

ACOLYTE TRAINING

SMITH MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Background

The word "acolyte" comes from the Greek word "akolouthos" which means a helper. The acolyte has a vital role in helping with the worship service. At Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church, the acolyte will light candles the sanctuary. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the Light of Jesus Christ entering our lives and coming into the worship service to glorify God. At the end of the service, the light carried out of the sanctuary symbolizes the light of Jesus going into the world with us to guide us through the week until we meet again for worship together.

What to do at the beginning of the service

The Acolyte should report to the Ushers/Acolyte Coordinator by 9:50 a.m.

Check your candlelighter, and make sure it has a wick that will last. The Acolyte Coordinator (or one of the ushers) will light your candlelighter and let you know when it is time to walk down the aisle.

After the Church Alive Announcements and the Opening Prayer, a short musical interlude will begin. When the music begins, the Acolyte will walk down the center aisle to light the candles.

After the candle (or candles) are lit, pull the taper into the metal stem, snuffing out the flame.

What to do at the end of the service

When the congregation begins the second to last verse of the last hymn, the Acolyte should walk down the center aisle to extinguish the candles and prepare for carrying the light out of the sanctuary.

When the congregation begins the second to last verse of the last hymn, the acolyte should walk down the center aisle with the candleholder unlit. After walking down the center aisle, the acolyte should light his or her candleholder from the candle on the table and then snuff out the candle on the table. Wait up front with your lit candleholder until the pastor gives the benediction.

Once the pastor finishes the benediction and the last verse of the hymn begins, walk down the center aisle until you get to the back of the church. Once you are in the back of the church, you may extinguish the flame.

Some Things to Remember

When serving as an acolyte you are actively assisting the people in the worship of God. It is a very important role, and should be approached with reverence, humility, and care. Always walk slowly and with dignity. Don't appear rushed or hurried. But at the same time, don't look stiff! SMILE!!!

Please be on time. When you are on time, everything flows more smoothly. If you cannot come on the assigned day, please get a substitute and let the Acolyte Coordinator know.