

GUIDELINES FOR LAY READERS

Updated May 28, 2008

Bulletins will be mailed or emailed to you on Wednesday or Thursday of the week prior to the Sunday you serve as lay reader. If you are a choir member, the bulletin will be in your mailbox in the choir room for Wednesday evening's rehearsal (during the fall / winter). Please let us know how you prefer to receive this bulletin (email, mail or pickup). If you have not received your copy by Friday, call the church office. Please familiarize yourself with your readings.

On Sunday at 10:15 AM, pick up the worship bulletin (there may have been some slight changes) and the announcement sheet. They will be in the church office on the counter marked with your name. Find Pastor Barb to see if there are any last-minute changes to the worship service and/or if she'd like you to help with communion or baptism, etc.

There may be times Pastor Barb prefers to read the scripture, so do check with her ahead of time. As Lay Reader, it is your responsibility to see how you are may help with the worship service and it is important for you to be prepared.

Be sure that the microphone at the lectern is adjusted properly to your height before speaking. Also check with any minute persons about when they will speak. It is important to know at all times what others in the chancel area are doing.

Be aware of times designated for standing (*) and sitting. Please invite the congregation to stand or be seated. In particular, remember to ask the congregation to stand at the very beginning of worship for the Call to Worship.

* * * * *

If you are unable to serve as Lay Reader on your assigned Sunday, please swap Sundays with another reader. **Please let the office know immediately of the change.** Changes, of course, should be made as far in advance as possible. Please use the lay reader list and schedule attached.

If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office (440) 237-7663 or email us at office@nrumc.com.

Thank you for your service in this worship ministry. May God richly bless you!

Below are sample introductions for sharing the Peace of Christ and for the offering. Pick one from each category to use this time.

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

1. *We are all part of the family of God. As brothers and sisters in Christ, please extend a hand of friendship and welcome to those seated near you.*
2. *“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” (Psalm 122:1). In that same spirit of gladness, let us extend a hand of friendship and offer the peace of Christ to those around us.*
3. *Let us now turn to our neighbors with a word of welcome as we share the Peace of Christ.*
4. *We have come to the time in worship to greet our neighbors and offer the Peace of Christ.*
5. *Let us now bid welcome to those beside us and share the Peace of Christ.*
6. *Please welcome the neighbors seated near you and introduce yourself to those who are new.*

Offertory Invitations

1. *In awe and in gratitude let us return to God a portion of all that is entrusted to us.*
2. *Our offerings are pleasing to God when we give from the heart. God does not withhold from us any good things we need. Let us not withhold what belongs to God: our tithes, our offerings, ourselves.*
3. *All silver and gold belong to God. Let us now answer God’s generosity with joy, giving as we have been blessed, with a song in our hearts.*
4. *Let us now worship God with our tithes and our offerings.*
5. *Let us now respond in joyous generosity to the blessings God bestows.*
6. *Jesus gave life itself as an offering for our sin. What shall we give in thanksgiving for life and salvation? Let us worship our Creator with our gifts and through lives invested in service to God and one another.*

7. *All of us, and all we own, come from God. Our offerings are a measure of our gratitude. Let us give thanks as we dedicate our offerings and ourselves to God's service.*
8. *Once again the opportunity is ours to proclaim the goodness of God through offering ourselves and the first fruits of our labors. May all that we give be a testimony to God's purposes among us.*
9. *Let us now come in gratitude to worship the Lord with our tithes and offerings. Let us give generously and joyously, that the whole world may know God's love.*
10. *Each of us has talents to share and resources to invest in God's service. In thankfulness may we bring our gifts and ourselves as our offering to God.*
11. *God invites us to return a portion of His bounty to proclaim the good news of peace. Let us now bring our tithes and offerings.*
12. *Come with your offerings to spread the joy of God's word and bear testimony to God's gift of eternal life.*
13. *God calls us to be stewards of all we possess, and to return for Christ's Body, the church, a portion, to extend discipleship everywhere. Let us give with joy!*
14. *By God's grace we are never in want. Our abundance is intended for ministry to others' needs. Give, then, in thanksgiving to God and concern for our neighbors.*
15. *We have prospered, not because we are deserving, but by God's generosity. Let us give thanks with our offerings.*
16. *In gratitude for God's light and mercy, in thanksgiving for the love that will not let us go, in joyful acknowledgment of the faith that binds us to one another and to our God, let us bring our offerings.*
17. *In grateful response to God's love we bring our offerings of time and treasure.*
18. *God has multiplied the goodness we enjoy and continues to bless us in every way.*
19. *Let us give account of our stewardship in this time of giving.*
20. *It is not the size of our gift, but the sincerity of our commitment that counts with God. We are called to give in proportion to our blessings, as an act of dedication to our God.*
21. *Let us answer God's abundant provision for us through joyous sharing, as we now worship Him with our tithes and offerings.*
22. *As God has given so richly to us, let us now return a portion of His bounty with our tithes and offerings.*

23. *In many expected and unexpected ways God has provided for us, and we have been blessed. Now we can show our gratitude by sharing our abundance as we give of our tithes and offerings.*
24. *God has chosen us as instruments of mission. We carry good news, in word and deed, of a God who loves all people. Our gifts are a response of thanks and a symbol of our commitment. May we be inspired by God's generosity toward us. Will the ushers please come forward.*
25. *Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Rejoice in this opportunity to share the goodness of God.*
26. *From our poverty and from our wealth we rejoice in the opportunity to give to others what we have received. We give, not to be thanked, but that all of us may come to trust in God and delight in the way of life God sets before us. Let us give thanks to God with our offerings.*