



300 East Basin Rd. New Castle, DE 19720

Church Office: 302-328-5649

e-mail address: barbarah@asburynewcastle.net

Wedding Policy

Congratulations! Thank you for considering Asbury United Methodist Church for your wedding ceremony. We celebrate your love as a gift from God, and our pastor, the Rev. Tracy Mooney, strives not only to make your wedding day special, but also to support and strengthen your relationship for a lifetime of love.

Our beautiful, traditional sanctuary seats 225 people and features an Allen organ, Kawai baby grand piano in the raised chancel, as well as projection, lighting, and sound systems. Our chapel is an intimate and Holy setting for weddings that seat 15 people with piano accompaniment available.

Our pastor, a certified Prepare/Enrich relationship facilitator, will guide you through the process of ceremony planning and pre-marriage counseling. When you schedule your wedding, our pastor will send you information about taking an online Prepare/Enrich survey (the cost is \$35, payable online by credit card) that will help our pastor tailor three marriage preparation sessions specifically to your relationship. During these conversations, you will:

- ❖ Identify your strength and growth areas as a couple
- ❖ Strengthen your communication skills - sharing and listening to each other with love
- ❖ Practice resolving conflicts together and reducing stress

To reserve your wedding date at Asbury (up to a year in advance), complete and return the attached Wedding Information Form (pages 4-7) with your payment of \$775 for a Sanctuary Wedding which includes:

- ❖ Building Use Fee
- ❖ Honorarium for Pastor
- ❖ Honorarium for Organist/Pianist or Sound Board Manager (Pre-Recorded Music)
- ❖ Custodian / Coordinator

Or \$425 for a Chapel Wedding which includes:

- ❖ Building Use Fee
- ❖ Honorarium for Pastor
- ❖ Custodian
- ❖ If you would like a Pianist / Accompanist, the total cost is \$575.

You may pay by check written to *Asbury United Methodist Church* or by Credit Card by going to the Donate page of www.asburynewcastle.net and choosing the "General" fund. (If you pay by credit card, please let us know via email with date of payment and the name on the card at barbarah@asburynewcastle.net.)

For information on holding your wedding reception in our Fellowship Hall, contact Barbara Hinkle, our Administrative Assistant for pricing and availability. Please be aware that alcohol is not permitted in any of Asbury UMC's facilities.

If you would like to rent the Fellowship Hall only, please contact our Fellowship Hall Manager, Nadine Fergusson, at hallmanager@asburynewcastle.net

Please contact the Church Office if you have any questions.

Planning Music for Your Wedding

Depending on the type of music you are requesting, we will arrange an instrumentalist or our Sound Board Manager who will contact you to plan music for your ceremony and coordinate with our pastor.

To help you in planning music for your ceremony, the following are opportunities for music in the service. Music is not required but can be used at these points.

Gathering – while your guests are arriving, instrumental or vocal music may be offered. Generally, the Gathering of guests concludes with the seating of Grandmothers and Mothers. ("Favorite songs" of the bride and groom are not suggested here as neither will be present to hear them. These are best enjoyed at your reception.)

Entrance of the Wedding Party - instrumental music to accompany the procession of the wedding party will usually include two selections; one for the Attendants and one for the Bride. Suggested hymns may be found in the United Methodist Hymnal 642-647.

Some instrumental suggestions:

Attendants:	Canon in D – Johann Pachelbel
	Rigadon – Andre Campra
	Pomp and Circumstance March No.3 in G – Edward Elgar
	March for the Prince of Denmark – Jeremiah Clark
Bride:	Wedding March from Lohengrin – Richard Wagner
	Trumpet Voluntary – Henry Purcell
	March for the Prince of Denmark – Jeremiah Clark

Scripture Lesson(s) and/or Lighting of the Unity Candle – A solo, hymn, psalm, or other music may be offered before or after the readings or during the lighting of the unity candle.

Sending Forth – Instrumental music to accompany the recession of the wedding party and guests may be offered. Some suggestions include:

Wedding March from A Midsummer Night's Dream – Felix Mendelssohn
Allegro Maestoso from Water Music George F. Handel
Trumpet Voluntary and Air – Henry Purcell

Sanctuary Decoration Notes

You may contact our wedding coordinator, Debbie Shephard (302-584-1336 or deborah.shephard@wellsfargoadvisors.com) to discuss specific plans for decorating our sanctuary. We have small glass candle holders for the smaller family candles that flank a unity candle, as well as a unity candle holder, should you choose to purchase and use a unity candle as part of your ceremony. We also have pew bow holders for the pews, and you can arrange with Debbie to have these setup for you on the day of the ceremony. Please ensure that your florist contacts Debbie Shephard to arrange a time to deliver the flowers to the sanctuary. Please ensure that you make arrangements for taking down all decorations following your ceremony. **For safety reasons, we do not allow the use of a runner in the sanctuary or open flame candles as aisle decorations.**

If you plan to have a flower girl or ringbearer drop petals along the aisle at the beginning of the ceremony, please ensure that the petals are silk and not organic.

Asbury UMC Wedding Information

Please complete this form and return it along with your payment to:

Asbury UMC 300 East Basin Rd. New Castle, DE 19720.

Once this completed form and payment are received in our office, your wedding will be scheduled on the church calendar. Our Administrative Assistant will email you a confirmation and our Pastor will set up pre-marriage meetings.

