

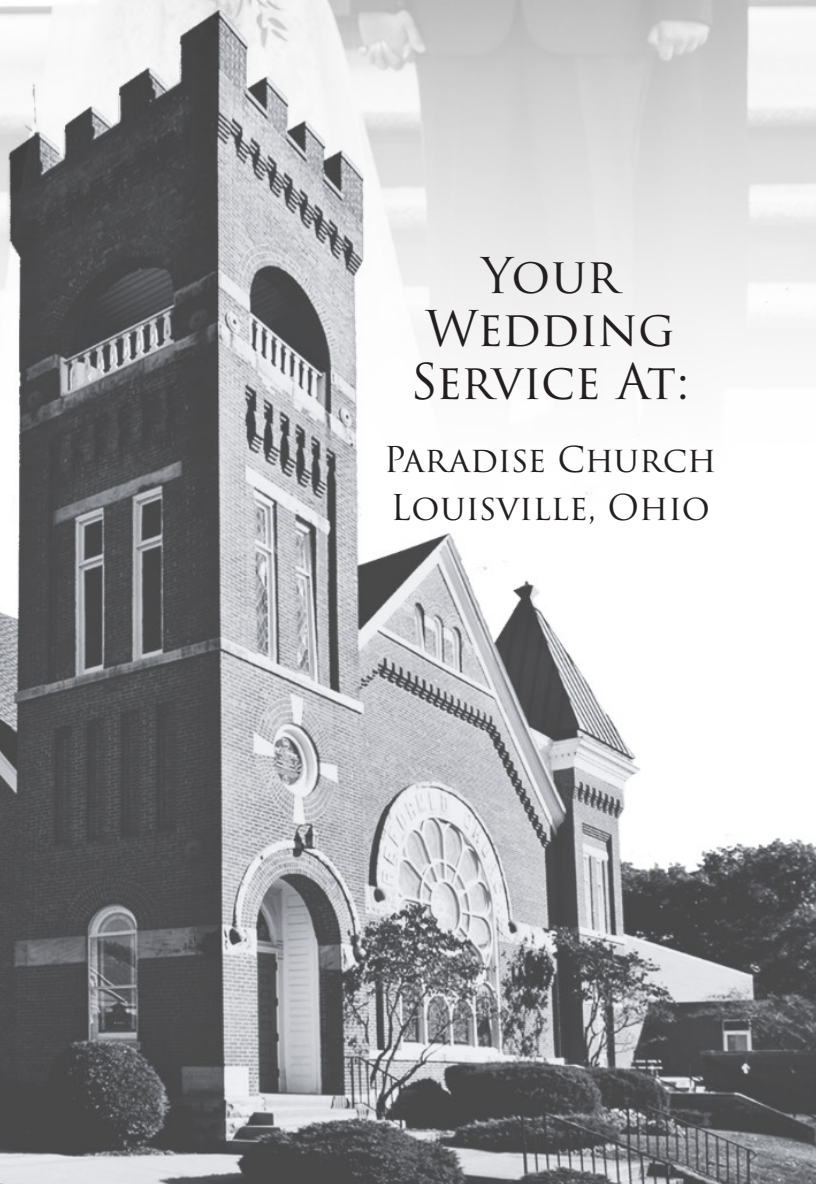
*Weddings* 

AT PARADISE CHURCH



YOUR  
WEDDING  
SERVICE AT:

