



Pitt Meadows United Church Weddings

Pitt Meadows United Church
12109 Harris Road, Pitt Meadows, BC
604.465.6233

PMUC Minister:

Rev. Bethan Theunissen 604.910.1481

PMUC Host:

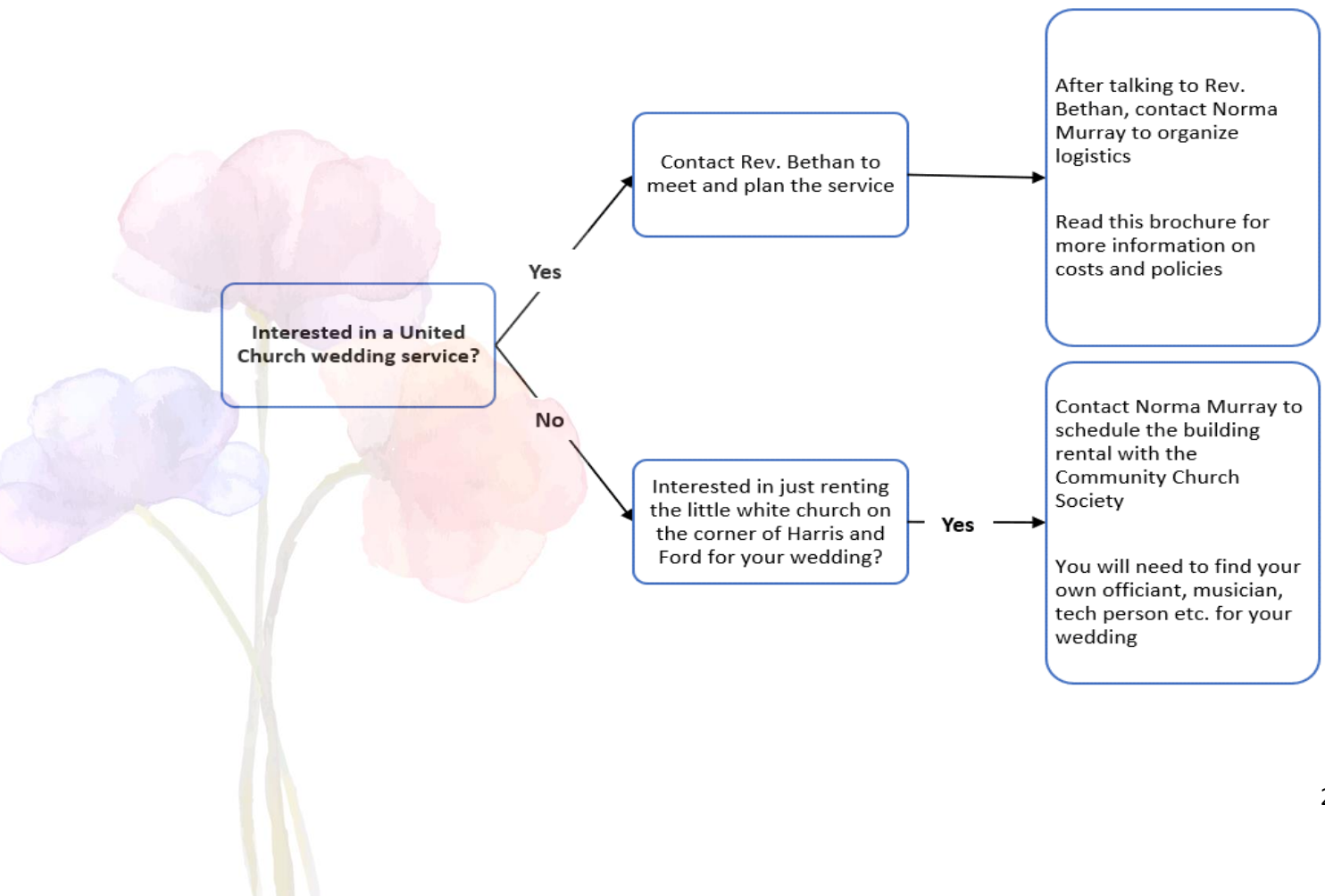
Norma Murray 604.465.9437

Introduction

Pitt Meadows United Church (PMUC) is a tenant in the little white church on the corner of Harris and Ford. The church building and adjacent hall belong to the Pitt Meadows Community Church Society and you can rent the church/hall by contacting the booking agent without any involvement of Pitt Meadows United Church.

It is also possible for couples to choose their own minister or officiant to preside over the ceremony. If a United Church of Canada service is specifically desired, the Pitt Meadows United Church minister is available to officiate at church-related services after adequate planning time with the couple or family.

