

Arapaho United Methodist Church

# Acolyte Guidebook



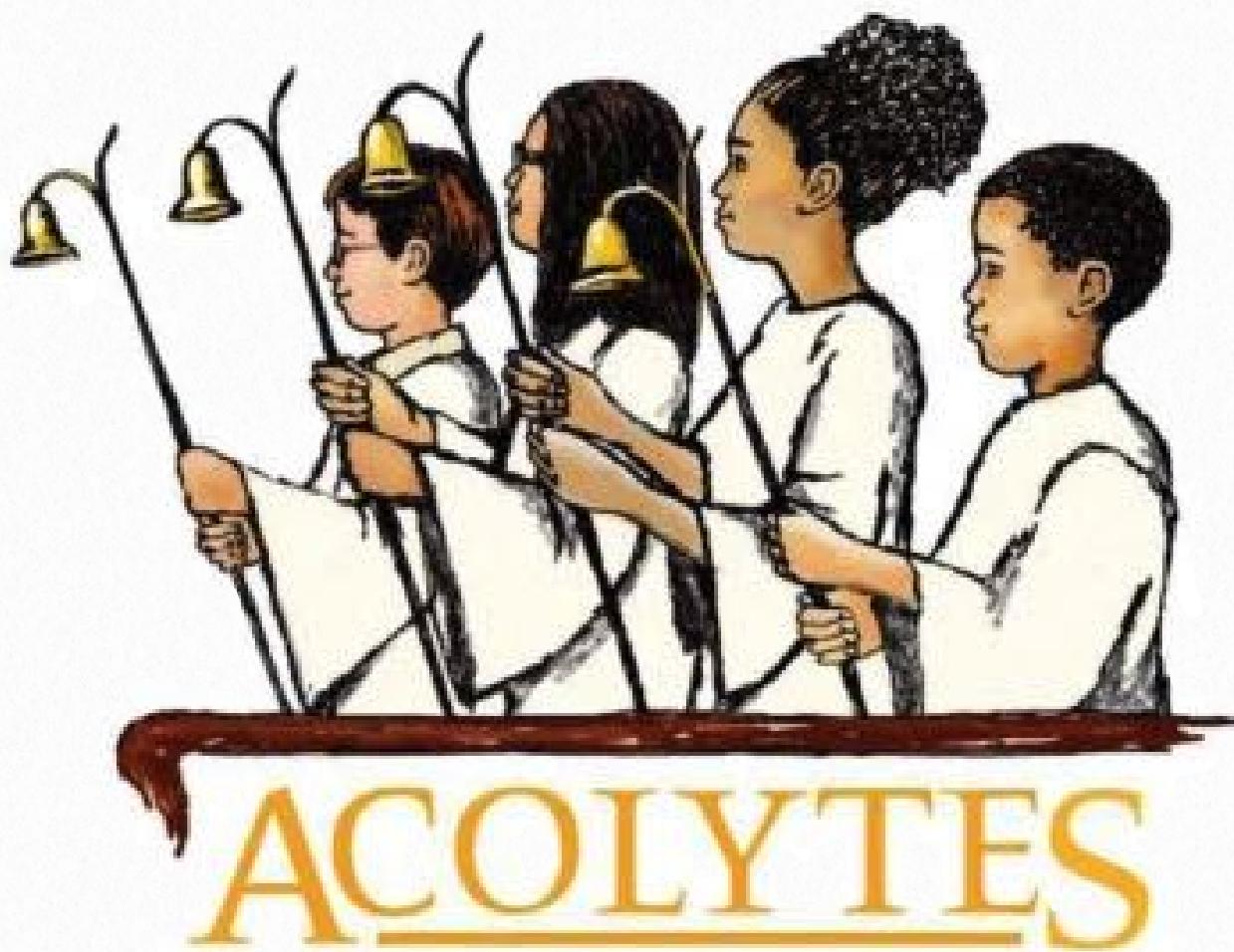
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# Welcome, Acolytes



## Welcome!

Thank you for your dedication to shaping the worship service by serving as acolytes. Acolytes have been one of the important leaders for the worship service in a long Christian history.

Acolytes help the worship service by carrying the light to the sanctuary and assisting the worship. Now they are best known for carrying the candles that reminds the congregation of the presence of God.

**It is not an easy service, but meaningful!**

# Why the Acolyte is Important

**ARAPAHO**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  


The word “Acolyte” comes from the Greek word “ἀκόλουθος (Akolouthos)”, which means “a follower, a carrier.”

