

The tradition of Acolytes is treasured at First Presbyterian. It is a ministry that deserves careful preparation and your very best effort. Acolytes help the congregation know the worship service is about to begin by bringing in the water to remind us of our baptism and the Christ Candle to show that Jesus Christ is our light. Acolytes do their task with reverence and care; they set a standard, showing that their service is performed out of their deep love and care for God.

Students entering third grade are invited to serve as acolytes. Most acolytes serve through middle school, but are welcome to continue serving for as long as desired. If you would like to volunteer and attend a training session please contact Sue Mahurin at [srmahurin@aol.com](mailto:srmahurin@aol.com).

### **Acolyte Guidelines First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN**

*Acolyte: an attendant; follower; helper.*

#### **Acolyte (Baptism Water)**

- Arrive no later than 10:00 a.m. for the 10:15 service.
- Be robed and ready by 10:10 a.m. to pour baptism water for the 10:15 service.
- The acolyte will confirm the pitcher is filled half way with water. It should be on the top of one of the cabinets in the narthex. (If the silver pitcher is not already in the narthex then look in the Adult Library/Livestream room; it is kept on a low shelf in a brown felt bag.)
- You will hold the handle with your dominant hand and place your other hand under the bottom of the pitcher.
- Exactly at 10:15 the organ bell peal begins and you will begin to walk up the center aisle. Usually you will hear the outdoor bells just before the bell peal from the organ begins. Wait for the organ bell peal.
- Walk slowly and reverently. The last part of your walk will be in silence. Walk around the font and face the congregation. Pause.
- You will pour slowly and reverently. When finished walk back down the side aisle – slowly and reverently.
- The adult helper will take the pitcher to empty any remaining water and place the pitcher back in the felt bag in the adult library.

#### **Acolyte (Christ Candle)**

- The Christ Candle should be in its holder by the parlor door.
- An adult helper (parent or hospitality team member) will light the candle; wait in the narthex during the announcements and prelude.

- At the beginning of the Opening Hymn you will walk slowly and reverently down the center aisle. If there is a choir processional, they will follow you. It is your job to “set the pace” meaning lead the choir members in slowly. Usually, the choir is already seated and you will walk alone.
- Place the candle in the stand that is on the floor in front of the lectern. If you have any difficulties there will be an adult nearby to assist.
- Once the candle is securely placed, exit down the side aisle. You still need to walk reverently but don’t have to go as slowly.
- Hang your robe, snapping it securely on the hanger. Hang your belt with the others. You are finished until next time. Thank you for a job well done!

Robes are hanging in the narthex. Four sizes are available.

Schedule is on the Ministry Scheduler APP. You or your parents will receive an email notice when it is your Sunday to serve. There is a tab if you need a substitute, or if someone else requests a sub, an email will be sent to all acolytes to allow them to volunteer.

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