FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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(Updated 6/13/2024)

Thank you for helping with worship leadership! Please spend time this week preparing for your role by reading the lectionary texts and the liturgy you have been given. Read the enclosed passages over to yourself several times both silently and aloud**.** You may find it helpful to read the entire chapter or book in order to put this particular passage in context. Remember that you are reading inspired Scripture meant for today's people. These words are sacred, but not dead. Read them intentionally, expressively in a way that comforts, challenges, corrects, and inspires the hearers to a deeper faith and life as God's people, knowing that because we use a common lectionary we gather around the same Word with countless people of faith around the globe.

Below are your instructions for leadership. You will find listed **where to stand** for the parts of worship you are leading and the **part of worship you will read.** *Note: if stairs and/or standing are difficult for you there are accessible instructions* ***printed in blue.*** We strive to make leadership possible for people of all abilities. If you would like to lead from the floor please let Sue know and we will provide a lectern or music stand to read from and a chair or stool if needed. If you need additional accommodations please contact the pastor.

Here are some general instructions:

> You can sit in either chair on the chancel (the one next to the cross is on camera more), ***or in the front row.*** Come up to the pulpit ***or font*** at the time indicated in the bulletin. Remember that the mike is not a replacement for your voice, merely an enhancement. Please speak loudly, slowly and clearly. The sound operator can adjust the volume if it's too loud, but there's very little they can do if you are speaking too softly or quickly.

Note that the bulletin you have been sent is a draft. Please refer to a final version of the bulletin on Sunday.
+**Arrive—**no later than 10:10 am. Get your microphone from sound technician. Meet with the Pastor.
Be ready to enter the sanctuary by 10:25 a.m., and walk in with the Pastor

Your responsibilities will begin after the Gathering Hymn and include the following, which are all done:

Standing centered at the top of the steps or
Standing or sitting between the table and the piano

+Call to Confession of Sin—Read the Call to Confession that's printed in the bulletin. Then you can pause for a few seconds and go right into the:
+Unison Prayer of Confession—(printed in bulletin) begin reading this prayer and the congregation will join you.
+Words of Assurance—after a short time of silence (30-45 seconds), say the words printed in the bulletin.

Following the Words of Assurance, invite the congregation to sing the Confessional Response, using words like, "We respond by singing….[the name of the piece printed in the bulletin]"

The Prayer for illumination will generally be sung, so take that opportunity to make your way to the pulpit or ***standing or sitting between the table and the piano*** and be ready when the singing stops.

+The First Scripture Lesson Announce the reference you are reading with a simple phrase such as:

a. The words of the prophets from…
b. A reading from the book of…
c. The gospel according to… *(use only when you're reading from the gospels)*

+The Scripture Response After the reading, a thoughtful response reinforces that this is no ordinary book. Depending on the particular text it may be appropriate to observe a time of silence after the reading before leading the response printed in the bulletin. We're trying to invite the children up while we sing our response, so after your pause, use words like, "as the children respond to scripture by making their way down front, we will respond by singing…[the name of the piece printed in the bulletin]"

After you read the scripture lesson, you will generally have no other speaking parts during the service. You are welcome to remain on the chancel or to sit in the pews until the Sending Hymn, when you should make your way to the pastor for the benediction.

Stand beside the Pastor for the Benediction

Stand or sit next to the Baptismal Font, not blocking the pastor.

If needed, have a seat in the pews after the Benediction and do not walk out with the pastor.

During the final hymn walk with the pastor to the front of the chancel and stand beside the pastor for the Benediction. After the benediction, leave the sanctuary *walking down the aisle alongside the pastor*.

After worship, turn off your microphone and return it to the cabinet in the Church Office. Thanks again for your help.

In summary, your responsibilities are:

1. Call to confession (in the bulletin) and confession and assurance (bulletin)
2. First scripture reading
3. Announcing the sung hymns or responses following your prayers and readings.

If you feel unsure about your responsibilities, you may want to bring this information with you on a Sunday and make notes in your bulletin to help clarify your responsibilities. If you still have questions, feel free to call the church at (351-2660).

If an emergency occurs and you are unable to be the lay leader on Sunday and cannot reach Susan VanDuyn at (338-4132), call the pastor at the church (351-2660).

** It is recommended that leaders wear something with a pocket or belt so that the microphone may be easily attached.