



WEDDINGS AT NIMMO UMC

"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man." (Proverbs 3:3-4)

Thank you for considering Nimmo United Methodist Church (UMC) as the place for the formal beginnings of your life as a married couple. We believe a spiritual life together is key to a good and lasting marriage. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become part of our congregation.

Please be advised that Nimmo UMC Pastor has the final authority to decide whether a wedding may be performed at Nimmo UMC, based on both the *Methodist Book of Discipline*, which constitutes the law and doctrine of the United Methodist Church, and the criteria described below. If you have any questions, please call the Nimmo UMC office (757-427-1765), which is open Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 3 pm.

By church policy, the use of alcohol is not permitted in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and/or on the grounds of Nimmo UMC.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Because the Pastor believes that marriage is hard work and that your Christian wedding ceremony will be uniquely special, Nimmo UMC would like the bride and groom to participate in 3-4 premarital sessions. During each of these one-hour sessions, the prospective bride, the prospective groom, or both together will meet with the Pastor to discuss the challenges of Christian marriage. The last session will be to organize and plan your actual wedding ceremony.

USE OF OWN CLERGY

You may choose to have a certified Christian Clergy of your choice perform the wedding ceremony. To do so, the Nimmo UMC Pastor must approve the credentials of your selected Clergy, and he/she must agree to conduct the premarital counseling sessions in accordance with the above guidelines and advise accordingly.

THE SANCTUARY

Nimmo UMC's Sanctuary is in an historic building. Its character and colonial design lend to simplicity in decoration. Guidelines for Wedding Decorations are available separately and should be discussed with your florist. For example, there are specific requirements for any arrangements on the altar relative to the cross. Additional sanctuary policy guidance is contained herein and, in the Photography and Videography paragraph below.

The Sanctuary will seat 125 comfortably, with 17 pews on the main level and six pews in the balcony. Handicap accessibility is available to the main level of the Sanctuary via an external ramp on the north side of the sanctuary and an internal ramp within the west side (back of the Sanctuary) of the building.

THE WEDDING SERVICE

A Christian wedding ceremony at Nimmo UMC is one during which vows are exchanged in the context of worship, prayer, and thanksgiving. Readers and musical soloists may add to the uniqueness of your wedding service and their contributions must be appropriate, with the consent of the Pastor (see Music paragraph below). A Unity Candle and/or the Celebration of the Lord's Supper may also be included in the wedding ceremony. Should you desire to include either or both, plan to discuss this with the Pastor during premarital counseling sessions. The use of Photography and Videography is addressed in the paragraph below.

MUSIC

Nimmo UMC has a beautiful, new pipe organ and an accomplished Organist/Music Director. By church policy, only he can play the organ. Assuming he is available, he can play for an honorarium (see Fees and Honoraria Schedule). The use of a grand piano is available at no cost. The sanctuary can also accommodate a small number of musicians. The bride and groom have the responsibility to ensure that selected music will contribute to the ceremony's character as a service of Christian worship. If selecting the church organist to play at the wedding, additional instrumental or vocal musicians should be chosen in consultation with him.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Photography is permitted during the wedding ceremony without a flash. Video recording is permitted, but only from the balcony. Videographers/photographers must remain stationary during the wedding service. Guests should be discouraged from taking pictures during the wedding service. The Pastor will be glad to remain after the service to recreate scenes which the bride and groom wish to have photographed.

THE REHEARSAL

The wedding rehearsal, usually held the day before the wedding service, will last about an hour and is conducted by the Pastor conducting the service, either the Nimmo UMC Pastor or another selected Clergy, as appropriate. The pastor will be assisted by the church's assigned wedding hostess (see Wedding Hostess paragraph below) and your wedding planner, if applicable. It is important for all wedding party participants to be present and on time for the rehearsal.