PARADISE CHURCH  
LOUISVILLE, OHIO





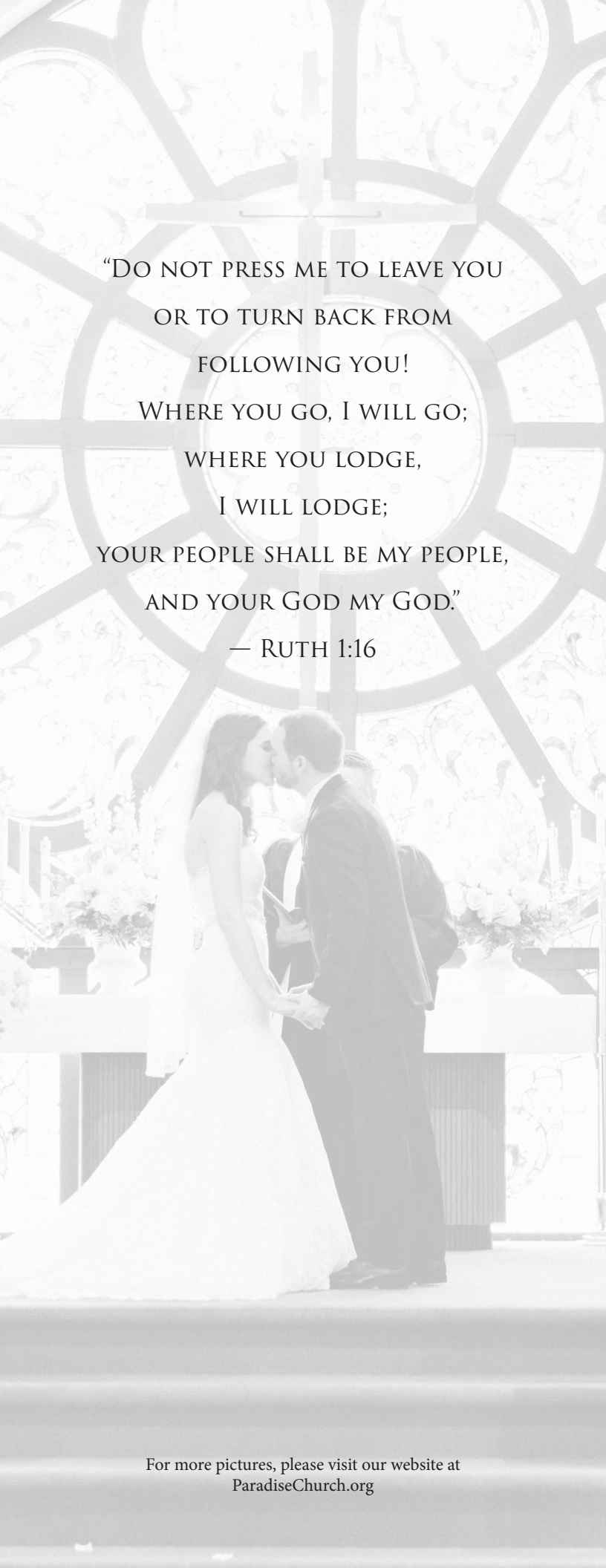
“LOVE IS PATIENT AND KIND;  
LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS OR BOASTFUL;  
IT IS NOT ARROGANT OR RUDE.  
LOVE DOES NOT INSIST  
ON ITS OWN WAY;  
IT IS NOT IRRITABLE OR RESENTFUL;  
IT DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONG,  
BUT REJOICES IN THE RIGHT.  
LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS,  
BELIEVES ALL THINGS,  
HOPES ALL THINGS,  
ENDURES ALL THINGS.”

— 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome. We are honored that you are considering Paradise for your special day. Our goal is to help make the ceremony easy and worry free. A wedding service at Paradise United Church of Christ combines dignity, reverence and joy, but also by the spirit found only in the worship of God. A wedding is a beautiful thing. We come together to offer special thanks and praise to God, and ask God's blessing upon your life together as husband and wife. At Paradise, we believe the Covenant of Marriage is one in which the bride and groom make promises to each other and to God. We believe that strong families are the foundation of community. For these reasons, we would be delighted if you choose Paradise for such a singular event as your wedding.

*This brochure is to be a helpful guide to couples beginning to plan their wedding. In as much as possible, it contains the appropriate customs and policies for weddings to be celebrated at Paradise United Church of Christ. The Minister and Wedding Coordinator at Paradise Church will guide and assist you to make your wedding a truly special and memorable occasion in your lives.*



“DO NOT PRESS ME TO LEAVE YOU  
OR TO TURN BACK FROM  
FOLLOWING YOU!  
WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO;  
WHERE YOU LODGE,  
I WILL LODGE;  
YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE MY PEOPLE,  
AND YOUR GOD MY GOD.”  
— RUTH 1:16

For more pictures, please visit our website at  
[ParadiseChurch.org](http://ParadiseChurch.org)

# PLANNING A WEDDING AT PARADISE CHURCH

If you would like to plan a wedding at Paradise UCC, the important first step is to reserve the date on both the pastor's and the church's calendar. (Please contact the church office at 330-875-2677). This is done by returning a copy of the Wedding Policy Agreement and a \$150.00 deposit to save the date.

