

# Four Intergenerational



# Advent Workshops

*Adapted from a design by Betsy Strain of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Crawfordsville, Indiana*

## SESSION I – Advent is a Time of Preparation

(Approximately one hour)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a time for participants to prepare their hearts and homes to receive God’s gift of love – The Christ Child.

**TIME:** Before Sunday Morning Worship (First Sunday in Advent)



### PREPARATIONS:

- Recruit greeters and someone to lead singing and closing time of prayer.
- Prepare a Gift Box large enough to hold papers expressing family members’ hopes. With participants’ permission, these hopes can be reprinted in your newsletter, put on a bulletin board or shared with the whole congregation in other ways.
- Copy guides for greeters to use at family tables (see below).
- Set out nametags and markers.
- Prepare refreshments.
- Make and set up a poster at each table saying, *“Hope is the theme for the first Sunday of Advent. What do you hope for this Christmas?”*
- Gather supplies of paper, pens, and crayons for each table.
- Additional supplies:
  - 2011 Calendars for each family.
  - [Advent Wreath](#) materials.
- Set-up:
  - Welcome Table with nametags and the Gift Box.
  - Tables for each family group with greeter guides, theme posters, paper, pens, crayons, and 2011 Calendars.
  - Table for refreshments.
  - Table for Advent Wreath materials.

### GATHERING:

- Upon arrival, participants make nametags and get refreshments.
- Greeters invite families to tables. (Depending on family sizes, you will probably have two or three families at each table. Be sure that single members are made to feel welcome.)
- Greeters lead the activities (see guide for instructions).

### ACTIVITIES:

- As family members come to the tables they are invited to write or draw one thing they *hope* for this Christmas.
- Participants place *hopes* in the Gift Box.
- As *hopes* are finished and placed in the Gift Box, each person is invited to say his or her name and complete the sentence, “What I like best about Christmas is . . .”
- Each family unit gathers supplies for an [Advent Wreath](#) that they will take home to use each day of the Advent Season.
- As Advent Wreaths are created, the greeter leads a discussion of traditional Christmas preparations and new ideas to help families go deeper into the meaning of Christmas.
- Each family unit is provided with a 2011 Calendar. They can take the calendars home to list some of the ways they will share the Christ of Christmas with others all during the coming year.

### CLOSING:

Sing and pray together.

Benediction: “Go forth during this season of preparation in the *hope* of God’s blessing of love for the whole world.”

## SESSION I – Advent is a Time of Preparation

### Greeters Guide

Arrive early and help coordinator by welcoming people, getting nametags, refreshments, etc.

- As persons arrive at the tables remind them that the theme for the first week of Advent is HOPE. Ask them to write or draw one thing they hope for this Christmas. Then invite them to place their hopes in the Gift Box on the Welcome Table. Tell them that some of the HOPES may be selected for placement on bulletin boards, reprinted in newsletters or worship bulletins.
- Have each person introduce themselves with this phrase. “My name is \_\_\_ and what I like best about Christmas is.....”
- Have each person share ways they prepare themselves and their homes for Christmas. Decorate, bake, attending special worship services, additional prayer times at home, parties, shop, etc.
- Ask: “What are some other things that we could do to prepare for Christmas and share with others the hope we find in Christ this Christmas?” Let people share some ideas. To get things started you might ask how giving to others gives them hope and prepares our hearts.
- There are special things we do during Advent to prepare for Christmas but we don’t have to wait for Advent. We can prepare our hearts all year long for the message of love and hope that Jesus brings. Each family and single person takes a 2011 Calendar and thinks of 2 or 3 things that they might do in the coming year to share the Christ of Christmas with others.
- Each family will make an Advent Wreath to take home. [Instructions are provided.](#)
- There will be a community closing devotional time.

## **SESSION II – Advent is a Time of Remembering**

(Approximately one hour)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a time for participants to reflect on individual Christmas memories and the Biblical story of the Messiah's coming.

**TIME:** Before Sunday Morning Worship (Second Sunday in Advent)

### **PREPARATIONS:**

- Recruit greeters and someone to lead singing and closing time of prayer.
- Have Gift Box again available.
- Copy guides for greeters to use at symbol tables (see below).
- Make nametags that correspond to Chrismon symbols on each table.
- Set out (special Chrismon) nametags and markers.
- Prepare refreshments.
- Make and set up a poster at each table saying, "***Peace is the theme for the second week of Advent. What is your prayer for peace?***"
- Gather supplies of paper, pens, and crayons for each table.
- Additional supplies:
  - [Chrismon](#) making instruction sheets and supplies for Chrismons.
  - Pictures and/or examples of each Chrismon symbol (one for each table).
  - Chrismon making supplies.
- Set-up:
  - Welcome Table for name tags and Gift Box.
  - Tables for symbol groups with greeter guides, theme posters, paper, pens, crayons, and Chrismon examples.
  - Table for refreshments.
  - Table for Chrismon making supplies.



