

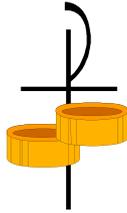
**Wedding Information**  
**Rockwood-Stone Pastoral Charge**  
**The United Church of Canada**

[rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com](mailto:rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com)

519-856-4160



**Rockwood United Church**  
119 Harris St., Rockwood



**Stone United Church**  
5370 Fourth Line, Guelph-

*“We affirm that marriage is a gift of God through which Christians make a covenant with one another and with God.”*

*“We affirm that in Christian marriage two people give themselves to each other in the full intention of a lifelong commitment.”*

*“We affirm that this unity is a creation of God and is greater than the two individuals.”*

*From statements adopted by the 30<sup>th</sup> General Council (1984) of The United Church of Canada.*

### ***Introduction***

Congratulations on your upcoming marriage and thank you for considering Rockwood United Church and Stone United Church for your wedding. We believe our churches are special places and would be pleased to share our facilities with you.

### ***Our Churches***

Rockwood United Church is located at 119 Harris Street in Rockwood. Founded in 1867, it accommodates 175 people in the pews. The interior colours are pale blue and burgundy. Both an organ and a keyboard are available for use. The church has two one-metre-wide aisles, one on either side of centre.

Stone United Church is located at 5370 Fourth Line (just south of Wellington County Road 124). Built in 1863, it accommodates 110

people. The interior colours are dusty rose and cream. An organ is available for use, as well as a piano. It has a 48" wide centre aisle.

Both churches are wheelchair accessible.

Visit us for Sunday worship at 9:45 a.m. at Stone and at 11:15 a.m. at Rockwood. During the summer, information about service times and location is available through the church office at 519-856-4160, is posted at both churches and at [www.rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com](mailto:www.rockwoodstoneuc@gmail.com).

### ***Who will officiate at our wedding?***

Our Minister is Reverend Heather Leffler. Heather can be reached through the church office at 519-856-4160, at 519-265-7385 or at [hleffler@rogers.com](mailto:hleffler@rogers.com). Normally, all weddings will be conducted by our minister. Arrangements may be made to have another minister participate in the service.

### ***What makes a church wedding special?***

In choosing to be married in the church, you are recognizing that your marriage is a covenant with each other and with God. The marriage ceremony is an act of worship and a celebration of your love for God and for each other. Your service will include music, prayers, scripture and a message from the minister. It may include hymns, communion or other elements of worship.

You are making your vows before God, who loves you and whose Spirit is always with you. As you grow in love with one another, it is our prayer that you will grow in loving relationship with God.

### ***What are the legal requirements?***

Our minister has a legal responsibility to ensure you have a valid marriage licence or are eligible to be married by publication of banns. *"A marriage shall be solemnized only within the three months immediately following the issue of the licence or the publication of banns..."*<sup>1</sup> Anyone 16 or 17 years of age, unless you are widowed or divorced, also needs a special consent form.

Marriage is a legally binding moment in your life. It is not to be undertaken lightly or casually. Our minister may not legally marry you if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The minister must ask if there is any legal impediment to you being married. In the presence of witnesses, you must declare your mutual

consent to be married. The minister must make a declaration that the marriage has taken place. Your wedding will be registered in the church records and legal documents will be signed and sent to the Registrar General.

***Do we need a marriage license or can we have banns published?***

Only active members of our congregations who have never been married may be married under the publication of banns. The banns must be published in worship at least one Sunday before the wedding. *“A marriage shall not be solemnized under the authority of the publications of banns, earlier than the fifth day after the date of the publication of banns.”* Section 27 of the Marriage Act

***How soon do we need to set the date and time of our ceremony and rehearsal?***

Please arrange dates and times with the minister as soon as possible.

***Do we have to attend pre-marital classes?***

We do not offer pre-marital classes but we will hold **Relationship Enrichment Days** if couples are interested. To grow in love with each other and God, we need to work at our relationships. This day will offer you time to focus on each other and find new ways to communicate. We encourage you to attend before or after your wedding.

***What kind of music can we use in the service and who will play it?***

Our organists are available to provide music for you. If you would like them to play, please advise the minister or secretary as soon as possible and she will provide their contact information.

The music you choose should help us worship God. Choose songs that will help you celebrate prayerfully with grace, joy and love. Read the words of your favourite songs carefully. Some of them will be more appropriate at your reception. Our organists will be pleased to help you choose music.

***Who may participate in our wedding?***

You are welcome to invite family and friends to participate in your wedding, as attendants, ushers, readers or musicians.

### ***May we decorate the church?***

You may decorate the church using flowers, bows or other decorations, immediately before or after your rehearsal. Please talk to the minister about your plans to ensure they will add to your marriage service. Arrangements for the delivery of flowers at other times may be made through our secretary. Please plan to have your decorations removed immediately after the service.

### ***May we take pictures and videos at the church?***

Yes and no. You are welcome to have pictures taken before and after the service, in the church or on the grounds. Your photographer and friends may take pictures while you are coming down the aisle and during the signing of the register. **We ask that only your photographer takes pictures during the service.**

You are welcome to videotape the service, as long as the person taping is respectful of the worship service.

### ***Do you allow confetti or rice?***

Please ask your guests not to throw rice or confetti in the church or on the grounds.

### ***What does the Church expect from us?***

**Dates:** Confirm your preferred date, time and location of your rehearsal and wedding with Heather as soon as possible. She will want to meet with you once or twice before your rehearsal to plan your marriage service.

**Licence:** Acquire your marriage licence at your nearest municipal office within three-months of your wedding. If you have been divorced, you will need a divorce number to receive your licence. Please give your marriage licence to the minister at the time of your rehearsal.

**Fees:** Whether you are to be married in one of our churches or at another location by our minister, there is a fee of \$650.

### ***What if we still have questions?***

Feel free to contact our minister Heather Leffler at 519-265-7385 or our church secretary Jennifer Brink at 519-856-4160, if you have questions about your wedding.