

BANNERS

Purpose

To enhance the beauty of our Metropolitan United Church Sanctuary and “to catch wandering minds through wandering eyes” and help focus the thoughts of worshippers on the One they have come to worship.

Sanctuary banners are designed and created to follow the Liturgical Year beginning with Advent and ending with the Festival of the Reign of Christ (Christ the King Sunday).

Advent

1. Before the first Sunday of Advent (last Sunday of November or first Sunday of December):
 - a. Large white and gold “Emmanuel” banners (stored in the Archives room) are hung at the front of the Sanctuary;
 - b. Small white and gold “Chrismon” (Christ monogram) banners (stored in the Banner Cabinet) are hung around the balcony;
 - c. White runner (stored in Banner Cabinet) is placed on the Communion table; and
 - d. White and gold altar antependia with white and gold symbols on blue background are hung at the front of the pulpit and lectern.
2. Small white pennants with the words HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE (stored in the Senior Minister’s study) are hung on the frame of the Advent wreath before the service or during Circle Time when the candles are lit each Sunday.
3. Outside the Sanctuary, all over the building various other Advent/Christmas banners are hung on walls, banisters and in stairwells to add to the festive feeling as we approach Christmas.

Epiphany (between Christmas and Lent)

1. When the Christmas trees are removed:
 - a. “Emmanuel” banners are replaced by white and gold Epiphany banners depicting the Wise Men and the Star; and
 - b. Chrismon banners around the balcony remain until Epiphany banners come down.
2. Baptism banners may be used at the front if the Sacrament of Baptism is observed in January.
3. Purple Communion banners may be used at the front if we have a January Communion service.
4. “His Banner Over Me Is Love” banners (stored in Level 2 stairwell) move to the front of the Sanctuary for the month of February or until just before Ash Wednesday.
5. Woven altar antependia and Communion table runner are used with the above-mentioned banners.
6. There are no balcony banners until Lent.

Lent

1. Between the last Sunday before Lent and Ash Wednesday:
 - a. Large purple banners with Cross designs (reverse of Communion banners, stored in Archives room) are moved to the front of the Sanctuary; and
 - b. Small purple banners (12) go around the balcony over the round panels.
2. Various other banners including rainbow replicas of the large purple banners go in the Great Room and various other spots around the building.

Palm Sunday

Large and small Palm branch banners painted by the Junior Department of the Sunday School in the 1980s have worn out and have so far not been replaced, so Lenten banners remain in place.

Maundy Thursday

1. Between Palm Sunday and Thursday evening:
 - a. Large purple banners at the front are reversed to show Communion design;
 - b. Purple balcony banners remain;
 - c. The woven table runner is put away; and
 - d. Woven antependia may remain or be replaced by white and gold (reverse of Advent antependia with blue squares).
2. If Metropolitan United Church hosts the Good Friday service of worship, all banners and antependia are returned to storage following the Communion service.

Good Friday

No banners

Easter

1. For Good Friday afternoon or Holy Saturday:
 - a. Large white and gold Easter banners go to the front of the Sanctuary (lower hooks);
 - b. Small white and gold banners (23) return to the balcony; and
 - c. Plain white and gold antependia and the white table runner are returned to the Chancel.
2. Assorted other Spring/Easter banners are hung in the Great Room, stairwells, etc.

Pentecost

1. During the week before Pentecost Sunday (six weeks after Easter):
 - a. White and gold "He is Risen" banners are returned to storage (corridor outside Archives room) and replaced by extra-long red Pentecost banners (stored on wall opposite Archives room door. They hang on higher hooks;
 - b. White and gold balcony banners are returned to their cabinet outside Met Hall and replaced by small red banners kept in the same cabinet; and
 - c. White and gold antependia and runner are replaced by a red set.
2. A pair of matching red "dove and flames" banners may be hung in the Great Room.
3. Many other 'Spirit' banners, made for the huge event "The Moderator's Conference On The Holy Spirit" hosted by Metropolitan United Church on June 8-10, 1984, may be hung in various locations throughout the building.

Trinity Sunday (First Sunday after Pentecost, Season of Creation)

During the week following Pentecost Sunday:

1. Long red banners at the front are replaced by large green banners, usually "building on our Christian Heritage" (stored in the Archives room);
2. Red antependia and table runner are replaced by green ones;
3. Red balcony banners are replaced by a smaller set of twelve banners (half green, half burgundy);
4. All the above remain in place for the summer. The green symbolizes the growth of the Church following Pentecost, and also the growth in the natural world and in our own inner life; and
5. Blue "Lift Up Your Hearts" banners are sometimes used in September as a "Welcome Back" after the summer as a new season of work begins.

World Wide Communion

During the week before the first Sunday in October:

1. The large banners at the front are replaced by the purple Communion banner;
2. The green antependia may be replaced by white and gold antependia;
3. The green table runner is put away; and
4. The balcony banners may remain in place.

Thanksgiving

So far, there are no large Thanksgiving banners. Usually the Communion banners remain in place. Burgundy and gold “Sanctuary” banners (stored at the front of Met Hall) may be used and left up for Anniversary Sunday later in October.

Anniversary Sunday

See above (Thanksgiving)

Remembrance Sunday

No special banners, so far

Christ The King Sunday (last Sunday before Advent)

1. During the week before this final Sunday of the Liturgical Year:
 - a. Blue banners with gold Crown are moved from their year-round spot on the north wall of the balcony transepts to the front of the Sanctuary (lower hooks);
 - b. Advent antependia are used; and
 - c. White or blue table runner may be used.
2. Before the first Sunday of Advent, blue banners are placed on the south wall of the transepts.

Summary

Metropolitan’s current collection of banners has been evolving since 1977. A photo album “The Banner Book” (still a work in progress, as is the collection itself) includes detailed information about all the banners and is to be stored along with earlier albums from the Decorating Committee of the United Church Women (U.C.W. – predecessors of the Sanctuary Guild).

The Banner volunteers greatly appreciate the congenial cooperation of the custodial staff without whose cheerful assistance we would not be able to raise up our banners to great heights.

Related Metropolitan Policies

In June each year, Ministry personnel review this policy, and send it to the Board of Elders for review if there are changes.

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