



# CONNECT KIDS

December 3rd is the first Sunday in Advent. But what is Advent, exactly? Advent is a four week season in the Christian year that is spent preparing for the birth of Jesus. During Advent, we have the opportunity to participate in Advent devotionals, studies, family time, Advent wreath, worship services, and special events. Advent is the way to keep in the forefront of our mind the reason for Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

For those with young children (well, really children of any age), the focus of Christmas can easily turn into the hustle and bustle of the season. We think about all the "things" we need to do - set up the Christmas tree, hang the lights, bake and decorate the cookies, go to parties, shopping, wrapping, and special family traditions. All these things are important - spending time together is

very important. Positive experiences and rituals are one of the most important ways that we raise healthy kids. So keep making memories! And time is precious, so incorporate Advent into the things you are already doing. #pictureadvent is something you can do in the car on the way to school or sports practice. There are family advent devotionals at the Faith Formation board outside the Chapel. This includes a project that you do together throughout Advent and a weekly devotion. There are also Advent Calendars and Reverse Advent Calendar ideas at the board.

On Christmas morning, before ripping all the paper off packages, read the story of the birth of Jesus and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. This is a great way to start the day giving praise and thanks to God for the beginning of Jesus' amazing story!



## UPCOMING EVENTS: DECEMBER

- 3 - Peacemakers Event
- 10 - Baby's 1st Christmas
- 17 - Caroling
- 23 - Family Christmas Eve Service
- 24 - Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas!



### Baby's First Christmas Celebration

Join with families from our congregation who are celebrating their infant's First Christmas.

Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30am worship service.

We are learning about The Birth of Jesus on Sunday mornings in Stepping Stones & Kids GROW!

### Peacemakers Advent Event

Sunday, December 3rd  
5:00-7:30pm  
Potluck dinner & stations to learn about peace, peacemakers, and Advent.  
All ages are welcome

### Christmas Eve Service Schedule

Saturday, December 23rd

6:30pm - Family Christmas Eve Worship  
\* Carol & New Joy Choir  
\* Child-friendly service

Sunday, December 24th

8:00pm - Carols & Candlelight Service  
11:00pm - Carols & Communion Service

### Worship Schedule

8:30am - Chapel Worship  
10:00am - The Conversation (Stepping Stones & Kids GROW)  
10:30am - Sanctuary Worship (Stepping Stones & Kids GROW)



# FAITH FORMATION

## Advent Opportunities

### Advent Study - Thursdays 10:30am & 6:30pm

\* Based on the book *Faithful* by Adam Hamilton, which examines the Christmas story from the viewpoint of Joseph and "reads between the lines" to show how his courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity.

### Practice Daily Devotions

\* Several options are on the Faith Formation table outside the Chapel.

\* A great on-line option is [pictureadvent.com](http://pictureadvent.com) - a daily devotional and photo-a-day. You can sign-up to receive the daily devotion in your inbox.

### Worship Experiences

Sundays, Blue Christmas (12/20), Christmas Eve

## Faith Growth Pathway



Visit the church website for more information about current and upcoming opportunities as well as learning more about the Faith Growth Pathway.

## Changing Our World...

Advent and Christmas provide incredible opportunities to reach out into our world to help those in need.

\* Compassionate Christmas Cards- \$5 each - support different missions such as Blessings in a Backpack, Clothe-a-Child, Baldwin Center, and Liberia Missions

\* Baldwin Holiday Store - donate items to make the holidays brighter for those in need. Donations are due by December 10th.

\* Hats/Mittens - donate matching sets of hats & mittens/gloves for Waterford School children through the Clothe-a-Child program.

\* Reverse Advent Calendar - collect a non-perishable item each day in Advent to donate to the food pantry. A list of suggested items is available.

## Scripture Verse for the Month

You are encouraged to post this scripture in a visible place so that you will read it many times this month. Reflect on what it means to you, read the verses around it for context, use it as a prayer, say it with your children or grandchildren, spouse or friend. As we live in a world of joy and sorrow and what feels like never-ending tragedy, may we remember this:

**"The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."**

**~ Luke 2: 20a**

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