



**CELEBRATING ADVENT
& CHRISTMASTIDE
With
UCC WESTERLY
2020**

MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENT WREATH AT HOME

- An Advent wreath can be as simple or as intricate you would like. All you need is five candles. Four of them can be any color you choose but traditionally there are three purple and one pink candle. The pink candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday of Advent representing Joy. The fifth candle, which is the Christ Candle, should be white. For more ideas on making an Advent wreath, check out [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).
- The simplest Advent Wreath can be made with five votive size candles in votive candle holders. Place the four colored votive candles on a large plate or even a placemat with the white candle in the middle. Then create the wreath by intertwining evergreens, real or artificial, around the four candles to make a circular shape. Decorate those greens with ribbons, pine cones or small ornaments and you have an Advent wreath.

USE THE ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING WREATH RITUAL from the weekly Worship Resource as your guide for lighting the candles each week.

MAKE PART OF YOUR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE THIS YEAR USING THE ADVENT CANDLES AS YOUR GUIDE:

- **WEEK #1 - HOPE.**
 - Bring a little hope to someone who may be feeling hopeless as they face a Holiday season missing family and friends they won't see this year. Make a plan to do something nice for them each week between now and Christmas
 - Give them a call at least once a week just to talk. Send them a Christmas card once a week. What else can you think of?? Remember, the point is to make them feel hope-full once more!

- **WEEK #2 - PEACE.**

- As a family, take a good look at your Christmas decorations. What do they tell your neighbors about you? Are they silly? Playful? Disney oriented? Santa oriented?
- How might you change those decorations just a little to tell a story of peace to your neighbors and the people who drive past your home? Do some research about symbols for peace you might be able to include. Work on your decorations as a family, and don't be afraid to take a stand for peace.

□ WEEK #3 - JOY.

- What does joy mean to you? What are the things that make you feel joyful? What can you do to share that joy with others? Be creative!
- Remember that sharing joy isn't just about giving and getting presents. Think about the people you know who never seem to have any friends. Is there one of them who might like to hear from you? A phone call or a Google Friends visit? Joy often comes from the simplest things - like knowing someone really does care enough to say hello.

□ WEEK #4 - LOVE.

- Have a conversation with your family about love and how you might share love with the people who need it most this year. We all know someone who has had a tough time this past year and is in need of some love. So, share some!
- Support our own Mission Boards efforts to raise funds for Jonnycake Center to help people with heating assistance, housing and food. Details in the Weeily Update and the Beacon.
- Reach out to someone you know personally who has made a difference in their life and send them a thank you note on a Christmas card! Show love to them by showing love to everyone you encounter during this holiday season.

□ CHRISTMAS EVE - The Christ Candle.

- We light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve as a symbol of the light the Baby Jesus brings into the world. What can you do this Christmas to bring the light of Christ to others in your life?
- How about telling them the REAL story of Christmas which isn't about Santa or reindeer or Frosty the Snowman. Tell them the first story of Christmas - about the baby destined to change the world who was born in a stable because there was no room anywhere else. Not sure of the whole story? Read it for yourself from the Bible: Luke 2:1-20.

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