### **GATHERING:**

- Upon arrival participants write names on prepared symbol nametags and get refreshments.
- Greeters ask participants to join the table that matches their name tags. (Hopefully, this will encourage members of family units to go to different tables.)
- Greeters lead activities (see guide for instructions).

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- As participants get to their matching symbol tables, they write or draw their prayer for ***peace*** and place them in the Gift Box.
- As ***Peace Prayers*** are finished and placed in the Gift Box, each person is invited to say his or her name and complete the sentence, "My best Christmas memory is . . ."
- Story from Luke 2:1-7.
- Explanation of [Chrismons](#) and how to make them is given by the coordinator for all participants.
- Participants make their own Chrismons to take home or exchange with a friend.

### **CLOSING:**

Sing and pray together.

Benediction: "Go now in ***peace*** remembering the fulfillment of God's promise in the coming of the Christ Child."

**SESSION II – Advent is a Time of Remembering**  
Greeters Guide

Arrive early and help coordinator by welcoming people, getting nametags, refreshments, etc.

- As persons arrive at the tables remind them that the theme for the second week of Advent is PEACE. Ask them to write or draw their prayer for PEACE. Invite them to place their prayers in the Gift Box on the Welcome Table. Tell them that some of the prayers will be placed on bulletin boards, others may be reprinted in newsletters or worship bulletins.
- Have each person introduce themselves with this phrase. “My name is \_\_\_ and my favorite Christmas memory is . . . . .”
- Read or tell the story of Christmas found in Luke 2:1-7 and lead a short discussion of the need to remember the reason for the season – God so loved the world that God came to live among us as a human person!
- Invite participants to listen to the presentation on Chrismons. Then help each participant to gather supplies and make a [Chrismon](#) to take home or exchange with a friend.
- There will be a community closing devotional time.

### **SESSION III - Advent is a Time of Giving**

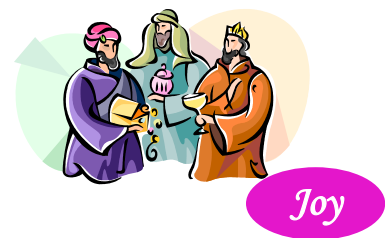
(Approximately one hour)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a time for participants to consider the joy of giving and be involved in an act of giving love and care to others.

**TIME:** Before Sunday Morning Worship (Third Sunday in Advent)

#### **PREPARATIONS:**

- Recruit greeters and someone to lead singing and closing time of prayer.
- Prepare a Gift Box large enough to hold papers expressing participants' joys.
- Copy guides for greeters to use at family tables (See below).
- Set out nametags and markers.
- Prepare refreshments.
- Make and set up a poster at each table saying, ***“Joy is the theme for the third Sunday of Advent. What is your Joy?”***
- Gather supplies of paper, pens, and crayons for each table.
- Additional supplies:
  - [Christmas Hand Wreath](#) and [Candy Kiss Angel](#) instructions and supplies.
  - List of people unable to come to church.
  - Paper, stickers, crayons, markers, ribbons and whatever else you want to provide for making Cards.
- Set-up:
  - Welcome Table for name tags and Gift Box.
  - Tables for groups with greeter guides, theme posters, paper, pens, crayons, and list of people unable to come to church.
  - Table for refreshments.
  - Tables for card making, wreath and Candy Kiss Angle supplies.



#### **GATHERING:**

- Upon arrival participants make nametags and get refreshments.
- Greeters instruct participants to join tables, making sure that each table has multi-generations present.
- Greeters lead the activities (see guide for instructions).

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

- As participants come to the various tables they are invited to write or draw their **Joy**s and place them in the Gift Box.
- As **Joy**s are finished and placed in the Gift Box, each person is invited to say his or her name and complete the sentence, “The best gift I have received or given at Christmas is . . .”
- Giving Centers (greeters explain Giving Centers)
  - [Christmas Hand Wreath](#)
  - Card Center
  - [Candy Kiss Angel](#) Center

#### **CLOSING:**

Sing and pray together.

Benediction: “May you go from this place blessed by the gifts you have made and that will bring **joy** to others.”

**SESSION III - Advent is a Time of Giving**  
(Greeters Guide)

Arrive early and help coordinator by welcoming people, getting nametags, refreshments, etc.

