, “Experiencing Our Church Community” and “Fees”.) If you plan to have your reception in our Parish Hall, you will need to reserve that as well. (See below, “Receptions”.)

You are expected to meet with one of our pastors and pay your initial deposit within thirty days of your initial reservation. Otherwise, the reservation will be cancelled. (See below, “Fees”.)

We have found it best not to have more than one wedding per day at the church. If an exception is made, it must be for a compelling reason, and there must be at least four hours between weddings. If there is another wedding on your day, please schedule your flower delivery, decorating, and un-decorating accordingly.

## Experiencing Our Church Community

Before we confirm your wedding date, we ask that you attend one of our services, meet with one of our pastors, and agree to attend a certain number of Sunday morning services before your wedding. As pleased as we are that our sanctuary is a wonderful setting for a wedding, we want you to experience the church as the *people*, not just a building. If you do not have your own community of faith, we want you to experience the love of *this* Christian congregation - support which will enrich your wedding and perhaps strengthen your marriage, too. It is also important

to meet with one of the pastors to confirm their willingness to officiate at the wedding.

If you have your own community of faith, we encourage you to be married by your pastor in your place of worship. We do not allow outside pastors to officiate at weddings at the Little Home Church. However, with the approval of the LHC pastor, other pastors or religious leaders may co-officiate with our pastor.

## Pastoral Counseling

The pastor will want to meet with the couple for at least three sessions of approximately an hour and a half each. While these sessions do not constitute comprehensive pre-marital counseling, we do hope they will address essential issues such as the nature of Christian marriage, as well as address your questions, and help you plan a service that brings glory to God.

These sessions are scheduled to suit everyone's calendar.

## Sanctuary

Our sanctuary seats 144, with four in a pew. We have 36 full-sized "boxed" pews, each one with a small hinged door. There are two aisles leading to the altar (no center aisle), and 10 windows with sills that will accommodate flower arrangements. If you choose to use candles with these arrangements, they must have glass chimneys that can be borrowed from your florist. Two single candlesticks are on the altar. Candles for these will be provided. Brass candle-lighters are also available for your use.

Because our pews are painted, please be sure to **refrain from using any kind of tape** to secure flowers or ribbons on the pews. These must be fastened with string, wire, clips or rubber bands. A kneeling bench is also available for your use. You may enter the premises two hours prior to your wedding to decorate and prepare.

There is a church bell in the steeple, so you may ring this as part of the ceremony if you desire.

The use of white aisle runners is an option that will need to be decided by the bride and groom. These runners are normally available through the florist. The two aisles are each approximately 60 feet long, including the stairs to the altar. Ordinarily a runner is used along the west aisle only.

It is your responsibility to check the pews for trash or personal items left behind.

## Music for Your Wedding

We encourage the use of live music in your wedding. The pipe organ in our sanctuary is one of the finest instruments in the Fox Valley. We also have a Clavinova (electronic keyboard). As soon as possible, contact our organist, Larry Dieffenbach, (630) 208-9761, to see if he is available for your wedding and to talk about other musical details. You may also include musicians of your choosing, but any keyboardist must be approved by Larry.

## Worship Bulletin

The design, printing, and distribution of the wedding bulletin is your responsibility. A collection of samples is available for you to peruse. Before the bulletin goes to press, make sure it meets with the pastor's approval.

## Rehearsal

The rehearsal is an important part of the wedding preparation. We encourage you to have present with you all the people who will be participating in the service. This includes attendants, ushers, readers, and all parents who have a role in the service. Before the rehearsal you should determine the order in which your attendants will enter and who will be paired with whom.

Provide the participants with adequate directions to the church

and encourage them to arrive on time.

## Dressing

A room is available for the bride and bridesmaids if dressing at the church is desired. This room is carpeted, with a washroom and full-length mirror, but is not attached to the sanctuary, so the bride and bridesmaids will need to walk outside a short distance before entering the sanctuary. The groom and groomsmen may use the Parish Hall and kitchen area for preparation, which is located in the back area of the church. A washroom is also available there.

It is your responsibility to see that all personal items are removed from the dressing areas after the wedding.

