

Communion Server Guidelines/Information First United Methodist Church, Stillwater

Thank you for answering God's call to serve Holy Communion! It is an honor and privilege to be able to offer this symbol of God's grace to others in our congregation. It is one of the two sacraments of the church, and we know you will want to treat it with due respect. In the scriptures you will find that the elements were always given by Jesus, not 'taken' by the disciples. We respect this by always 'giving' the bread and cup and never asking people to take it (with the exception of lifting an individual cup out of the large silver tray). We also want to express this in the way we speak as we serve as shown below.

The Mechanics:

Servers will stay in their seats until we have spoken "The Breaking of the Bread"

The bread we break

is a sharing in the body of Christ.

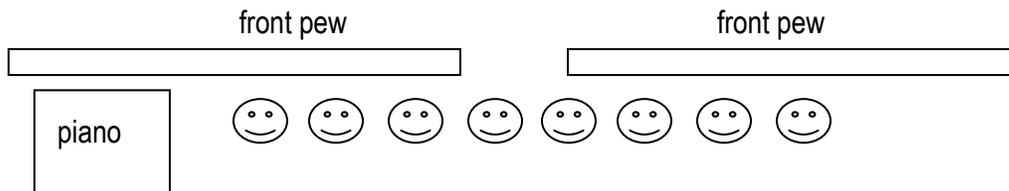
The cup over which we give thanks

is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God

for the people of God.

Following this reading, the pastor will issue the invitation to servers to come forward. Please move to the front of the church and stand facing the altar near the front pew's modesty rail in a line to be served (see diagram). There will be a bottle of hand sanitizer passed along the line. If you are the last in line, please place the bottle on the floor under the piano when finished. The pastor(s) will come and serve you there.



You demonstrate how to receive!

Please cup your hands in front of you to receive the bread; then dip the bread into the cup, and consume the morsel. (You may wish to remind yourself of what to say or find new ideas by listening close to those serving you!)

Table Stewards

The table stewards are almost always the same people each month, and they will know what to do. They will line up on the south(pulpit side) end of the receiving line so they may be served first and move to the altar to help distribute bread and cup. During serving, they will bring you more bread or another tray of cups as needed.

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All Servers

It is very important to speak to each and every person you serve. The words are a big part of serving and very important to those receiving. Though it can seem repetitive, it is always the only time each person you are serving hears it! How you say your part can vary, should be comfortable for you, but must be true to the message and meaning of the sacrament.

Possibilities for serving the bread:

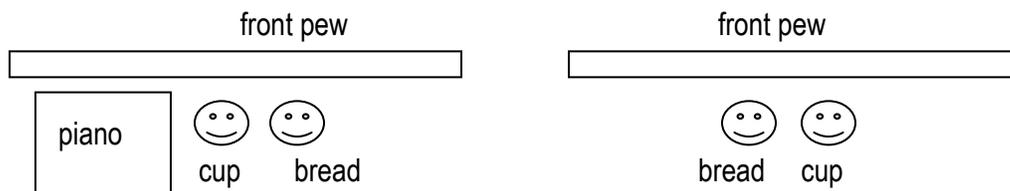
- The body of Christ broken for you.
- The body of Christ, the bread of heaven, broken/given for you.
- His body given for you.
- The body of the Lamb given for you.

Possibilities for serving the cup:

- The cup of Christ poured out for you.
- The blood of the new covenant.
- The cup of the new covenant given/poured for you.

Intinction Servers

The chalice and bread will be brought to those serving by intinction on the floor. One couple stands next to the piano and the other toward the middle of the south side modesty rail. Please leave at least 4-5 feet between you and the center aisle so that we don't cause jams for people wanting to go to the rail. You will essentially face the altar so people may pass across in front of you.



Individual Cup Servers

Move up onto the chancel, and you will receive a loaf or tray. The bread server leads the team down the line. When you come to the end, go up the stairs behind the pulpit/lectern and back to start again in the center. If you are on the South/pulpit side, there will be a small loaf of gluten-free bread there. If someone requests this, PLEASE allow them to tear off their own piece! It is imperative that the bread server not handle this loaf as that can contaminate the bread for those who have serious allergies. Please say the same words to them; just don't handle their bread! (this is a rare occurrence – no worries!)

At the End

When everyone has been served, bring your cup, bread, or tray back to the altar, and the table stewards will assist getting it to the proper place. You then may return to your pew knowing that through the Holy Spirit, you have been a blessing in the lives of many in our congregation! Thank you!!