In the Bible, “Fire” and “Light” remind people of the presence of God. When God uses Moses to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt, the fire in the cloud tells how God is guiding the people (Exodus 40:34-38).

Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will

never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12). ”

**By carrying the light to the altar, acolytes lead a way for the congregation to come before God through worship.**

**When acolytes carry the light out of the sanctuary at the end of the worship, you remind the congregation that God guides our lives throughout the week ahead.**

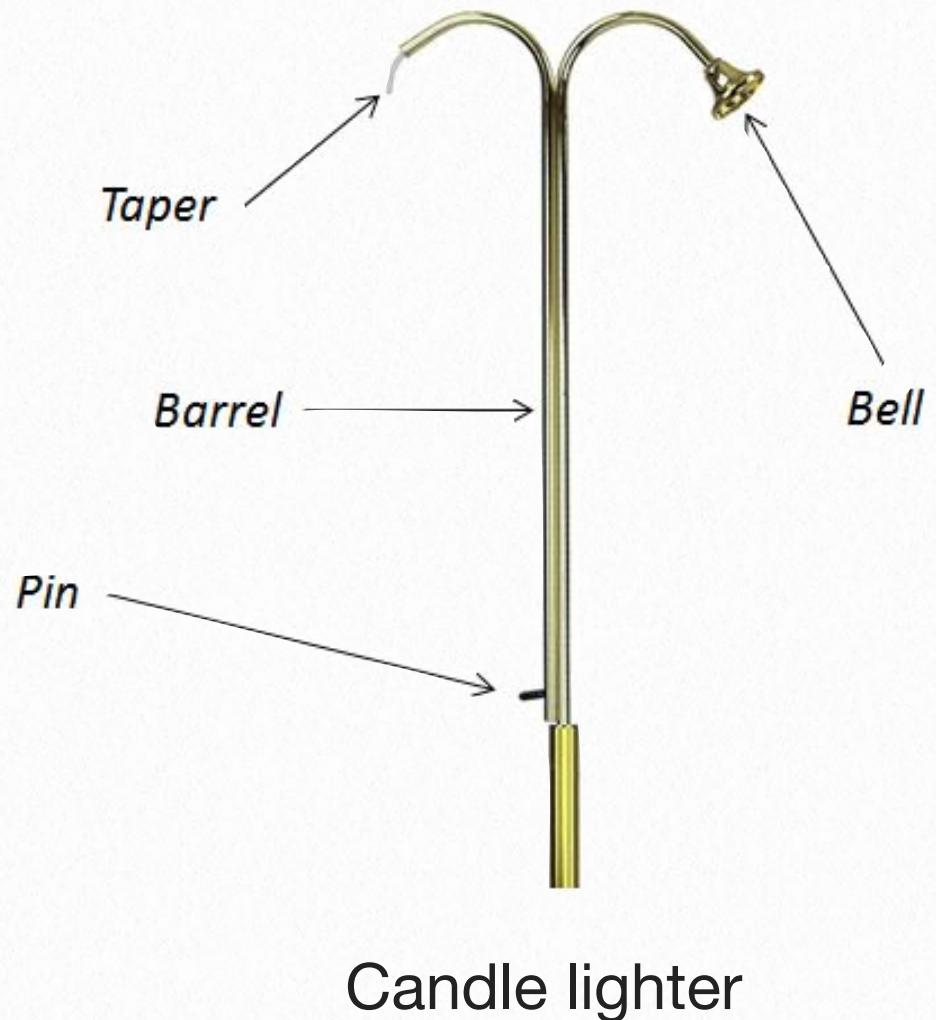
# Equipment of Acolytes



Cotta

Cassock

Acolytes wear a special robe. At Arapaho UMC, Acolytes wear a cassock and a cotta, and a cross necklace.



Candle lighter

Care of the candle lighters is very important. Not only are they expensive, but they must be in good working order. If the tapers are not inserted correctly or if wax has melted down inside the barrel, they will jam.

Check your candle lighter frequently to make sure the taper moves up and down smoothly. The taper should be at least 4" long for the service.

- **NO Chewing gum**
- **NO Flip Flops**
- **NO Rush when carrying the light**

# The Role of the Acolytes

As a leader and a helper of the worship service, the acolyte's role is to SERVE. Therefore, acolytes must learn their part in the service and **pay attention**.

