



Acolyte Motto
Dominus Illuminator
“The Lord is my Light”

Bible Verse: Ephesians 5:8

“For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.”

ACOLYTE MANUAL

YOU ARE AN ACOLYTE

The word acolyte is from the Greek word, **AKOLOUTHOS** that means attendant or follower. Churches have had Acolytes since ancient times. There were 42 Acolytes helping in the churches in Rome as early as 251 A.D. Acolytes were assigned to help the Bishops by carrying the tapers which helped the clergy to read and perform their various duties.

When you join the United Methodist Church you will be asked “to uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service.” One of the best ways of service is to assist in the public worship of the church. Serving as an Acolyte is one way that young people can serve God and their church.

WORSHIPING GOD

The most important part of your job as an Acolyte is to light the two candles on the Lord’s Table (Altar). **You bring in the Light of Christ and represent our going forth as the Light of Christ in the world.** When the people in the congregation see the lighted candles they are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world and it helps them to think about and feel God’s presence. The altar has on it the open Bible which reminds us of the words and truth of Christ.

ACOLYTE RULES

1. Walk at all times.
2. Pay attention. You may be asked to assist in worship without notice.
3. Don’t chew gum, eat or drink anything during church.
4. Be on time. You need to arrive and be ready to go by 9:25am.
5. Remember, that you are the special assistant for worship. Be a good example for others.
6. Only adults are allowed to light (with matches) your taper.

ROBES AND STOLES

You must wear the white acolyte robe and appropriate color stole. Robes and stoles are located in the coat closet in the foyer. Your parent(s) or Mrs. Aimee can assist you with the right size robe and/or stole.

THE CHURCH YEAR/STOLE COLORS

Christians have a special calendar and it is called the liturgical year. It doesn't have months but is divided into seasons and special colors are used during the different seasons.

Advent, the first half of the Christian year is the season of preparation and expectation. Advent is the four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The liturgical color for Advent is **purple** or **blue**.

Christmastide begins on Christmas Day and lasts for twelve days ending on January 6. The liturgical color used is **white**.

Epiphany marks the visit of the wise men. During this season the missionary work of the church is emphasized. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday. The liturgical color used is **green**.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. The forty days remind us of the forty-day fast Jesus spent in the wilderness. Lent is a time of self-examination. The Lenten season ends with Holy Week and the most joyous day in the Christian year, Easter. During the Lenten season we use the liturgical color **purple**.

Easter season covers a period of forty days and ends on Ascension Day. The liturgical color is **white**.

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. This marks the end of the first half of the Christian year. The liturgical color is **red**.

Trinity Sunday, the next Sunday after Pentecost marks the beginning of the second half of the Christian year.

Kingdomtide begins on the last Sunday in August and lasts until Advent. This season's emphasis is bringing in the reign of God and social justice. **Green** is the liturgical color used during this time.

ACOLYTE PROCEDURES

PREPARATION:

1. Meet the Acolyte helper (usually your parent) in the foyer no later than 9:25 a.m.

2. Dress in your robe and stole. During the summer months if the choir and the Pastor are not in robes then it is not necessary for you to dress in your robe and stole.
3. Go to the back of the Sanctuary & pick up a candle lighter.

DURING SERVICE:

1. When the first hymn begins walk **SLOWLY** with the candlelighter forward.
2. Light your taper with the lit candle on the alter.
3. After your taper is lit, light candles (1 candle if you are with a partner, 2 if you are alone) at the **SAME TIME**, turn **TOWARD** the congregation, extinguish the flame, and walk slowly to the back of the sanctuary. Put your candle lighter away in the posts in the back of the sanctuary.
4. You are done with your acolyte job. Sit with your family and worship.
5. After worship, take off robe and return to the church nursery (on the hooks on the left side of the door) and hang up appropriately.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

1. Be sure your child is on time (must arrive by 9:25am).
2. Help your child with their robe and stole (located in the nursery).
3. Make appropriate notification and/or arrangements if your child cannot be the Acolyte that day. Schedules are emailed out every few months and sub lists are attached to the schedule.