

# Peace United Church of Christ

## Lay Reader Instructions

Thank you for volunteering to be a lay reader for our worship services.

You will receive a copy of the bulletin on Thursday by email. It is helpful to go over the readings in advance to familiarize yourself with the text, check on pronunciations of unfamiliar words, and get comfortable with unusual turns of phrase. Practice reading aloud at home!

so you are familiar with them and have a chance to check on pronunciation of any unusual words or names in the text. It is also helpful to practice reading the passage aloud at home. Keep in mind that your tendency may be to read more quickly than is ideal, so remember to slow down. It also helps the interpreter and those with hearing difficulties if you read slowly.

Although no one expects you to dress up, please come in attire you would consider respectful.

Please be sure you are at the church no later than 10 to 15 minutes before the worship service so you are ready to walk in with the pastors. When you go to the front of the church to read, take a moment to adjust the microphone as needed so that you are able to speak directly into it. Those who have difficulty hearing will appreciate this.

### Tips for Lay Readers:

- Sit in the front pew the beginning of the service.
- Walk up to the pulpit after the children are released following the Story for All Ages.
- When you get to the pulpit, take a moment to adjust the microphone height so you can speak directly into it.
- The number of scripture readings may vary, but a usual pattern is one from the Hebrew Bible and one from the New Testament, which we name based on what type of document it is, usually Gospel or Epistle.
- Introduce readings with their type and book. For example, "Our Hebrew Bible reading is from the book of Genesis," or "Our Epistle reading is from Paul's letter to the Romans." Let a pastor know if you need help with the introductory phrase.
- Sit in the chair next to the pastor(s) on the chancel during the anthem/special music.
- Walk back up to the pulpit at the end of the anthem.
- After reading the scripture texts, don't forget the congregational response: "Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**"
- Then return to your seat in the congregation.

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Again, thank you for helping with this important part of our worship service! If you have any questions regarding your duties, feel free to contact Pastor Corinne at [corinne@peaceucc.org](mailto:corinne@peaceucc.org).