A good acolyte also anticipates the next step in the service. So you are “at the ready” when it is time for the next thing to happen in the worship service.

In taking the role of the acolyte, **DO NOT worry about making a mistake**. Remember that you are not alone in this service.

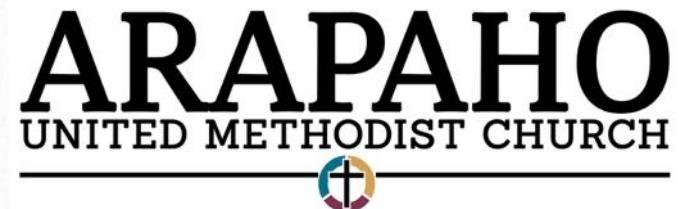
**Your partner, your parents, pastors will be there to help you.**

Be comfortable in your role as a leader and a helper. But use the opportunity to pay attention and to learn.



# 3

## Before the Worship



- Please arrive **15 minutes** before the worship service begins.
- Put on your vestments and the cross necklace.
- Select a candle lighter
- Move the pin to make sure that it works properly with a taper (a stick wax) that is at least 4" long.
- Get a bulletin (and an Activity Binder if you need) from an usher and place it on the front pew where you will seat during the service.
- Wait at the main door of the sanctuary. The ushers or the Acolyte Coordinator will light the taper.

### Note for Parents:

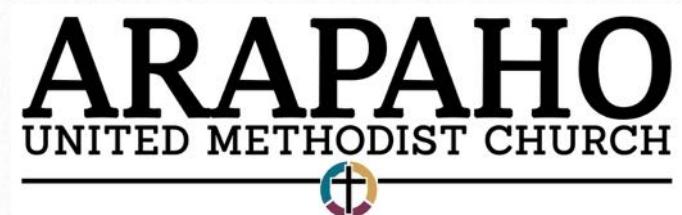
Please plan to seat at the front row with your child. When the flame on both candle lighters go away, there will be a lighter on the front row. Please relight the candle lighter for acolytes.

When acolytes cannot come to the worship, we may ask a help to fill in acolytes. Please be open-minded for the request from the Acolyte Coordinator and children's director.

# Acolyte

# 4

## During the Worship

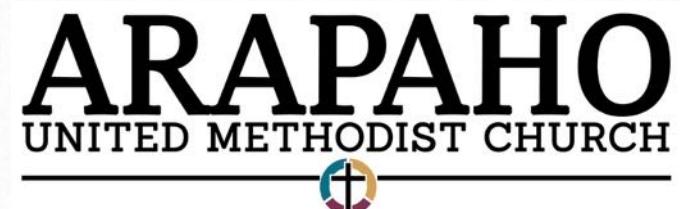


- Hold the candle lighter as the picture shown:
  - Hold it with both hands
  - The Bell should be on top.
  - The lighter is pointed away from you at a 45 degree angle. The angle will keep your feet from the melting wax.
- **When Prelude begins**, take small steps and walk slowly to the altar. Watch your acolyte teammate and walk together.
- If the flame goes out on one of the candle lighters, the partner can relight your taper.
- **Don't get panic or upset about making mistakes.** It takes time to be familiar with the rhythm of acolyte.
- After lighting the candles on the altar, move the pin down to extinguish the flame.
- Carry the candle lighter with you and seat at the front row with your parents.



# 4

## During the Worship



- **When a pastor call acolytes at the offering time**, go up to the altar and take the offering plates. (Offering plates will be on each side.)
- As you take the offering plates, ushers will come to the front and stand before acolytes.
- **After the offering prayer**, hand offering plates to ushers.
- Stand straight, while the offering plates are passing down the pews.
- **During the Doxology**, you collect the offering plates from ushers, and place them back where you took.
- Face toward the cross and remain standing until the Doxology is over.
- **During the sending forth hymn**, take the candle lighter and light the taper from the candles on the altar.
- Extinguish the flame on the candles with the bell and stand at the aisle (beside the first row)
- **After Benediction**, proceed up the aisle toward the narthex.

# 5

## After the Worship



- Move the pin down to turn the flame off.
- Put the candle lighters and the cross necklace back in position.
- Remove your vestments and hang up in the proper place.
- If you find any problems, please inform the Acolyte Coordinator or children's director.



**Your service makes worship service full of Joy and Grace.  
THANK YOU**

# Acolyte Guidebook

*Revised on October 2017*



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This guidebook is an open source for those who need.