

Lead Usher Corps tasks (revised 11-27-13)

The Lead Usher is responsible for **completing or assigning** several tasks on Sunday AM. The corps will rotate Sundays and use the current usher sign-up sheet or Volunteer Spot to sign up. The following is a checklist for Lead Usher tasks.

Note: If there is a Children's Chapel (usually the first Sunday of the month), save a dozen seats in the back of Emerson for parents who come in when Children's Chapel ends.

30-45 minutes before the service

- Make sure that the correct hymnals are available for that service.
 - Put one cart of hymnals inside the back entrance to Emerson and the second cart near the front entrance to Emerson.
 - Put correct large-print hymnals and Braille hymnals on the hall table (they're found in the left-hand cupboard of the credenza).
- Collect the orders of service from Amy's office. There may be inserts that need to be collated; recruit assistance as needed.
- Open the Emerson doors.
- Bring out hearing assistance devices (in credenza right-hand drawer) and place on table in Emerson Lobby. Check to see that they turn on. Batteries are in the main office closet.
- In that same credenza drawer are pink Usher buttons. Get those out for the ushers to wear.
- Check to make sure there are enough stones (outside the bowl) on the Joys and Sorrows table in Emerson.
- Check to make sure hand microphone is on table and sound system is turned on.
- Set up three chairs for ushers, but put them near the sink in the back of Emerson so that they're less likely to be sat in by others before they're needed by ushers. Put the reserved signs from the credenza drawer on the chairs.

20 minutes before the service

- Assign and instruct one usher for the balcony who takes upstairs ~20 Orders of Service, checks for correct hymnal, and checks to make sure there is a basket for the collection. Balcony usher can also turn on the speaker in the balcony hallway. Ask balcony usher to bring balcony collection downstairs and report balcony attendance count immediately after offering is complete.
- Designate a microphone carrier (for intro of newcomers and Joys/Sorrows).
- Check to make sure speaker in Emerson Lobby is on (note switch is on the back, check power plug at both ends).
- If the Order of Service indicates less than 4 ushers have signed up, recruit an usher to assist with the offering downstairs.

10 minutes before the service

- Ring the gong firmly and loudly in Hall, Channing, and front Lobby; flash lights in Channing. If the sound is muffled or soft, use the other (non-sheathed) end of the gong stick. The gong now is stored on a wall hook in Amy's office, across from her desk, near the door to the inner office.
- Light the small candle used to light the chalice.
- Encourage congregants to enter Emerson.
- Remind Rev. Sam about the Offertory Gratitude.

5 minutes before the service

- Ring the gong again, loudly and in all locations, as above. Blink the lights in Channing again.

10:00 (or when Gathering Songs are over and service is about to begin)

- Close the doors upstairs and down. Two ushers should remain in the lower Lobby, balcony usher stands in hall.

- Have those waiting listen in hall. Encourage quiet; those who wish to converse should go into the RE Wing hallway. Give Orders of Service and hymnals to all arrivees, to facilitate quick entry.
- If necessary, set up folding chairs in the lobby for the temporary use of latecomers who cannot stand while waiting (or direct them to Channing, where audio and video are available).

Latecomer Seating Opportunity (when first hymn is introduced; directly after Chalice Lighting)

- As hymn is being introduced, open both front and rear doors to Emerson and balcony door. Ushers should enter first and actively assist entrants in finding seats. Verify that doors are closed when hymn ends.
- If seats are in short supply, check for extra seats in balcony. Put up folding chairs in the back as needed.
- After this point, there is no need to control the door; latecomers can enter and be seated as they arrive. Assist any arrivees in locating seats.
- One usher should stay near the rear door (but inside) until the children leave, to invite arrivees to enter.

During Service – Microphone assistance for Newcomer Introductions and Joys and Sorrows

- Turn on the front mike for Newcomer Introductions and carry it to any who stand or raise their hand to introduce themselves or their guests.
- For Joys and Sorrows, stand at the front near the stones table to control the mike for spoken Joys and Sorrows. Make sure the mike stays on, and assist users as needed to ensure they can be heard.

Offering

- With 3 ushers and 4 plates, have one usher in center aisle with 2 plates and one usher in each side aisle. Wait at rear during the minister's Offertory introduction, and until the Offertory music begins, and then process together to the front and begin passing the plates.
- When the offering is complete, 2 ushers should wait at the rear of the center aisle with 4 plates (2 each, stacked) until Sam gives the signal, then process to the front, turn and face the congregation while Sam gives words of gratitude for the Offertory. When Sam is done, ushers process down opposite side aisles to the rear and place the collection plates on the credenza.
- The 3rd usher can take (or start) the attendance count during the Offertory gratitude. Everyone, including the choir, should be counted, and the number recorded. **For intergenerational services, children must now be counted and recorded separately.** It might be easiest to count everyone and then count children and subtract, rather than try to maintain two totals in your head, but do whatever works for you.
- As the chalice is being extinguished to end the service, open all doors and place the plastic chocks to hold them open.

After the service

- Take the collection to office and have two people count. Ensure that the balcony collection and attendance number are included. Fill out the form found in the "Sunday Drop Box" to record the collection and attendance count (children and adults separately for intergenerational services).
- Put the collection money and paperwork in the envelope and turn the envelope over to Amy (or the Treasurer or Asst Treasurer - Sue Berzinis and Reese Satin, respectively) to put in the safe.
- Collect and reshel/neaten the hymnals from Emerson (check under chairs) and check for yellow Joys/Sorrows card in the back of the books. Extra cards are in the credenza right-hand drawer. Return unused or discarded Orders of Service to the office for recycling.
- Turn off hearing devices and store basket in right-hand drawer of the credenza.

- Check pulpit and clear out old stuff – water glasses, etc.
- Treat yourself to coffee!