

LOOKING FORWARD TO ADVENT

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ADVENT AT ADVENTURE THIS YEAR!

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas when we celebrate Jesus coming into the world – and that season is almost here!

As we look forward to this season, we want to prepare in a way that helps us engage and draw closer to Jesus as much as possible in our everyday lives.

Check out this packet for information about ***what Advent is*** & ***what you can expect*** during this season at Adventure.

What is Advent?

Whether this is your first time participating in Advent, or if you've been celebrating this season for your whole life, we think it is important for us to pause and think about this question for a minute.

So… *What is Advent?*

Advent might be a word you've heard before, but let's start with where the word comes from. The word Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "an approach, a coming, or an arrival." So in regards to this season, Advent is the time of approach leading up to Christmas. It's the time we take to prepare our hearts for Jesus's coming into the world. With each day of the season, we long for Jesus's arrival *and* we get more and more excited for Christmas– the day we celebrate Jesus being born. Not only that, but as we remember Jesus daily we can be reminded of both the longing and excitement we can hold as we look forward to the day He will come again.

How do I practice Advent?

Here at Adventure we are looking forward to a variety of ways to practice Advent both together at church and at home on our own or with our families. There is not a set "right" way to participate in this season, but we do encourage you to take some time on your own or with your family to decide how you might want to participate. There is immense value in honoring what this season is all about and spending some time drawing closer to Jesus through it.

There will be many opportunities to come together at the church (see the *At-Church Opportunities* section), things that you can take home to do on your own or with your family (see the *At-Home Opportunities* section), and different materials you can use to study and grow (see the *Resources* section). While we encourage you to lean in to this season and try some new things, we also don't want you to feel pressured to do it all! There is a balance: choosing things to participate in that bring connection and spur your growth in relationship with Jesus and others, while not overwhelmed to the point where things just become a check list instead of the intentional opportunity they are meant to be. Ultimately, practice Advent in a way that spurs what this season is supposed to: more hope, peace, joy, love and life in Christ our Savior.

One of the special practices of Advent is lighting candles on an Advent Wreath. Many years ago, people decided to celebrate the birth of Jesus by lighting candles each day during Advent. The light of the candles lit up the darkness the same way Jesus lights up the world with his love and truth. The candles were often placed on a wreath, which is a circle. Circles have no beginning and no end, just like God and his love! He has always been and will always be. Greenery used to decorate the wreath was used to symbolize everlasting life and hope. This tradition is meant to help us look forward to Jesus's coming in a tangible and interactive way.

At Adventure we participate in lighting the Advent Wreath candles during the main Sunday Service– lighting candles to represent the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus. We also encourage you to create your own Advent wreath and do this at home. Parents, keep in mind that your kids in classes downstairs don't have the opportunity to participate in this with the congregation each week, so doing it at home is a cool way to share this tradition with them. For more info on the at-home candle lighting opportunity, see the *Candle Lighting Details* in the *At-Home Opportunities* section later in this packet.

What can I expect during Advent at Adventure?

Our Theme

This Advent season our sermon series theme is called "Rejoice" and everything we are doing will be centered on this idea: *Christmas is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year, but for many of us, the season is filled with stress, disappointment, grief, and longing. What does it mean to rejoice when life doesn't feel particularly joyful? Throughout Scripture, God's people are invited to rejoice, not because their circumstances are perfect or comfortable, but because of who their God is and what He has promised.* ***This Advent, we'll explore the joy that comes from waiting on God, trusting in His promises, recognizing His presence, and celebrating His faithfulness. Together, we'll discover that true joy isn't found in our circumstances, but in Jesus Christ, our coming King.***

This theme isn't just for Sundays, it's one we have considered as we've planned for this season in its entirety. How can we pare back what we are doing so that we can take time and engage well the things we *are* doing? How can we center ourselves on Him instead of "stuff." How can we find joy, rest, and wonder throughout a season that also often holds grief, overwhelm or just plain busyness? Our goal in creating opportunities at church and at home to go with our theme are aimed at helping make space for us to just Behold Him as best we can in our every day lives. Join us in this pursuit of Jesus.

At-Church Opportunities

Sunday Service: Join us for Sunday services at 10:00am throughout the Advent season where we will worship with seasonal praise music, learn about what it means to Rejoice, join in prayer together, take time for reflection during the Candle Lighting, and just be devoted together to what God is calling us toward.

Adventure:Equip: Join us each of the Sundays of Advent from 9:00-9:45am in the Cafe where we will participate in an activity together that highlights our theme of Rejoicing in a tangible way, hands-on way. This is an offering of space and intentionality to experience this Advent season in a different way, and a chance to participate alongside our community during a time you may already have blocked off during your week! Everything you need to participate will be provided. If you have any questions about this opportunity, email sam@faithadventure.com.

Special Events & Services:

Movie Afternoon & Decorating Day: Adventure:Kids is hosting a movie afternoon, watching The Best Christmas Pageant Ever at 4:30pm on Sunday, November 22nd. It's just an opportunity for our Adventure Kids and their families to take an afternoon to gather and kick off our Christmas season together. And then help us prepare for the season with our Decorating Day from 6:00-8:00pm. Many hands make light work and kids and youth are welcome to come and help with their grown ups! A pizza dinner will be provided for both those who attended the movie and those staying or coming to decorate! If you have questions or are planning to come, please let Sam know at sam@faithadventure.com. (or just show up if you decide last minute!)