- **United Church of Canada wedding:** For more information about a Pitt Meadows United Church wedding ceremony specifically, please read this brochure, and to formalize arrangements, please contact the PMUC minister.
- **Simple Building Rental:** For more information about booking the church building and hall **only**, please contact the Community Church Society Booking Agent. You do not need to read this brochure.



Pitt Meadows United Church Wedding Ceremony

At Pitt Meadows United Church we are honoured to be part of the commitment of marriage of two adults and are interested in the quality of love and respect in the relationship rather than the gender identities of the couple. We will strive to make your wedding service a memorable and joyous experience. You do not have to be a member of this or any church to be married here, but we do require couples to visit our Sunday morning service twice to ensure that you wish to be married through our particular faith tradition and thus be associated with our congregation. After the second visit, the minister will be available to meet with you after the service.

You have the option to have your United Church wedding take place in our heritage church building, or elsewhere. Rev Bethan will plan the order of worship with you. We offer a variety of styles such as traditional and contemporary, and it is important to us that there be a meaningful spiritual aspect to the service. While there are legal requirements that must be met, it is also possible to reflect your special commitment to one another within the ceremony.

If your United Church wedding will take place in our heritage church, the host, Norma Murray, will manage all logistics related to the space, times, rehearsals, etc. Both Rev. Bethan and Norma are present at the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

Pitt Meadows United Church worships on Sunday mornings in the Community Church of Pitt Meadows, a building that we rent and share with St. Bride Traditional Anglican Church (non affirming). We also meet in other spaces as needed. Although we do meet on Zoom, weddings must legally be conducted in person with at least the couple, the witnesses, and the Minister present in the same space. It can be Livestreamed for those guests who can't be accommodated with physical distancing.

The Context of Faith at Pitt Meadows United Church

We are pleased you wish to be married according to the forms and traditions of an open-minded Christian marriage and that you wish to have your service at Pitt Meadows United Church. We are delighted that you are seeking God's blessing and grace as you make this commitment to one another.

The church understands this ceremony as a declaration of covenant; a solemn promise outwardly expressed that:

- Names the sacred gift of relationship;
- Declares the intention of the two adults involved to enter into a life-long commitment and live together in mutual respect, compassion, forgiveness, and love;
- Intentionally acknowledges God as a sustaining and creative presence in the relationship where each person can grow and be nourished in grace and wisdom.

As a church we have two responsibilities:

- To honour the desire of the couples to make this covenant before God; and
- To support a couple in deepening their relationship with God and with each other.

Initial Steps

If you choose to use the services of our Minister in a United Church service, please ensure that you contact Rev. Bethan (contact information is on page 1) to discuss booking your ceremony. Normally three (3) months' notice is required.

You will be given a form to fill out with the information needed for the wedding registry, and the Church roll. Please have this filled out fully two weeks before the wedding.

If you wish to use the church and/or hall for your service, please ensure that you contact the PMUC Host (contact information is on page 1).

Fees for Pitt Meadows United Church

The costs below cover staffing and cleaning. Pitt Meadows United Church as a congregation does not charge a fee, but donations are gratefully accepted. In case of hardship with regard to fees, please speak to Rev. Bethan who will take any request to the Church Board.

The fee of \$725 is payable directly to Pitt Meadows United Church, and will be disbursed as follows:

- Minister \$250
- PMUC Host \$150
- Community Church Society Maintenance \$215
- Tech Services \$75
- Admin \$35
- **Total: \$725**

To ensure that the date of your wedding is secure, we require a non-refundable \$150 deposit. The remainder shall be paid one month prior to your wedding.

If you require a musician for your wedding, there will be an additional charge for the musician you find. Contact information of musicians can be made available.

Legal Requirements

You are required to obtain a marriage license:

<https://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/marriage/howto.html>

Rev. Bethan will need to see your marriage license during your second meeting with her.

Community Church Society Sanctuary

The church can comfortably seat 80-90 people. There is a wheelchair ramp from the parking lot. Please discuss with the Host any decorating questions you have.

Meetings with the Minister

We require the couple to meet with Rev. Bethan at least twice. At these appointments, Rev. Bethan will discuss the details of the order of service with you, and also get to know you a little before your wedding day.

Marriage Preparation

We encourage couples to consider a marriage preparation course. These courses generally focus on giving couples knowledge and skills that will help make their marriage the best possible and help couples take a realistic look at the challenges of commitment while offering some strategies for success.

