



Advent Calendar ~ December 2020



<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (HOPE) 29</p> <p>Light the first candle of your advent wreath. If you don't have one, look online for ideas to make your own: craftivitydesigns.com/diy-advent-wreath</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Write down your hopes for this Advent season and share them with a family member or friend.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>GRATITUDE: Go outside and look at the night sky. Think about the good things that happened today (even if it was a bad day, there were <i>surely</i> some good things, too) and <i>say thank you</i> out loud in appreciation.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Purchase one or two extra nonperishable items each time you go to the grocery store during Advent and donate them to a local food pantry.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Say a prayer for someone who is on the other side of the political divide from you, or, who is different from you in any way and whom you might not understand.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Is there a small favor you can do for a family member, friend or neighbor?</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Take a walk outside and stay as quiet as possible. Listen to the sounds of nature and life around you.</p>
<p>6</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (LOVE)</p> <p>Call a fellow church member for a chat.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fill up a bag or box of items that have been gently used and donate them to a local charity.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>GRATITUDE: Think of a person whom you appreciate. It can be someone you see often or someone you haven't seen much lately. Send them a text or email and tell them <i>all</i> the things you love about them (or just give them a call!)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Watch Elf – a charming, funny, modern-classic Christmas story about faith...in Santa and the magic of Christmas.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bake some cookies and share with family, friends, and/or neighbors.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Create a thank you sign for the postal workers and delivery people who are busy this holiday season and put it in your window in a place where they can see it.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Hand write a card to someone and send it out.</p>
<p>13</p> <p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (JOY)</p> <p>In the shower or car, sing "Joy to the World" at the top of your lungs.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Make a Giving List: rather than write a list of gifts you'd like to <i>receive</i>, write out a list of gifts you'd like to <i>give</i>.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>GRATITUDE: Look inward and acknowledge your own God-given gifts (musical/athletic/loyal/hard worker/kind/loving/good to animals/eloquent/reliable) and say a prayer of thanks in appreciation for all of them.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Choose a favorite Bible passage to read and reflect on.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Is there someone you haven't talked to in a while? Give them a call or send a text and reconnect!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Take an evening drive to see Christmas lights in your downtown or neighborhood. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate!</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Send a Christmas card to someone you know who might need some cheering up.</p>
<p>20</p> <p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (PEACE)</p> <p>Finish this sentence and repeat it throughout the day as prayer or mantra. It can be for a person you know who is troubled, a region of the world, a conflict within our country..."Dear God, please bring peace to _____"</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Tonight is the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Light a candle and welcome the return of the light in the longer days that start tomorrow.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GRATITUDE: On a sheet of paper, write down names of people you are grateful for. Fold the paper and make small cut outs to turn it into a snowflake. Unfold, attach a string and hang from the ceiling or fridge as a reminder of the gifts of friendship and love surrounding you.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>If you can, gather with family and sing Christmas carols and hymns together.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>Watch either or both of the Christmas worship services on the Woodfords Church YouTube page. If you can, join the Zoom coffee hour at 6:45 pm and then come to the church after for a short Christmas Eve event.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p> <i>Share this calendar with friends to spread the good feeling of the season!</i> </p>	<p>31</p>		