Advent Kick-Off: Join us for our Advent Kick-Off, which is a night of worship, tree lighting, cookies and cocoa to usher in the season on Sunday, November 29th at 6:00pm. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the joy and wonder of the season together!

Christmas Eve Services: We close out this season and celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Christmas Eve Services on December 24th.
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." With those words, an angel announced the birth of Jesus to a group of ordinary shepherds. After generations of waiting, God's promise had become a reality. The Savior had come… not in a palace, surrounded by power and prestige, but as a baby lying in a manger. Tonight, we celebrate the extraordinary joy of Christmas. God has come near, not simply to change our circumstances, but to save us and bring us into His presence. This is good news worth rejoicing over, not just tonight, but every day.

There will be a special ***Kids' Service at 3:00pm*** as we walk through the Christmas story in an interactive way.
Our traditional ***Candlelight Services will be held at 5:00pm and 7:00pm***.

Advent & Beyond Schedule-At-A-Glance

Movie Afternoon & Decorating Day - Sunday, November 22nd at 4:30pm & 6:00pm
Advent Kick-Off - Sunday, November 29th at 6:00pm
Christmas Eve Services - Wednesday, December 24th
3:00pm Special Kids' Service, 5:00pm & 7:00pm Candlelight Services
Breakfast Potluck Service - Sunday, December 27th at 10:00am
Annual Prayer Service - Sunday, January 3rd at 10:00am

At-Home Opportunities

Take home Advent Calendar: In the spirit of creating space to intentionally look forward to Jesus' arrival as the light of the world and trying to Rejoice in the everyday, we are offering Advent Calendars to take home and do on your own or with those in your household. Every day starting December 1st, there is a calendar door to open as we look toward Christmas and the birth of our Savior. Inside you'll find a QR code that takes you to a small prompt, prayer, or activity to spur our engagement of this season. There's also some treats and components to something you'll be building along the way. These Advent Calendars will be available to pick up starting Sunday, November 22nd, and the first door to open in the calendar starts on Tuesday, December 1st. There will be a pdf of these prompts available on our app and website for those needing to access this at home. There will also be paper copies available of these prompts for those who would prefer that over following the QR codes.

Candle Lighting Details: This year we are encouraging you to make your own Advent Wreath to participate in this Activity at home. We will provide a short devotional and prayer for each Sunday which will be available starting Sunday, November 29th. Pick this up at church or find it on our website or app. Elements to construct your own Advent wreath can be found at local stores or with materials you may already have at home, and can be easily done at a low cost. *(See ideas below)*

Supplies for Advent Wreath:

- Base: charger plate, wood round, cake stand, or wreath with candle holders
- 5 Candles: Traditionally 3 purple candles (for hope, peace, and love), 1 pink candle (for joy), and 1 white candle (for Jesus). You can also just use five of the same white candle.
- Decor of your choice: greenery, berries, poinsettias, jingle bells, ornaments, ribbon, pinecones, etc.

Assembly of Advent Wreath:

- Assemble four candles in a circular shape on your base. Place a white candle in the middle.
- Surround and decorate with greenery and decor of your choice. It's that simple!
- Need ideas? Consider watching this video for inspiration: http://tiny.cc/ihgv001

Sunday Candle Lighting Details

***(See Candle Lighting Devotional Packet when available for more info)*:**

Gather yourself and those who may be with you around your Advent Wreath. Read through the provided devotional and prayer, which will also instruct you on which candle(s) to light. If you don't have the devotional or an Advent wreath, just take a minute to thank God for the hope (Week 1), peace (week 2), joy (week 3), and love (week 4) we find in him.

Then on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day thank God for Jesus himself.

Resources

Daily Prayers: At Adventure of Faith, we are a people who believe in the power of prayer. This season's Daily Prayers will remind us to Rejoice in all things. Each days' prayer will be posted at this link, or you can access a pdf copy on our website or app, or grab a paper copy at the church.

SCAN ME

Weekly Resources: For Digging Deeper Guides, Sermon Notes that include Weekly Updates, Discussion Questions and Response Suggestions, recordings of the weekly messages and more you can check out our "Current Messages" page on the website, linked here. If you have the Adventure of Faith app, you can also find these resources on the "This Week" tab and the "Messages" tab. There are also paper copies available each week in the main foyer.

SCAN ME

Advent Spotify Playlist: As you participate in the Advent Calendar activities, or just want to continue your Advent celebrations, make sure to check out our Advent Spotify Playlist. On it you'll find songs featured in our weekly worship, songs we love, and songs that highlight some of the themes we are digging into this season.

SCAN ME

Resource Wall: Our Resource Wall has been updated and is ready to browse! Check out these additional books and online resources that coincide with our Advent theme. Find something you like? Don't forget to scan the QR code attached to that resource to found out more info or where it is available to access or purchase.

Advent Kick-Off Invites

Cut these out, put one on your fridge and give one to a friend!
Need more to hand out? Grab some at the Welcome Center!



