

2017-2018 Sunday Calendar & Holy Days

September 17	Acolyte Training
October 1	Acolyte Training
October 15	Laity Sunday
November 5	All Saints Sunday
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
December 3	1st Sunday of Advent
December 25	Christmas Day
January 7	Epiphany Sunday
February 18	1st Sunday in Lent
April 1	Easter Day



How to get involved?

Please contact the Church Office at 770-536-2341 and ask to speak to Joanna Cauller or Tom Barnes.



Gainesville First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2780 Thompson Bridge Road
Gainesville, Georgia 30506
770.536.2341 gfumc.com

Acolyte Ministry

The Acolyte Ministry is a crucial part of worship and active in nearly every aspect of the services. From the processional to the recessional, we lead the clergy, lay leaders and other special guests, as well as, assist them throughout the service.



Jesus said: **"I am the light of the world."**
John 8:12

Acolyte History

The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word ἀκόλουθος (akolouthos), meaning an attendant, via Late Latin acolythus.

In the Methodist and Lutheran traditions, the lighting of the altar candles in the worship service is a **symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshiping community.**

Before the extinguishing of the last altar candles, the acolytes relight their "candle lighter" and then process out into the narthex. This symbolizes that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It also symbolizes the **light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are called to serve.**

Similar to those in the Anglican tradition, acolytes in these traditions wear robes called albs, sometimes with a cincture. It is also common for Methodist acolytes to wear the traditional cassock and cotta.

Order of Acolytes

Principal Acolyte

New or current acolytes who have completed a Fall Training. Principal responsibilities include carrying candle lighters, assist with the Offertory, attend Baptismal Font, and robe closet upkeep.

Lead Acolyte

Principal Acolytes who have completed a year of service including a Fall Training, an Advent Study and a Communion Study. Incorporate Principal duties, carry the Crucifix as needed. Wears Red Band Cincture.

Senior Acolyte

Lead Acolytes who have completed a second year of service including teaching a Training, a Holy Week Study and a Liturgical Color Study. Oversee Acolyte ministry, coordinate with Worship Committee needs for worship colors and set up, manage Principal and Lead Acolytes during services. Wears Red Band Cincture and Large Cross.

Robe Colors

White - Under two years of service

Black - Two years of service and over



Who can be an acolyte?

The Acolyte ministry welcomes those from 4th grade through adult. Of course, you don't have to start in fourth grade to become a part of this program. The most important aspect is to start. Acolytes earn new robe colors and responsibilities as they gain experience through years of service.