Marriage Works is an online course created by a nearby United Church Minister:

<https://courses.communicationdiva.com/p/marriageworks>

Email: jenn@communicationdiva.com

Phone: 778-908-1083

An alternative to a course would be to meet with a Counselor a couple of times. Many companies offer Employment Assistance Plans that will cover the cost of these meetings.

Ceremony

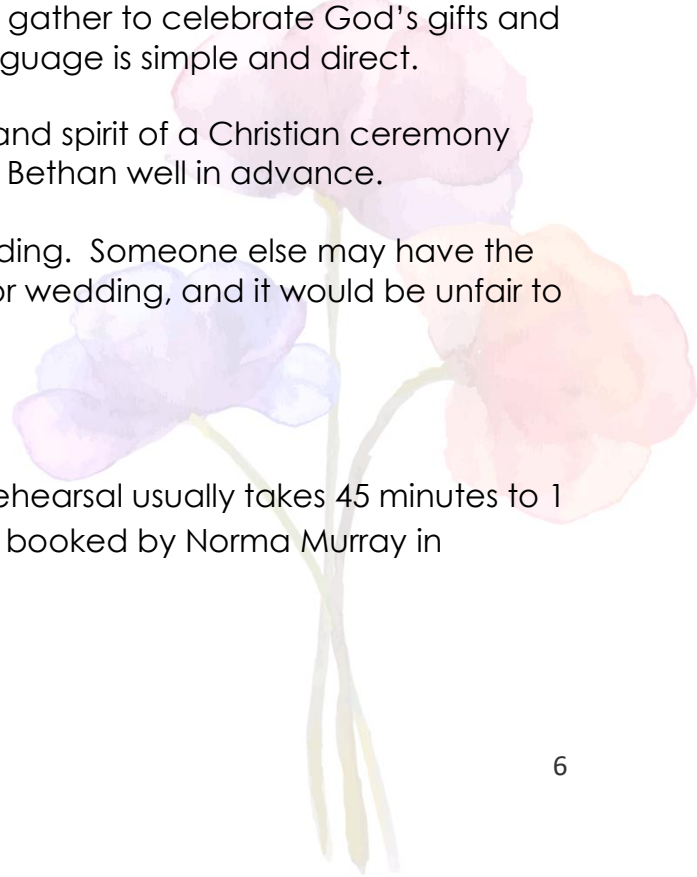
The Marriage Rite is the order of worship as recommended by the United Church of Canada. It is an occasion for the community to gather to celebrate God's gifts and invoke God's blessing upon the couple. The language is simple and direct.

Variations which are in keeping with the intent and spirit of a Christian ceremony are possible, and should be discussed with Rev. Bethan well in advance.

Please do not be late for your rehearsal or wedding. Someone else may have the time booked immediately after your rehearsal or wedding, and it would be unfair to them.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is for all of the wedding party. The rehearsal usually takes 45 minutes to 1 hour at least 2 days before the wedding, and is booked by Norma Murray in consultation with Rev. Bethan.



Programs

The church does not produce written programs. You may provide your own. All changes and selections to the service must be given to Rev. Bethan one month prior to your wedding day.

Lawful Impediments

The Marriage Act states: Every Minister, Clergy, or Marriage Commissioner shall not solemnize a marriage, knowing or having reason to believe that either of the parties to the intended marriage, or to the marriage, is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs.

Flowers

If flowers are desired, they are the responsibility of the wedding party. Please discuss with the Host when flowers may be delivered and picked up.

Candles

One candle is lit (the church provides) which signifies the presence of God. The lighting of a Unity Candle can be a very meaningful expression in the wedding ceremony that can symbolize two families uniting through this marriage or symbolizing two individuals uniting their lives into one. These candles need to be provided by the wedding couple.

No candles are to be placed anywhere else in the church. Battery operated ones can be used to decorate the windows.

Music

We invite you to discuss your music requirements with Rev. Bethan.

Photography

Many couples wish to record their wedding service. Respectful methods of recording during the service will avoid needless distraction for you and for your guests. Video, for instance can be shot from a fixed tripod discretely placed away from the wedding party and guests. Also, flash or other photos are not permitted during the verbal parts of the service, but are acceptable during the processional, recessional, kiss, and signing of the register.

Confetti/Rice/Seeds/Balloons/Bubbles

Out of consideration of other users of the building, please make known to your friends that confetti, rice, or birdseed is not be used on church property. Transport Canada does not allow release of balloons on our property. Bubbles may be used outside.

Catering in the Hall

You have the option to choose your caterer, or there are a number of catering options available in Pitt Meadows and a short list of local caterers can be provided on request.

*We hope that your wedding day will be filled
with joy and meaning!*

*May God bless you in your preparations
and in your marriage.*

