YOUTH SERVER MINISTRY

The Youth Server Ministry is an opportunity just for 5th-12th graders to serve as worship leaders. Serving as Crucifers, Acolytes and Bible Carriers, youth lead the processional and recessional during sanctuary worship services.

CRUCIFER

Minimum age: 9th Grade

The Crucifer leads the processional, carrying the cross down the aisle and placing it in the stand on the altar, and also the recessional, retrieving the cross and carrying it back up the aisle and out of the sanctuary.

ACOLYTES

Minimum age: 7th Grade

The Acolytes (there are two in each service) follow the Crucifer in the processional, carrying torches to light the candles on the high altar. During the recessional, Acolytes return to the high altar to extinguish the candles and then follow the Crucifer down the aisle.

BIBLE CARRIER

Minimum age: 5th Grade

The Bible Carrier follows the Acolytes in the processional, carrying the Bible down the aisle and placing it on the lectern. During the recessional, the Bible carrier returns to the lectern to retrieve the Bible and then carries it back up the aisle and out of the sanctuary.

Training for youth servers is provided and required for participation. Trainings are held annually in late August or early September.

SUNDAY MORNING COACH

We invite any adult interested in serving in worship and working with our youth to join our team of Sunday Morning Coaches. Training is provided.

The Sunday morning coach oversees the youth servers who are participating that morning during all three sanctuary services (8:30, 9:45, 11). Basic responsibilities include some preparation in the sanctuary, greeting the servers as they arrive in the robing area and assisting them and answering questions, if needed, as they robe up, escorting them to the narthex right before the service begins and directing them during the processional (sending them down the aisle at intervals) and then again during the recessional. If you are interested in joining our team of coaches, contact Peg Broughton at peg@mpumc.org.

SERVICE HOURS

If serving in this ministry meets any requirements for service hours your youth is trying to earn, we are happy to approve these or sign any forms. If you track this electronically, please let us know to expect any emails asking us to verify service hours.

To learn more, contact Peg Broughton at peg@mpumc.org or Liz Vander Leeuw at lizvanderleeuw@gmail.com.

MORE ABOUT THE MINISTRY

WHEN WE SERVE

We serve at all three sanctuary services (8:30, 9:45, and 11) from Kick-off Sunday (Sunday after Labor Day) to the second Sunday in June with the exception of the Sunday after Christmas. We also serve on Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

WHAT YOUTH SERVERS WEAR

When serving in worship, youth wear a black robe and a scapular in the color of the liturgical season. What they wear to church when they serve is also important. Their appearance should not distract the congregation.

Boys:

- Collared shirt (dress preferred, golf/polo shirt okay)
- Long pants: dark (preferred) or khaki. NO SHORTS
- Dark socks and dark loafers/dress shoes. (Sperrys are okay as long as they are not too worn) No white socks, sandals, flip flops, sneakers or athletic shoes of any kind

Girls:

- Dress, skirt, or long dark pants. NO SHORTS
- Black or dark closed-toe shoes (flats preferred, boots okay). No platform shoes, sneakers or athletic shoes (even Golden Goose and similar styles), Birkenstocks, sandals or flip flops.
- Simple jewelry (studs or small hoops) No large earrings or big bracelets.
- Hair accessories: If worn, keep simple, nothing big or colorful

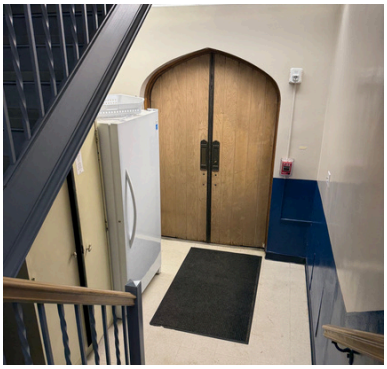
No gum, drinks or cell phones in the sanctuary.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REVERENCE

All services are livestreamed and recorded. Be mindful of touching your face, playing with your hair, fidgeting, or making faces - even if well-intended - at your sibling you are serving with or family members in the congregation.

WHEN TO ARRIVE AND WHERE TO GO ON SUNDAY MORNING

Report to the robing area and check in with the coach 20 minutes before your scheduled service. You will get robed and then have time for last-minute preparations and instructions. The robing room is at the end of the hall that runs behind the sanctuary. There are signs to help you navigate.



ALL ABOUT THE SCHEDULE

The schedule is made two months at a time: SEP-OCT, NOV-DEC, JAN-FEB, MAR-APR, and MAY-JUN. You will receive an email at the end of every other month asking for your youth's availability. Your responses are used to build the schedule. **The *best way* to ensure your youth is scheduled to serve is to reply to the email.**

The schedule will be published three weeks prior to the first Sunday of that schedule. Please open the schedule when you receive it to see when your youth is scheduled.

SERVICE PREFERENCES

We record service preferences and try to honor them, but we do not guarantee youth will always serve at their first-choice service. *Youth may be scheduled to serve at any of the services.*

DO SIBLINGS SERVE TOGETHER?

If you have more than one child in the ministry, they will be scheduled together (unless they are both Crucifers or both Bible Carriers). However, siblings can and do serve separately on occasion.

SERVICE REMINDERS

You will receive an email reminder two Sundays before your youth is scheduled to serve. Please reply to this email to confirm your youth's attendance. You will also receive a one-week reminder. If you have not confirmed at the two-week mark, you will need to confirm at the one-week mark.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR YOUTH CANNOT SERVE ON HIS OR HER SUNDAY:

If your youth is scheduled to serve, please make it a priority to honor this commitment. However, we know life happens. Plans change and youth wake up sick. As soon as you know your youth cannot serve when scheduled, contact Liz Vander Leeuw to request a sub. If you can swap with another family, please do, but let us know so we can update the schedule and the worship bulletin. If your child gets sick or sustains an injury over the weekend, contact Liz and Peg.