Step 1: Reserve the date with a deposit.

Step 2: The coordinator will schedule a time for you to meet with the pastor, musicians, and other staff.

Step 3: Get your marriage license

Step 4: Meet with the pastor and pay the balance

Step 5: Plan the rehearsal

Step 6: Celebrate the big day!

The balance of the fee is due 2 weeks prior to the event. Cancellation of an approved rental agreement inside of 120 days from the scheduled event will result in forfeiture of all deposits.

The officiating pastor and musician will meet with the couple 2-3 times before the service for counseling and preparation for the service. Other clergy are welcome to participate in the service if requested by the couple and approved by the clergy of Paradise Church. All clergy performing ceremonies in Ohio must be registered with the state of Ohio.

# THE SERVICE AND THE MUSIC

## THE CEREMONY

Wedding ceremonies blend the traditional environment of the sanctuary with the story of the couple. The Paradise clergy will walk the couple through a number of sample services to choose a service flow that fits. There are a number of options to make the service unique and special:

1. Vows. The couple may opt for a traditional vow or they may want to write their own vows.
2. Music: Music plays an important part in setting the mood and the spirit for the Wedding Ceremony. There are several options for wedding music. The organ and piano are options during the service. Our church organist is most willing and experienced at assisting couples choose appropriate wedding music. Outside musicians (an outside organist must be approved by the Paradise staff), soloists, quartets are also welcome. Our sound tech person can also provide recorded music as another option.
3. Unity ceremonies like a Wine Box, Holy Communion, a Sand Ceremony, a Blessing for children to the union, or a Unity Candle can be options as well.
4. Family members or friends are welcome to do a reading of scripture or appropriate wedding reading.



## THE CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY

The Rose Window sets a beautiful background and can be open or closed at the request of the couple. Any other permanent furnishings, (including the cross and altar) and holiday decorations will remain in place during the ceremony.

### FLOWERS/ DECOR:

The couple may order flowers for the altar if they choose. The altar is large enough to hold one or two displays.

Your florist has access to the church in the morning prior to the scheduled ceremony time. If they would like to deliver during the rehearsal time the day before, that is fine as well.

The decorating guidelines are based on past experience and are designed to protect the sanctuary structure and ensure an equitable situation for all who use the building.

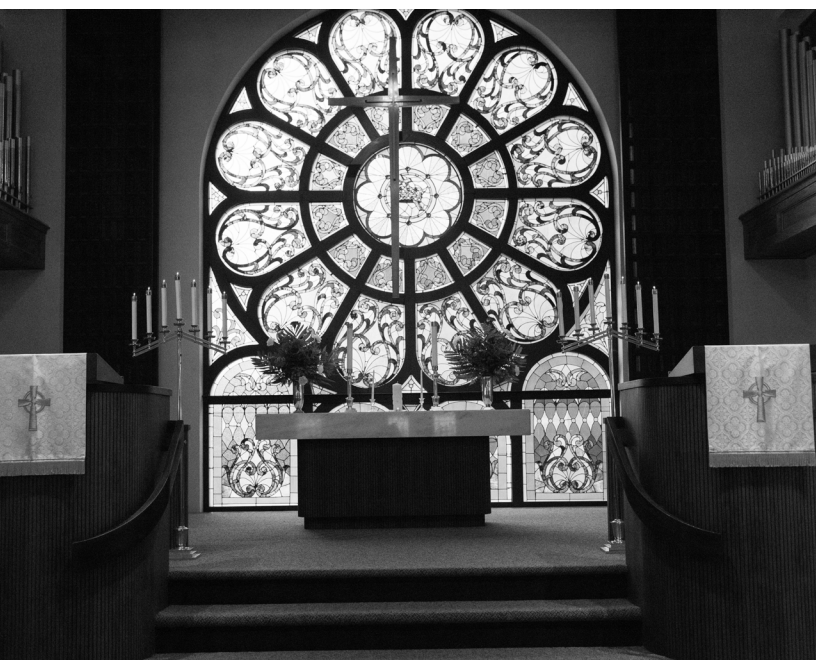
Decorations, if desired, must be affixed with easily removable tape. *The use of tacks, nails, pins, screws, or any like objects are not to be used.* Please use suitable protective coverings under candles, vases, pots, flowers, etc.

