

Advent Activity Packet

Week 1: HOPE



What is Advent?

Advent is a season of waiting!! It is the time we set aside (Dec 1- Dec 24) to prepare ourselves for Christmas (Dec 25), the Birth of Christ. While this is a change from its origins, this time is meant to help us renew our spirit and be renewed in celebrating Christ's birth. Many advent traditions go back many years and focus on this renewal and this waiting. The advent candles we light in church represent HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE, all things we find through Christ and all things we need to find renewal for in our lives.

What is this Packet?

This packet is meant to serve a guide for you during the Advent Season. Each week we will have different activities for the household, recipes for cookies/treats, Devotional Practices, and thoughts. This packet can really be what you want to make it. Use some, all or none of the ideas each week to help you focus on the spirit of the season and not the commercialization of Christmas (Hint: Christmas is not about buying things from stores!). We hope you enjoy this resource and have a fun, spirit filled Advent Season!!

Advent Ornaments


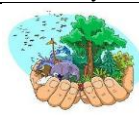
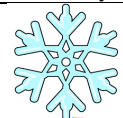




As you are setting up your Christmas Tree this year, consider setting aside 24 ornaments to use as *Advent Ornaments*. Hang 1 each day as you move in anticipation towards Christmas!!

Waiting in HOPE

The first week of Advent is marked with HOPE. Hope is a feeling of trust and a feeling of anticipation for something good to happen. As people of faith we carry Hope in Jesus and Hope in God for good things in our world today. This week begins our journey to Christmas, it is a journey full of anticipation and a journey of the trust we have in God and Jesus, that Jesus was born to humble beginnings and taught us how live lives of faith for God.

Weekly Symbols

Each week we will be providing symbols in this advent packet. These symbols are for you to reflect on the meaning of. Throughout the week, FCC Missoula will be sharing things on our social media platforms, as well as our website, on the symbols to take you even deeper! If you do not use the internet, we will also have a handout available on Sunday Mornings (by request).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<i>Newspaper</i> Jer 29:20	<i>Creation</i> Gen 1:24-25	<i>Snowflake</i> Luke 3:16	<i>Balloons</i> Acts 2: 1-4	<i>Matches</i> Lev 6:13	<i>Stone</i> Psalm 24:1-2	<i>Apple</i> Eph 4:31-32

Game: Who Am I?

You will need 1 sheet of paper and a drawing utensil for each player.



To Play;

1. With the sheet of paper in portrait position, fold the paper into 4 equal parts from top to bottom. (There should be 3 creases)
2. Using the creases as guidelines, each player will take a turn drawing a portion of the creation. The 1st player will draw the head, then hid their drawing (you will have to fold the top portion in half to hide it). The next player will draw a torso, then the next player the legs and the next player the feet.
3. After all parts are drawn, open the sheet and reveal your creation!!
 - a. For small households, you can pass the sheet back and forth to draw
 - b. For individuals, try playing over the course of the week. Each day you will draw a portion of the creation without looking at your previous work, then you can see what you create over the week.



Applesauce Nut Cookies!!

2 eggs	1 tsp cinnamon
½ c brown sugar	½ tsp cloves
¾ c white sugar	¼ tsp nutmeg
½ c shortening	1tsp soda
1 c applesauce	2tsp baking powder
1 c walnuts	½ c oatmeal
3 c flour	

Cream shortening. Add sugars and mix well. Add eggs and blend well. Add applesauce. Sift four, spices, soda and baking powder. Add oatmeal. Mix well. Drop by spoonful on greased cookie sheets.

Bake 400 degrees till brown

By Elma Morgan

Hanukkah *Dec 7-15 2023*

Hanukkah (Chanukah) is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.

The Hebrew word [Chanukah](#) means “dedication,” and is thus named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple (as you’ll read below). Also spelled [Hanukkah](#) (or variations of that spelling), the Hebrew word is actually pronounced with a guttural, “kh” sound, kha-nu-kah, not tcha-new-kah.



~Christmas Around the World~

Nochebuena

Translated as “Good Night,” Nochebuena is the Christmas Eve Celebration done by many Hispanic, Latino and Filipino families across the world. How this is celebrated depends on your culture, family and even the particular year. Usually, this celebration involves some forms of eating, drinking, dancing, games and Mass.

This celebration, like many of our holiday customs, came from a mishmash of cultures, colonialism and religion. When Catholicism spread to the Americas by way of the Spanish Colonization, the populations were forced into celebrating Christmas. The indigenous population had already been celebrating the winter solstice and so the move was to combine the celebration of Christmas with the way in which the Solstice had been celebrated.

This celebration is one of the night, sometime lasting into the wee hours or even all night. In the celebration, food is the star of the festivities. There are also prominence of various games and dancing as well as a special mass *Misa de Gallo* (Mass of the Rooster). The legend is that Jesus was born at midnight and a rooster crowed. That is why you will find the rooster as prominent holiday decoration.

Questions For Reflection

- What does HOPE mean to you?
- What gives you HOPE each day?
- What does HOPE mean when it comes to Jesus?

Amish Sugar Cookies

1 c sugar	4 ½ c flour
1 c powdered sugar	1 tsp baking powder
1 c butter	1 tsp cream of tartar
1 c vegetable oil	1 tsp vanilla
3 eggs	

Cream Sugar, Powdered Sugar, Butter
and Vegetable Oil.

Add remainder of ingredients

Roll into small balls and flatten with
glass dipped in sugar.

Bake until edges turn light brown
(approx. 10-15 minutes) at 350
degrees.

By

JoAnn Willis

References Used for this Packet

Dyer, Wayne W. *Happy Holidays!: Uplifting Advice about How to Avoid Holiday Blues and Recapture the True Spirit of Christmas, Hanukkah, and New Year's*. Morrow, 1986.

E., Zimmerman Laura K. *Countdown to Christmas: Devotions for Families*. Concordia Pub. House, 1997.

“Nochebuena.” *Christmas Joy!*, 2023, pp. 87–89.

Willis, JoAnn, and Elma Morgan. *A Loving Helping of Christian Hospitality*. Cookbook Publishers, INC, 1987.

WILLOW, INK. *'tis the Season: Devotions, Recipes, and Memories of the Christmas Season*. Ink & Willow, 2023.

