



Eucharist's Ministry (Serving Communion)

- A. **Introduction** - Communion as a sacrament means that it is a means or channel for God's grace. Communion is one of the last blessings that Jesus gave to his disciples at the Last Supper. It is one of the marks of Christianity, part of what defines us as Christians. Communion is a very special time of reflection, prayer, and oneness with God. A time to remember God's love for us.

Anyone desiring a relationship with Christ is invited to participate in Holy Communion in the Methodist Church. We have an "open table"

- B. **Elements** - There is bread, juice and gluten free elements. God can use the simplest items to remind us of his promise and provision. The Bread represents the Body of Christ as it was given for us. The wine/juice represents the blood of Christ.

When you arrive, make sure the elements are on the altar. The church provides the elements and they are typically found in the Fellowship Hall. The sealed gluten free elements are behind the altar.

If you need to "set the Table" see "C" below.

C. Setting the Lord's Table

1. The supplies are in the kitchen. You will find Hawaiian bread and Welch's grape juice. The **chalices** and plates are under the counter next to the sink.
2. **Bread** - Depending on the service you may need one or two loaves. Place on the serving plate. If unsure of the amount of bread always take a second loaf and place behind the altar. **The Pastor desires the loaf to remain whole (not to be scored.)**

3. Juice - Pour into a total of three chalices. Two for the communion servers and one set aside for gluten free needs. The sealed elements are under the altar in a baggie.
4. Covers - There should be a cloth napkin covering the bread and paper napkins over the juice chalices.

D. Order of Worship

1. Pastor will bless the elements and then call the Communion Servers to the front.
2. Pastor will provide hand sanitizer.
3. Pastor will serve all those who will be serving first.
4. Pastors will distribute the elements to the servants. The bread will be held in a cloth napkin and the chalice is also held with a paper napkin to catch any drips. Then turn and face the congregation.

E. Serving Communion - This is one of the greatest servant honors you may experience. This is a holy moment for both the server and the receiver. We use a method called "intinction". Participants will take a piece of the bread, dip in the juice and take both at the same time.

1. Serving Bread - Tear a small piece of bread from the loaf and place in the persons open palm. Proclaim the good news that "This is the body of Christ given for you." If you are serving a small child you may say "Remember that Jesus loves You."
2. Serving Juice - Proclaim the good news that "The blood of Christ was shed for you." If you are serving a small child you may say "Remember that Jesus loves You."
3. Use the person's name if it is comfortable for you to do so. This just makes it a little more personal for the receiver.
4. Look around to see if there are those who were unable to come forward. If so, take communion to that person. The Usher may also inform you if someone has made this request.

5. Serve the Pastor.

6. After everyone is served the Pastor will place the elements back on the Altar. If the Pastor is praying with someone at the kneeling rail, feel free to place the elements back on the Altar.

F. **Clearing the Lord's Table** - **The Lead Communion Server should ensure the following steps are completed or find a substitute to take care of these responsibilities. When the service is over the Table needs to be re-set for the next service (1st Sunday's) or completely cleared.

1. Any leftover bread and juice should NEVER be thrown away. These elements have been blessed and should be returned to the earth. Tear the bread into pieces and take outside for the birds. The remaining juice should be poured in the ground.
2. If resetting the Table for the next service, replace the elements with fresh bread and juice.
3. At the end of the service or at the end of the day, depending if it's the 1st Sunday of the month, return the elements, Chalices and plates to the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Clean and put away. Any unused bread should be placed back in the original package. Never pour unused juice back in the original container. Unused juice in a Chalice should be taken outside and poured in the ground. Never pour in the sink.

If you have any questions, please ask Vicki Rector or Patty Wright.