All decorations brought in for a wedding must be removed at the end of the ceremony. The florist must provide sufficient staff for the placement and removal of decorations within the allotted access and departure times.

Bows on the ends of pews: Flowers may be incorporated in the bows. The bows may only be attached with ribbon, rubber bands, or elasticized thread. Arrangements on metal or plastic clips may be used if the clips are wrapped. There are 20 pews in the front section of the sanctuary (10 per side with one special needs accessible area). There are 9 pews in the rear section

#### CANDELABRA:

The church has two candelabras that are available if requested. The couple is encouraged to use the church's candles as they are the proper size to fit securely in the holders.





#### UNITY CANDLE HOLDER:

The Church's Candle holder holds one large and two small candles and may be used if the couple desires. As appropriate, another holder may be used. The couple shall provide the candles.

#### THE SAND / WINE BOX CEREMONY

A stand will be provided, but the vases and materials are to be secured by the couple.

#### AISLE RUNNER:

If a white runner is to be used, it may be purchased or rented from the florist or other source. The runner needs to be 50 feet in length to accommodate our 40-foot aisle.

#### WI-FI:

A Wi-Fi code will be provided to the couple once the contract has been finalized.

#### BULLETINS:

If the couple desires to have the church secretary prepare the bulletins there will be an additional fee. The final draft should be in to the church office three (3) weeks prior to the ceremony.

#### PHOTOGRAPHY:

We want to create a memorable experience on your wedding day. At the same time, it is important that certain types of photography not intrude upon the sacred nature of the wedding service. Therefore, we ask that cellphones not be used during the ceremony for communication or photography. The photographer/ videographer is welcome to work during the service but should be unobtrusive. Additional lighting or flash photography should be avoided during the service.

Pictures of the wedding party may be taken before the ceremony, if sufficient time is allowed, or following the ceremony after the guests have left the Sanctuary. Pictures can also be taken out in the gazebo, the gardens, and the front grand staircase.

## BRIDAL ROOM, LOUNGE & SMALL KITCHENETTE:

The church features a bridal room that has a powder room, two sinks, full length mirrors, and clothing rack. Adjoining to the lounge and bridal room is a small kitchenette complete with refrigerator stove/oven, microwave and sink. The lounge itself has tables and chairs that can comfortably seat up to 48 people. It also has couches and armchairs.

This area can be used for a rehearsal dinner in addition to the bridal party the morning of the wedding. See fee schedule for more information.

## FOOD AND BEVERAGES:

Light snacks and appropriate beverages may be provided for the Bridal party in the Lounge/ Bridal Room, but we request that food and drink not be taken into the Sanctuary or Chapel.

***The use of tobacco is prohibited in the church building. Smoking is permitted outside in designated areas.***

## THE RECEIVING LINE AND DISPLAYS OF ENTHUSIASM

The Bride and Groom may return to the sanctuary to greet guests by rows as they leave the sanctuary or they may choose to form a receiving line in the foyer or narthex following the ceremony.

Receiving lines may also be formed outside on the front steps, by the gazebo, or in the Peace Garden.

Couples may want to consider the following displays of enthusiasm: blowing of bubbles, streamers or ringing of bells. For safety reasons we request that rice, bird seed, or small objects not be thrown as the couple exits the church. The use of candles or sparklers is also prohibited.

## THE CHURCH BELLS

The bells will ring with enthusiasm at the end of the ceremony!