THE WEDDING HOSTESS

The Nimmo UMC Church Office Administrator will help answer your questions regarding scheduling your wedding (see Scheduling Your Wedding paragraph below). She will assign a wedding hostess who will be present before, during, and after the wedding. The wedding hostess will serve as a resource for you and your wedding planner regarding facility use, decoration and other arrangements relating to your wedding. Each wedding hostess is a member of Nimmo UMC and is familiar with our wedding policies.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

You must contact the Nimmo Church Office Administrator (757-427-1765 Monday-Thursday 9 AM-3 PM) regarding the availability of the sanctuary. You may also check the church online calendar (<https://www.nimmochurch.com/>). During December, as the result of a full calendar, weddings are held only under special circumstances. If a suitable date is available, please call the church office to schedule a meeting to discuss scheduling your wedding.

Church members and immediate family members may schedule an available date up to 12 months in advance. Non-members may schedule their dates at the discretion of the Pastor. **Your wedding date is not official until your non-refundable deposit is received (see Fees and Honoraria Schedule below).**

The non-refundable deposit will be applied to offset the church's final bill for your wedding.

If your wedding does not take place, this deposit is forfeited.

Nimmo's Schedule of Wedding Fees
(Approved by the Leadership Board July 22, 2025)

Use of Church Sanctuary: \$400 (Wedding service held in Sanctuary)*

Use of Pavilion: \$400 (Wedding service held in Pavilion)*

Note (*): Above Fees must be paid at time of reservation and are non-refundable

Each of the below charges, if applicable, is added to the above Sanctuary or Pavilion Fee

Hostess Charge: \$250 (Mandatory for all wedding services)

Cleaning Fee: \$200 (Mandatory fee for all weddings)

Use of Fellowship Hall: \$400 (To hold reception)

Additional Hostess Charge: \$200 (If reception is held in Fellowship Hall)

Organist Fee: \$225 (Must use church organist)

Use of Sound System Fee: \$175 (Must use church Sound technician)

Pastor Honorarium: To be discussed with Pastor

THE TOTAL MUST BE PAID TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING

Wedding Decorating Guidelines

Nimmo UMC

The design of the Nimmo Church sanctuary lends itself to simplicity in decorating. With its colonial box pews and small chancel area, a setting of warmth and intimacy already exists. Over decorating detracts from this and may cause unnecessary crowding. The church interior is white with red carpet and drapes.

- Please keep in mind this is a fully functioning church of God, with activities ongoing throughout the week.
- Arrangement for flowers and decorations are the responsibility of the bride and groom. It is also their responsibility to provide their florist and decorators these guidelines.
- The cross may not be removed from the altar. Nothing on the altar may be higher than the horizontal arm of the cross.
- If a single arrangement is to be centered on the altar in front of the cross, it may not be higher than 28 inches including container (so as not to block the cross).
- One hour before the wedding is to take place should be sufficient to decorate the sanctuary. A different time or more time must be scheduled with the pastor as soon as possible.
- The church will provide the white paraments for the lectern and pulpit.
- Only pew ribbons may be used to attach flowers or notices to the pew doors; no tape or adhesives may be used.
- A standing candelabra may not be used. Candles for the candelabra on the altar will be provided by the church.
- Use of an aisle runner is not permitted. The aisle is carpeted, and additional runners may be a tripping hazard.
- Live flowers or petals may not be scattered down the aisle or in the building.
- Seasonal decorations in or outside the church may not be removed or changed. For Christmas the decorating is in place three Sundays prior to Christmas until the sixth Sunday, around January 6th.
- Other than a small stand in the narthex to hold a guest book, no furniture, tripods, recording or sound equipment, etc. may be placed in the aisle.
- No altar or chancel furnishings may be removed or changed without specific direction from the pastor.
- Do not throw rice on the church grounds as wildlife may be adversely affected. Birdseed is also discouraged as it becomes a safety hazard causing falls.
- Walls, carpet and woodwork must be protected. Any damage will be charged to the couple.