## Florists

You should make your own arrangements for flowers. There are several florists in our area that are familiar with our sanctuary who would be able to help you if you do not have a favorite one to go to. The following is a list of these:

Winfield Flower Shoppe	(630) 668-8460
Town & Country Gardens, Elgin	(847) 742-1135

**Please remind the florist that no tape or nails** of any kind are to be used on the pews or any painted surfaces, but must be tied or secured with string or rubber bands. (You will be held accountable for any costs incurred due to damage because of tape or nails.)

*Just a reminder, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with your florist concerning delivery of flowers and access to the church. Our church is open to florists 2 hours before the wedding ceremony.* It is your responsibility to see that all flowers and decorations are removed after the wedding.

## Photography and Videography

We recognize how important it is to have good photographs of your wedding ceremony. The challenge is to get the pictures with the minimum distraction and interruption of the sense of worship. In general, we suggest that the photographer may move into position for photos of the processional and recessional, but remain in the back of the church during the actual ceremony. We ask that no cameras be used, except by your designated photographer and/or videographer. Please ask them to check in with the minister before the ceremony.

## Receptions

The Parish Hall is usually available for receptions. Kitchen facilities are limited, so catered, light lunch, or coffee and cake receptions work nicely. (See “Setting the Date,” “Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking”, and “Fees”.) If tables and/or chairs are needed, it is your responsibility to set them up and take them down. We have enough chairs to seat about a hundred people.

You may also rent tables and chairs from a rental company. Decorations are permitted, but please refrain from using tape or nails on the walls. We do not allow use of the church’s dishes, silver, or linen.

## Things to Throw

Unfortunately, birdseed is a hazard to some who walk on our steps and walkways, balloons and raw rice are a hazard to birds, and confetti makes an awful mess, so we cannot allow any of these customary ways of celebrating. Soap bubbles, bells or flower petals work well, and don’t present a hazard!

## License

Regardless of what county you live in, the wedding license must be obtained at the County Clerk’s Office at the DuPage County

Complex, 421 N. County Farm Road in Wheaton—phone: (630) 682-7035.

## Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking

The Little Home Church will not allow the use of alcohol or illegal drugs on its property during or after the rehearsal, wedding, or reception. Anyone who arrives at the church for the rehearsal, wedding, or reception under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave and the event will not continue until the person has left the premises.

Smoking is only permitted outside the buildings. Smokers must dispose of their matches and butts properly (Please do not throw them on the ground!).

The officiating pastor is empowered to enforce this policy.

## Fees

### Non-Members

Sanctuary ( <i>Total fee includes a \$100 reservation deposit</i> )	\$325
Non-refundable Reservation Deposit	<u>- 100</u>
(due w/in 30 days of reservation) ~ <b>BAL.</b>	<b>\$225</b>
Sanctuary Refundable Damage Deposit*	250
Pastor	175
Organist (wedding day only)	125
Organist (rehearsal)	30
Custodial fees	75
Parish Hall Reception	300
( <i>includes \$50 <b>non-refundable</b> reservation deposit</i> )	
Parish Hall Refundable Damage Deposit	100

**\* Please make out a separate check for the damage deposit. This check will be held until after the wedding and either destroyed or returned to you two weeks after your wedding .**

## Members

Sanctuary	Monetary Donation
Sanctuary Refundable Damage Deposit	250
Organist (wedding day only)	125
Organist (rehearsal)	30
Custodial fees	75
Pastor	At your discretion
Parish Hall Reception	50
Parish Hall Refundable Damage Deposit*	100

## Fee Payment Schedule

1. Within thirty days of your initial reservation (and after you have scheduled your first meeting with the pastor), you must pay a non-refundable deposit of \$100 for the sanctuary. If you are having your reception here, a non-refundable deposit of \$50 for the Parish Hall is also due at this time. ***If these are not paid, you might lose your reservation(s).***

2. Two weeks before the wedding, the balance of \$225.00 is due for the sanctuary, the Parish Hall, as well as the pastor's and organist's fees. Make the checks for the sanctuary and Parish Hall payable to the church. Checks for the pastor, organist and custodian should be made payable directly to those individuals. **Note: At this time, any refundable damage deposits are due to be received by the office (\$250 for sanctuary; \$100 for Parish Hall).**

3. If there was no damage to the sanctuary, dressing areas, grounds, or Parish Hall, the damage deposit(s) will be returned to you two weeks after the wedding. If damage occurs, the deposit (s) will be retained by the church to cover the cost of repair. If any policy of the church was violated in the course of the rehearsal, wedding, or reception, the church reserves the right to retain all or part of the deposit(s).