- As persons arrive at the tables remind them that the theme for the third week of Advent is JOY. Ask them to write or draw their JOYS or something for which they are thankful. Invite them to place their prayers in the Gift Box on the Welcome Table. Tell them that some of the JOYS and expressions of thanksgiving will be placed on bulletin boards; others may be reprinted in newsletters or worship bulletins.
- Have each person introduce themselves with this phrase. “My name is \_\_\_ and the best gift I have received or given at Christmas is . . . . .”
- Lead a short discussion on giving. After everyone has shared about their best gift invite them to talk more about that gift. Why was it such a great gift? Does giving a gift feel better than receiving a gift? Describe the feelings you get when you give a gift to someone else. Have they ever been disappointed at someone’s response to a gift? How have they acted when they are disappointed in a gift that they have received?
- Explain that they can choose one or more giving activities – card making for people who are unable to come to church; decorating and adding their “hands” to the [hand wreath](#); making [Candy Kiss Angels](#) to give to someone. Invite them to go to each of the tables to make their “gifts.”
- There will be a community closing devotional time.

## **SESSION IV – Advent is a Time of Celebration**

(Approximately one hour)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a time for participants to celebrate together the coming of Christmas.

**TIME:** Before Sunday Morning Worship (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

### **PREPARATIONS:**

- Recruit greeters and someone to lead singing and closing celebration.
- Prepare a Gift Box large enough to hold papers expressing participants' love gifts.
- Copy guides for greeters to use at family tables (see below).
- Set out nametags and markers.
- Prepare refreshments.
- Make and set up posters for each table saying, ***“Love is the theme for the fourth Sunday in Advent. What gift of love can you give to others?”***
- Additional supplies:
  - Hand chimes and materials for making simple rhythm instruments.
  - Hymnals and Christmas caroling song books.
  - Banner making materials.
  - Supplies and costumes for [drama creations](#).

#### Set-up:

- Welcome Table for nametags and Gift Box.
- Tables for gathering.
- Table for refreshments.
- Tables for Celebration Centers.



### **GATHERING:**

- Upon arrival participants make nametags and get refreshments.
- Greeters invite participants to join tables, making sure that each table has multi-generations present.
- Greeters lead the activities (see guide for instructions).

### **ACTIVITIES:**

- As participants come to the tables they are invited to write about or draw gifts of ***Love*** they will be giving during the Christmas Season.
- Place ***Love Gifts*** in Gift Box.
- As ***Love Gifts*** are finished and placed in the Gift Box, each person is invited to say his or her name and complete the sentence, “My favorite part of the Christmas Season is . . .”
- Greeters explain Celebration Centers.
- Celebration Centers (participants pick one).
  - Joyful Noise – Make a musical instrument. Play instruments and sing Christmas Carols.
  - [Drama](#) – Tell or read the Christmas story in a fresh way.
  - Art – Create celebration banners.

### **CLOSING CELEBRATION**

- Carry-in and hang celebration banners created by the Art Celebration group. Have a prayer of blessing.
- Sing Christmas Carols that are led by the Joyful Noise Celebration participants.
- Have a performance by the Drama Celebration participants.
- Benediction, “May the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love of this Christmas Season be yours all year long.”



## **SESSION IV – Advent is a Time of Celebration**

(Greeters Guide)

Arrive early and help coordinator by welcoming people, getting nametags, refreshments, etc.

- As persons arrive at the tables remind them that the theme for the fourth week of Advent is LOVE. Ask them to write or draw the gifts of LOVE that they will be giving during this Christmas Season. Invite them to place their LOVE gifts in the Gift Box on the Welcome Table. Tell them that some of the descriptions of LOVE gifts will be placed on bulletin boards; others may be reprinted in newsletters or worship bulletins.
- Have each person introduce themselves with this phrase. “My name is \_\_\_ and my favorite part of the Christmas Season is . . . . .”
- Explain to participants that today they will be choosing between several Celebration Centers. The centers are:
  - Joyful Noise: In this center they will make a simple musical instrument. They will be invited to play their instruments and help to lead the singing of Christmas Carols during the closing celebration.
  - Drama: In this center they will learn a fresh way to tell the Christmas story and will perform their drama during the closing celebration in a fresh way.
  - Art: In this center they will create banners to carry-in and display during the closing celebration.
- Everyone participates in the closing celebration.

DHM is Disciples Hands on Missions  
©Disciples Home Missions of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

<http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/>

(888) 346-2631

Office of Family and Children’s Ministry

