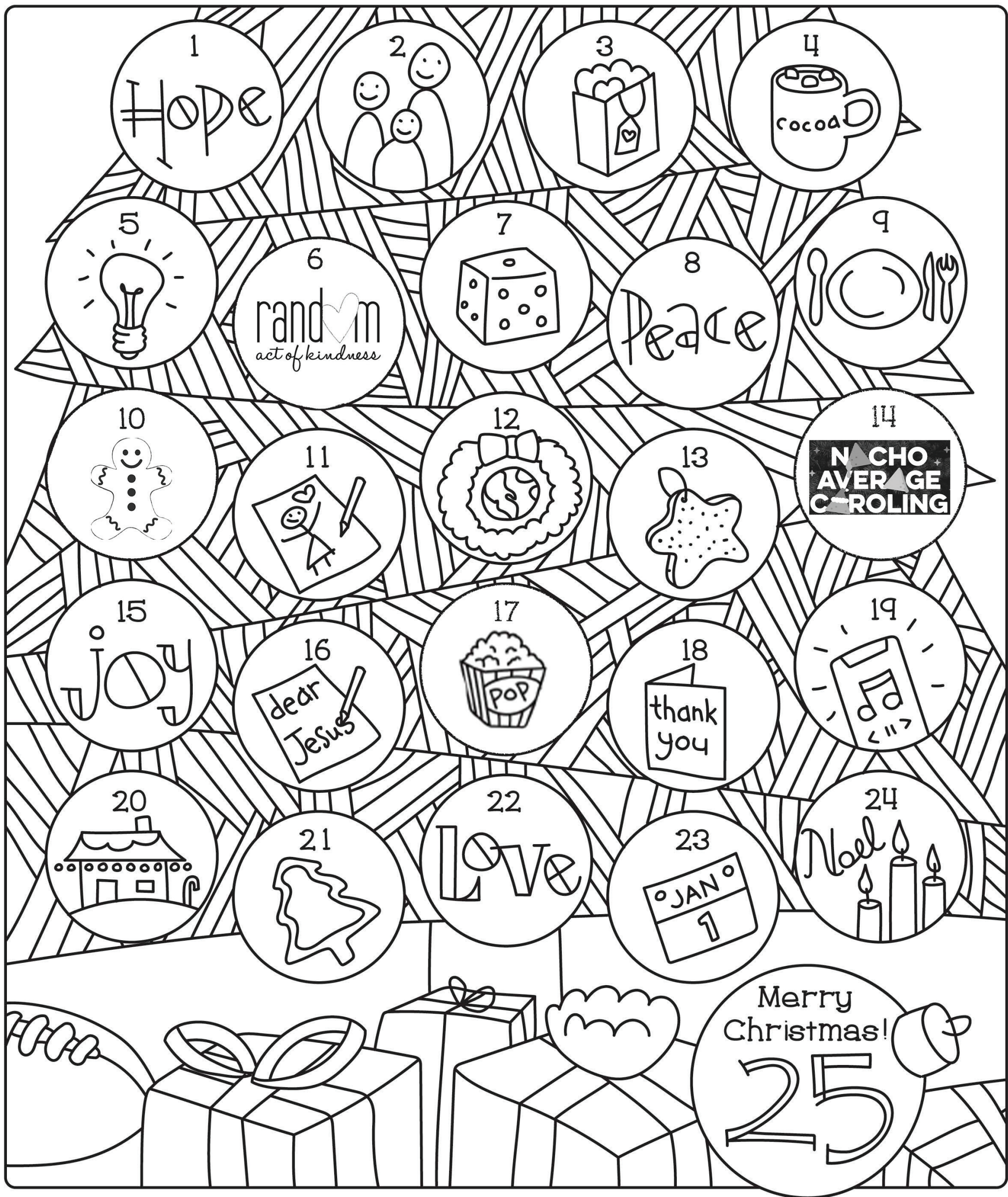


advent activity calendar



Sunday, December 1, marks the beginning of Advent. What does that word even mean? Advent means “to come.” In the season of Advent, we are waiting for Christ to come to us. Advent is a time of darkness when we wait for baby Jesus, the Light of the World, to be born.

So often we skip from Halloween to Christmas, not pausing to celebrate Thanksgiving or the Advent season, so we want to help your family celebrate Advent this year! While many Advent calendars today come with the promise of chocolates or toys behind each of the numbered doors, this Advent calendar is a little different. Our Advent calendar is more of an activity calendar—the daily activity provided invites your family into a way to prepare your family for Christmas. As you complete each activity, color that section of the calendar.

