

UNITED CHURCH *of* UNDERHILL

Ministry of Inspirational Worship

Guidelines for Acolytes

What it is:

Thank you for agreeing to be an acolyte. The job of the acolyte is to light the candles on the altar at the beginning of the worship service.

Why we do it:

When you carry the flame into the sanctuary and light the altar candles, you are symbolically bringing the light of Christ's spirit into the sanctuary. By serving as an acolyte, you are helping everybody in the church to worship God!

What we do:

Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded people that God is here with us. When you bring the light into the place where people are gathering to worship and when you light the candles, you are reminding us that God is with us. Lighted candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Before the service

- Please plan on arriving **at least 15 minutes** before the service.
- When you arrive, bring the candle lighter in from the sanctuary into the fellowship room.
- Before the service, you will join with the pastor, the worship assistant, the choir, and anyone else who will be processing into the sanctuary at the beginning of the service. If you have any questions about your job, please ask the pastor.
- Just before the service, we will join hands in a circle and say a quick prayer.

As the service begins

- The worship assistant or a member of the choir will help you light the candle lighter. Matches or a butane lighter are generally found on the piano in the fellowship room.
- You will lead the processional that includes you, the choir, the worship assistant, and the pastor. Please walk slowly into the sanctuary and walk carefully up the stairs.
- If you would like help, the worship assistant, a member of the choir, your brother or sister, or one of your parents can walk in with you – just ask!
- Light the candle on the left of the altar first, then the one on the right. Occasionally, the pastor will ask you to also light the peace candle (the one to the left of the lectern). If the pastor has not specifically asked, do not light this candle.
- If the flame goes out before the first candle is lit, don't worry – an adult will come help you! If the flame goes out after the first candle has been lit, simply re-light the candle lighter on the first lit candle.
- Once you have lit the candles, extinguish the flame on the candle lighter by pulling the tab in, then out again (so that the wick does not stick and so that it is ready for the next time). Carefully place it on the floor underneath the altar.
- You may return to your pew after you have lit the candles.

After the service

- If you are still in worship after the service, you may come up to the altar during the benediction and extinguish the candles.

If a scheduling conflict arises, please try to find a replacement and let the person who originally asked you to be an acolyte of the change. If the change is last minute, please let the pastor know by calling (802) 899-1722.

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN ACOLYTE!
