**Creating an Altar for Sunday Morning Worship Jan 2023**

One of the ongoing creative contributions at CHC is setting up the altar for Sunday morning. While everyone does it in their own way, there are a few items that are usually present, and good to know about if you’re new to this.

The altar often reflects the theme of the morning, so you may want to find out from the newsletter, or the guest preacher, or Marilyn G. or Polly, what’s happening on the Sunday you signed up to do the altar.

Common items present on most altars:

* A cross of your choice (although this can be omitted if you wish). The crosses are stored behind the piano, on the shelves hidden by the sliding paintings.
* Some kind of fabric covering all or part of the table (again, this is up to you). The “fabric collection” lives in the big white storage closet opposite the hymnal rack. The four plastic bins are sorted by color.
* Collection plates, the Bible and the wooden Bible stand. These are all in the narrow white storage cabinet left of the fabric cabinet.
* The singing bowl and anointing oil bottles, usually found above the fabrics.
* Candles. Votives for people to light, and usually one or more tall tapers or pillars. Spread the votives out so two people can be lighting at the same time. All the candles are in the big white storage cabinet, above the fabrics.
* Matches. Put some on each side of the altar, plus containers for the used ones.
* Flowers or some sort of greenery (again, up to you).

If it’s a communion Sunday, leave some space at the back edge of the table for the bread and chalice. If you want to create some height variation, the old red hymnals make good platforms.

Just before the service starts, light at least one of your tall candles or pillars. (You need the striking surface on the matchbox to do this, but after that everyone can use your lit candle to light their match.)

After the service, put everything away!