May God bless each of you this Advent season!

Children’s Advent Activity Calendar

- December 1** - Read Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7.
Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the hope we find in you. Thank you for keeping Your promises. Help me to remember to have hope in You and to bravely share your hope in our world today. In Jesus’ name, amen.
- December 2** - Spend time together talking about the people who are important in your family. This may be relatives, such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, or close friends that have become part of your family. Share stories about past Christmases and the joy you can remember feeling. Tell your children stories about these important people who make up your family story.
- December 3** - Make a gift list for other family members. Talk about what you think different people will want and make a gift list with intention. Make a plan for shopping, or better yet, for creating gifts.
- December 4** - Take some time to have a Hot Cocoa Break or Ice Cream Sundae Night. Talk about what the Christmas season means to you as a family.
- December 5** - Create a new family tradition. Talk about something new you can do this year to help celebrate the Christmas season.
- December 6** - Perform a Random Act of Kindness! Celebrate by doing something nice and unexpected for a neighbor or friend. Leave cookies or sweets on a neighbor’s doorstep, drop off a card to a friend, or bring someone flowers.
- December 7** - Have a family game night! Bring out your favorite family board games and spend time playing together.
- December 8** - Read Luke 1:76-79.
Prayer: God of Hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us become peacemakers in your world by shining your light brightly. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come. Amen. Attend the Children’s Christmas Musical, *Angels Aware*, at 6pm.
- December 9** - Have children help prepare and clean up after dinner. Talk about how doing little things for others is important.
- December 10** – Discuss how you as a family might be able to serve at one of our Christmas Eve services. You can sign up at the large banner outside the Sanctuary...just put your name and email on a sticker over the spot you would like to serve!
- December 11** - Pray for others who may need to find peace in their lives. As you pray, draw a picture or doodle on a blank sheet of paper.
- December 12** - Go to the library and take out books to see how other cultures celebrate Christmas. Talk about how increasing our understanding of different cultures promotes peace in our world.
- December 13** - Make a birdseed ornament to hang outside. Use a pine cone or an apple cut in half, peanut butter (or Sun butter if there is an allergy) and birdseed. When we connect to nature we practice peace.
- December 14** – Attend Nacho Average Caroling at 5pm and spread some laughter and love by going Christmas Caroling.
- December 15** - Read Psalm 146:5-10.
Prayer: God, you fill us with your joy. Help us to notice where you are at work in our lives and find joy in you. Amen.
- December 16** - Focus on the joys of the season. Have your child/children write a letter to Jesus or draw a picture thanking Him for listening to their prayers.
- December 17** - Have a Family Movie Night – Pop some popcorn and watch a Christmas-themed movie as a family.
- December 18** - Thank someone who has brought you joy this year. Make a simple Christmas card thanking the person for bringing you joy and him or her why it meant so much. If you have time, pay it forward and create another card to bring someone joy who may need it this season.
- December 19** - Listen to Christmas music as a family – maybe have a dance party if you feel moved. Talk about your favorite Christmas songs and which ones help spread the joy of the season.
- December 20** - Take a drive or walk around your neighborhood to look at Christmas lights. Or venture into your town or city center to see how it is decorated for Christmas. Talk about the different symbols you see in the decorations and what they mean to your family.
- December 21** - Bake a batch of Christmas cookies and bring them to your local emergency response department. Thank the people of the department for keeping you safe throughout the year. Bake a second batch to deliver to a friend, neighbor or someone in the community as you participate in Mission 1025 Cookie Drop. (Specially labeled boxes are available at the Welcome Desk December 7-22.)
- December 22** - Read Philippians 2:1-4.
Prayer: God of Love, your love amazes us! Thank you for your great love. Help us to remember we are your children and that you love us. May we love others in this same way. Amen.
- December 23** - Take time to talk about the New Year and what you hope will happen. Think about different ways you can spread God’s love throughout the year to others. Say a prayer together for the upcoming New Year.
- December 24** - Attend a Christmas Eve service and prepare your hearts for Christmas Day. KUMC has services at 10am, 12, 2, 4, 6, 8 & 11pm.
- December 25** - Merry Christmas! Read Luke 2:13-20.
Bake a birthday cake celebrating Jesus’ birthday. Sing Happy Birthday and Hark the Herald Angels Sing as you watch the birthday candles shine and remember that God is with you!