

# Weddings

@ Hope Missionary Church



# Wedding Process

Hope Church is always excited when individuals feel that God is leading them to unite in the marriage covenant! In order to make your wedding day the best it can be, we offer the following steps to begin the planning...

**1. Contact an HMC pastor-** You likely already have an idea of which pastor you would prefer to conduct your wedding ceremony. Start the process by giving him a phone call at the church office (260-824-1844) or email him through the church website ([www.hope4thefamily.com/staff](http://www.hope4thefamily.com/staff)). The following staff pastors are able to conduct marriage ceremonies at Hope Church:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| a. Mark Wilson     | e. Chris Kuntz |
| b. Geoff Cocanower | f. Josh Nash   |
| c. Ross Kilgore    | g. Todd Rupp   |
| d. Kent Koteskey   |                |

If your intent is to ask a pastor other than one of those listed above, please contact Pastor Kent in our church office.

The pastor will want to have a conversation with you to help figure out things like:

- Do you fit the eligibility guidelines for being married here at Hope?
- Is the pastor you've chosen available to be there on the date on which you're hoping to be married?
- What type of premarital counseling do you need to plan to be a part of leading up to your big day?

**2. Contact Hope's Front Office-** After you have spoken with a pastor, contact Beth Baumgartner in our front office here at Hope. She's the one who can get your wedding officially scheduled on the church calendar. Simply call the church office (260-824-1844) or email her ([beth@hopemc.org](mailto:beth@hopemc.org)).

**3. Contact your wedding coordinator-** After you have confirmed the officiating pastor and the date on the church calendar, we will provide you with a wedding coordinator who will help you with everything in the planning of your big day.

These ladies are professionals at what they do and they'll walk alongside you all the way! We have two wedding coordinators, and we encourage you to read their biographies on the following page so you'll have a pretty good idea of who they are.



# Wedding Coordinators

These professionals excel at what they do and they'll walk alongside you all the way! We'll direct you to whichever coordinator has availability to work with you on your big day, but we thought you might like to know a little about them.

## **Kathy Steffen**

Phone- 260.273.0444

*My husband, Scott, and I have attended Hope Missionary Church with our family since 2009.*

*In 2010, I transitioned out of a 20-year career in the medical field to help my husband run his computer / IT business in Bluffton. I am a graduate of the Wells County Leadership Academy and continue to serve in this organization.*

*I delight in supporting my family's activities, being creative and artistic, and appreciating life's details.*



## **Jamie Steffen**

Email- [jlsafw06@yahoo.com](mailto:jlsafw06@yahoo.com)

Phone- 260.255.1223

*My husband, Phil, and I were married in June 2006 and in the first four years of marriage moved all over the United States and England. Although my husband is still in the Air Force, we, along with our four children, were finally able to settle down and have lived in Ossian since 2010. We have attended Hope Missionary Church since August of the same year.*

*I graduated from International Business College of Indianapolis in 2003 with an Associate's degree in Travel & Hospitality Management. Although there are many categories that fall under the "umbrella" of my degree, my passion is in event planning.*



# Pro-Marriage Policy

Hope Church stands on the foundation of scripture to understand that marriage is the second most important relationship in a person's life— second only to our relationship with Christ alone. In addition, we appreciate that marriage is a meaningful illustration of Christ's love for the church. We take marriage very seriously at Hope Church, and we want to do everything we can to help get couples off to a great start in their marriage!

Because Hope Missionary Church is pro-marriage and pro-family, the following policy has been adopted to help couples have the greatest chance of success in their marriage as possible.

- Couples planning to marry must announce their intentions to one of the pastors at least 6 months prior to their marriage. Before wedding plans can be made, a conversation with one of the pastors is necessary. Further, a dating period of at least 6-12 months prior to engagement is required.
- Couples who desire to be married at Hope Church must have attended for at least 6 months (at least one of the parties).
- Couples will agree to take the required eight-week class to prepare them for their upcoming marriage. Alternative pre-marriage counseling may be substituted. Two post-marriage counseling sessions are recommended during the first year of marriage.
- After getting married, couples are strongly encouraged to attend our annual Marriage Enrichment Weekend.
- Lastly, couples are encouraged to partner with a mentor couple who have been married at least 5 years and agree to informal meetings with the newlyweds at least 3 times during the first year after the ceremony.

The family is a priority to God... and to Hope Church!



# Remarriage Policy

**In addition to the Pro-Marriage Policy on the previous page, the following is also expected in the case of remarriage...**

- Remarriage is permitted in the event that the previous marriage was ended because of physical adultery. (See Matthew 5:32, 19:9)
- Remarriage is Biblically permitted in the case that the partner was deserted by their spouse (i.e. he/she initiated the divorce). (See 1 Corinthians 7:15, 16)
- When a divorce occurred prior to conversion, remarriage may be permitted. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:1)
- Remarriage is permitted if the former spouse is deceased. (See Romans 7:2 and 1 Corinthians 7:39)
- It is strongly recommended that the divorced party attend a divorce recovery seminar or class after their divorce.
- An eighteen month minimum waiting period after the divorce is finalized is necessary before getting remarried by Hope Church pastoral staff or at Hope Church.

## Regarding same sex marriage

**In accordance with the position of the Missionary Church denomination...**

- Marriage is a sacred institution ordained of God and is an indissoluble union of one husband (born male) and one wife (born female) until parted by death. Marriage, which is the foundation of the family and the Christian home, should only be entered into in the fear and will of God. (Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 7:3; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 7:7,39; 2 Corinthians 6:14,17)
- Ministers are forbidden from encouraging, blessing, or officiating same sex "marriages" or unions. (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:4,5; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10)



# Wedding Costs

Hope Church is pleased to help make your special day amazing, and a part of Hope's help will involve a handful of people working hard alongside you. To help compensate these people for their investment, there are some fees involved which are outlined below.

**Facility Fee**—required and paid to Hope Missionary Church.

\$70.00 — this fee includes the use of the sanctuary, main restrooms for wedding party and guests along with two classrooms which can be used as dressing rooms. Any space utilized beyond the specified areas fall under HMC's Facility Use Rental Policy and are subject to typical rental fees. If you plan to rent areas beyond what are included with your wedding, please contact Beth Baumgartner via email at [beth@hopemc.org](mailto:beth@hopemc.org).

- Please make arrangements as you plan your wedding for the removal of decorations from the sanctuary immediately following your ceremony as our custodian must prepare the facility for Sunday immediately after your event.
- Please arrange for someone to retrieve all items from your dressing rooms following your event.

**Audio Technician Fee**—required and paid directly to the audio technician

\$75.00—includes technician for the rehearsal and wedding. This fee covers audio, lighting & projection needs for the ceremony. If you require more extensive services, please talk in advance with your technician.

**Wedding Coordinator Fee**—required and paid directly to the coordinator

\$100.00—this fee compensates the wedding coordinator for their time during set-up, rehearsal, wedding, reception (when applicable), and tear down. This person is your go-to person for any questions you may have regarding the use of the building and any equipment.

**Suggested minimum honoraria** for those who are a part of your special day:

- Pastor \$75.00—\$100.00
- Instrumentalist \$30.00—\$50.00
- Soloist \$30.00—\$50.00

(When determining amounts to give to these individuals, consider the amount of time they are investing, their cost of any music materials, and how much they are contributing to your special day.) It is customary for these fees to be paid directly to the respective individuals at your rehearsal.