## PERSONAL ITEMS

Please arrange to secure all personal items, cameras, purses, etc. during the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. The church is not responsible for lost items.

## AFTER THE SERVICE

Please make arrangements to remove all decorations and personal items before you leave the church for the reception.





## THE CHAPEL, GAZEBO & PEACE GARDEN

Paradise can provide you with two other wedding locations besides the Sanctuary. Our outdoor Gazebo and Peace Garden are perfect for an outdoor ceremony, while our Chapel provides a intimate setting for smaller gatherings.



For more pictures, please visit our website at  
[paradisearchurch.org/weddings](http://paradisearchurch.org/weddings)



## RECEPTIONS IN THE CHURCH

The Fellowship Hall of the church is available for your use as the place for your wedding reception for a fee. The custodian will assist the caterer in preparing the hall and cleaning it following the reception. The custodian's services take place before and after the reception and should not be confused with the services a caterer may render. The custodian will be present to assist your caterer. The planning of your reception and decorating of the Fellowship Hall are your responsibility. Only professional caterers may be used unless other arrangements are made in advance with the church secretary and Food Services Manager. All items must be furnished by the caterer. Depending on the number of those attending will determine if you will need your caterer to provide additional tables and chairs. There is a specific form the caterer must sign which outlines the guidelines. It is included in your wedding packet. No tobacco or drugs may be served or consumed on church premises. Smoking must be confined to outside the church building. Rice, confetti, birdseed and the like may NOT be used on church grounds. You must schedule your reception when you schedule your wedding.

## RECEPTION RENTAL INCLUDES:

- Grand piano
- Kitchen facilities
- 6, 8-foot banquet tables
- 25, 60-inch round tables (seat up to 8)
- 200, stacking chairs
- Two 100-cup stainless steel coffee makers
- Water/ Lemonade/ Tea Dispensers
- Punch bowls and ladles

*\*All Linens should be rented.*

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE OPTION

An affordable option to be considered is using the Fellowship Hall for your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception. These arrangements can be made separately with the coordinator.

## THE REHEARSAL

The minister is in charge of your service and will meet with the wedding party to explain all the procedures and to rehearse. Rehearsals should last no more than one hour so please be prompt. Rehearsals are an important part of the wedding preparation and should be held a day or so before the wedding, and before any dinner or other festivities. (It is suggested that the rehearsal be held at the same hour as the wedding to get an idea or the natural lighting in the sanctuary.) It is only necessary for those who have a part in the service to attend, including: bridal couple, attendants, soloists, musicians, parents and ushers.



REV. DR. DAVID M. ANDERSON JR.

#### EXPERIENCE/MINISTRY

Senior Pastor at Paradise Church

Has performed over 1500 ceremonies.

Licensed and Ordained Minister.

In the ministry for 29 years.

Has served as pastor, chaplain, and church planter.

Has owned and operated

***www.weddingchaplain.com*** for 20 years.

Has been recognized yearly by ***TheKnot.com***

“Best of Weddings” 2015- 2023

Has been recognized yearly by ***WeddingWire.com*** as

a Couple’s Choice winner 2017- 2023. According to

***WeddingWire.com*** Rev. Anderson has been ranked

in the top 5% of wedding officiants in the nation.

#### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

AA Religion/ BS Christian Ministries

MA Theological Studies/ ThM Master of Theology

D.Min in Pastoral Counseling



Paradise Church welcomes couples to be married  
with the approval of the Minister. Everyone  
will abide by all the rules as outlined  
by Paradise Church.

Rev. David Anderson, Pastor  
Theresa Marks, Administrative Secretary  
Sharon Allgood, Building & Events Supervisor  
Misty Anderson, Wedding Coordinator



**PARADISECHURCH**

ESTABLISHED 1863

619 E. Main Street

Louisville, OH 44641

Phone: 330.875.2677 FAX: 330.875.0552

Website: [paradisechurch.org/weddings](http://paradisechurch.org/weddings)

[Facebook.com/ParadiseChurchWeddings](https://Facebook.com/ParadiseChurchWeddings)