4. Only the refundable deposit(s) will be returned to you in the case of cancellation.

I have read this booklet and agree to its terms and conditions.

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Bride's Signature

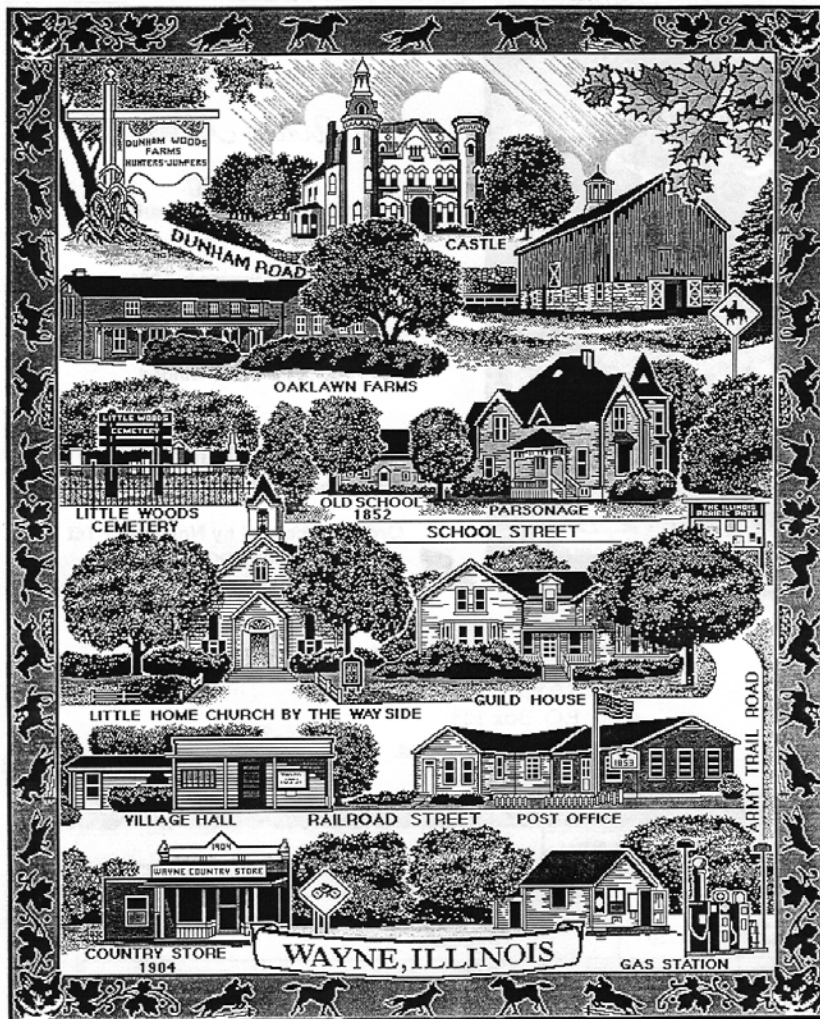
Date

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Groom's Signature

Date

A representative from The Little Home Church will make a copy of this page and keep it on file.



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## *“A Warm Memento from Your Wedding Day”*

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  - Dimensions: 50” x 65”
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# **A Wedding Prayer**

Keep us, O God, from pettiness. Let us be thoughtful in word and deed. Help us to put away pretense and face each other in deep trust without fear or self-pity. Let us be done with fault finding and be quick to discover the best in every situation.

Guard us from ill temper and hasty judgment; encourage us to take time for all things - to grow calm, serene, and gentle. Help us to be swift with kind words. Teach us never to ignore, never to hurt, never to take each other for granted...engrave charity and compassion in our hearts. Amen.