Bride's Full Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

Birth date _____ Employer _____

Have you been Baptized? Yes No (if so, in what church? _____)

Are you involved in a church? Yes No (if so, in what church? _____)

Marital Status? Never married or Divorced/ Widowed (Married _____ time(s))

Do you have any children? Yes No

If so, what are their names (and ages)? _____

If so, will children be involved in the ceremony? Yes No

Groom's Full Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ E-mail _____

Birth date _____ Employer _____

Have you been Baptized? Yes No (if so, in what church? _____)

Are you involved in a church? Yes No (if so, in what church? _____)

Marital Status? Never married or Divorced/ Widowed (Married _____ time(s))

Do you have any children? Yes No

If so, what are their names (and ages)? _____

If so, will children be involved in the ceremony? Yes No

Engagement Date: _____ Living together? Yes No If so, since when? _____

Address after marriage: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Office use only:

Initial contact: ____/____/____

Requested Wedding Date: ____/____/____

Completed Form rec'd: ____/____/____

Scheduled on Church Calendar: ____/____/____

Building Use Fee rec'd: ____/____/____

Confirmation Letter sent: ____/____/____

Wedding Ceremony Plan

Complete whom will be participating in the service and bring to first meeting with the Pastor.

Mother of Groom's Father: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Mother of Bride's Father: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Mother of Groom's Mother: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Mother of Bride's Mother: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Groom's Mother: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Will mother light family candle Yes No

Bride's Mother: _____ Spouse: _____

Groomsman to Escort: _____

Will mother light family candle Yes No

The Processional will be: Bridesmaids walking single file Bridesmaids escorted by Groomsmen

Flower Girl: _____ Age: _____

Ring Bearer: _____ Age: _____

Flower Girl and Ring Bearer will enter when? _____

Maid / Matron of Honor: _____

Please list bridesmaids below in the order they will stand:

Bridesmaids: 1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

Time Bride and Bridesmaids will arrive for ceremony: _____

Best Man: _____

Please list groomsmen below in the order they will stand:

Groomsmen: 1. _____ 4. _____
2. _____ 5. _____
3. _____ 6. _____

Time Groom and Groomsmen will arrive for ceremony: _____

Will the bride be escorted? Yes No If so, by whom? _____

Music for wedding party's entrance (see page 2): _____

Music for bride's entrance (see page 2): _____

Scripture for Ceremony (see pages 7 and following for suggestions): _____

Scripture Reader: _____ (or Asbury Pastor)

Please attach additional readings or poems you wish to use in the ceremony (if any).

Will you be placing any flowers or symbols on the altar to as part of the ceremony? Yes No

Please Describe: _____

Unity Candle Yes No (please bring to rehearsal).

Wedding Vows

Your wedding vows are the magical, powerful words you share with each other during the ceremony that mark the moment of your marriage, spiritually and legally. You may select one of the three options of vows below, edit from the vows below or compose your own unique vows.

In the name of God, I, Name, take you, Name, to be my wife/husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward,
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

I take you, Name, to be my wife/husband,
and I promise before God and all who are present here
to be your loving and faithful husband/wife as long as we both shall live.
I will serve you with tenderness and respect,
and encourage you to develop God's gifts in you.

Name, in the name of God,
I take you to be my wife/husband from this time onward,
to join with you and to share all that is to come,
to give and to receive, to speak and to listen,
to inspire and to respond, and in all our life together
to be loyal to you with my whole being, as long as we both shall live.

You may also edit or compose your own vows or compose your own vows below:

Others Involved in the Ceremony

Other Instrumentalist: _____ Phone: _____

Soloist: _____ Phone: _____

Song(s) and place in the ceremony (see page 2): _____

Will you be inviting a Guest Pastor to assist Asbury's Pastor during the ceremony? Yes No

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Florist: _____ Phone: _____

Time to open church for florist delivery: _____

Leave flowers at church for Sunday worship? Yes No

Photographer: _____ Phone: _____

Pictures will be taken when? Before After Both

Videographer: _____ Phone: _____

Rehearsal Dinner location/time: _____

Reception Location/time: _____

Number of people invited to the wedding: _____

Now for the Fun Stuff

When and how did you first meet each other? _____

What do you love most about your partner? How would you describe him or her to others?

Bride describing the Groom: _____

Groom describing the Bride: _____

Suggested Scripture Lessons for Weddings

Your wedding at Asbury United Methodist Church is both a civil and a spiritual ceremony. As a Christian worship celebration, we will gather around God's word of love for all people as a sign of the spiritual foundation and blessing of your love and life together in the covenant of Christian marriage. A covenant is a promise of love that cannot be broken. People have gathered around God's word in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures for many thousands of years to celebrate God's eternal promise of love to the world.

For the worship celebration that will be your wedding, you have the honor of choosing a passage from God's word for us to gather around as we gather to celebrate and to bless you as you vow your love to each other for life. Many couples choose 1 Corinthians 13, and you can find that passage below, on page 9. There are many other passages that celebrate different aspects of the way your love symbolizes and participates in God's love. One of my favorites is from Song of Solomon. Enjoy reading them and choosing which passage best tells your story of love.

Genesis 1:26-28,31a

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a; 8:6-7

¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

¹⁴ O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely. ¹⁵ Catch us the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards -- for our vineyards are in blossom." ¹⁶ My beloved is mine and I am his....

⁶ Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. ⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth -- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 61:10-11; 62:1-3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 5:1-10

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell -- and great was its fall!"

Matthew 22:35-40

³⁵ and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Mark 2:18-22

¹⁸ Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰ The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

²¹ "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

Mark 10:42-45

¹² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

John 2:1-11

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

1 Corinthians 13

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

14 For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved. 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 4:1-6

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Philippians 2:12

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Philippians 4:49

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 3:18-24

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

1 John 4:7-16

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

¹ After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God,

⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great." ⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; ⁸ to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure" -- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."