

# Advent Calendar

## **Monday November 29**

***A young couple, Mary and Joseph, get engaged.***

Join the fun with our Family Discipleship Toy Drive.

Collected toys will benefit families at Cider Mill and Mujer Fuerza y Coraje. All toy donations are due by December 10. Collection boxes are around the church.

## **Tuesday, November 30**

***One day, God sends the angel, Gabriel, to Mary. Gabriel has some very special news!***

Kick off the month by sharing hot chocolate with family or friends. Take turns talking about your favorite Christmases of the past.

## **Wednesday December 1**

***Mary is greatly troubled when she hears the angel's greeting.***

Choose someone and write a personalized Christmas card to them. Put the card in an envelope, address, stamp it, and mail it.

Reach out to the pastors for the address of someone who lost a loved one this year. Send them an encouraging card during this hard Christmas season.

## **Thursday December 2**

***Gabriel responds to Mary, saying: "Don't be afraid. God is very happy with you!"***

Decorate a door in your home with wrapping paper and put up a sign with a Christmas greeting.

## **Friday December 3**

***Gabriel tells Mary the special news: She will have a baby boy, and the baby will be named Jesus.***

Read a Christmas book or google a story online. Read it aloud together.

## **Saturday December 4**

***Gabriel shares with Mary more details of God's plan: "Jesus will be great and will be called God's very own son!"***

Hide candy canes around your house. Invite your family and/or grab your friends to have a candy cane hunt. See who can collect the most candy canes.

## **Sunday December 5**

***Mary doesn't understand how she can have a baby without being married, but the angel, Gabriel, assures her of a great truth: Nothing is impossible with God.***

Take a car ride or walk on foot to see Christmas lights and decorations in your neighborhood or community.

## **Monday December 6**

***"I serve God with my life and want all that you have said to happen," Mary tells the angel, and he leaves.***

Google search Christmas traditions around the world, and vote on the one everyone likes most.

## **Tuesday December 7**

***Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth, and is so overwhelmed with God's goodness, she sings a song of praise***

What would YOU do if a brilliant angel from God appeared in your home? Share how you would react. Be an angel for someone today in the name of Jesus.

## **Wednesday December 8**

***Caesar Augustus wants to know how many people are in his empire, so he tells all the people to go back to their hometown to be registered and counted.***

Join us at 5:30 p.m. at Epworth to go caroling with our lay visitation team. We will carol OUTSIDE ONLY to our shut-in members. For those who can't join us, call or Facetime someone and sing them a Christmas carol.

## **Thursday December 9**

***Joseph brings Mary, who is pregnant, to his hometown of Bethlehem to be counted.***

Create a playlist using everyone's favorite Christmas song. Then, crank up the volume, press play, and have a family dance party!

## **Friday December 10**

***While Joseph and Mary are in Bethlehem, the time comes for the baby to be born.***

Join Eric Paździora at Epworth at 7:30pm for a time of contemplative Christmas piano music. Afterwards have a Christmas movie marathon with popcorn before bedtime.

## **Saturday December 11**

***Mary gives birth to Jesus, wraps Him in swaddling clothes, and lays Him in a manger because there is no room for them anywhere else.***

Bundle up and go outside after nightfall. Look at the stars. Remember those are the same stars the shepherds saw in the sky the night Jesus was born.

## **Sunday December 12**

***At night in a nearby field, shepherds are watching their flocks.***

Join us at Epworth UMC at 11 a.m. for a Jazz Christmas worship followed by s'mores, ornament making, gift wrapping & and Christmas cookie decorating. 12:30-2:00pm

## **Monday December 13**

***The sky lights up—God has sent an angel to the shepherds to tell them the good news of Jesus' birth.***

What's the biggest thing you want to thank God for right now? (In addition to Jesus!) Share with each other and give God a giant round of applause.

## **Tuesday December 14**

***When the shepherds see the angel, they're afraid!***

God's plan for Christmas surprised everyone. If you could plan Christmas this year exactly the way you wanted, what would it look like? What is the greatest Christmas surprise you have ever received? Surprise someone in love today.

## **Wednesday December 15**

***The angel tries to calm the shepherds, saying: "Don't be afraid. I bring wonderful news that will bring joy to all of the world!"***

Choose 1-3 relatives or friends. Record a short selfie video Christmas greeting as a family and text it to them.

Join Epworth at 5:30pm tonight or tomorrow for EPK Christmas concert in the sanctuary. Sign a Christmas card at the door to send to Veterans this Christmas

## **Thursday December 16**

***"A Savior, the Rescuer you have been waiting for, is born today!" the angel proclaims to the shepherds.***

What's stressing you out right now? Share with each other. Then pray that God would give you His peace this season.

## **Friday December 17**

***The angel explains the shepherds will find the Savior, a baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.***

Enjoy a family board game night in front of the Christmas tree.

Tonight is the youth Christmas party. Before bed, say a special prayer for young people.

## **Saturday December 18**

***More angels come to celebrate the good news—they arrive at the shepherd's field and begin praising God!***

Sign a "Thank You" card to your mail carrier. Feel free to add a bottle of water or a \$10 gift card for lunch.

## **Sunday December 19**

***The shepherds leave their flocks and hurry to find Mary, Joseph, and the baby, who is lying in a manger.***

Declare today is Red and Green Day! Tell everyone to dress in all red and green—even if it doesn't match! PS wear these colors to worship today!

## **Monday December 20**

***After they see the baby, the shepherds excitedly go and tell the good news to everyone they see!***

Get those phones ready and have a silly, Christmas-themed photoshoot. Tag us at our Epworth Facebook page using the hashtag #Epworth

## **Tuesday December 21**

***The shepherds return to their flocks, praising God for all they have seen and heard***

Gather new or like new towels and blankets wash and dry them. Then as a family or with friends, go together to donate them. If you need a place Interfaith Works Clothing Center is open.

## **Wednesday December 22**

***Mary names the baby Jesus, just as the angel told her to do.***

The big day is almost here! To prepare turn up the Christmas music, assign chores, and clean the house from top to bottom.

## **Thursday December 23**

***God has sent Jesus to rescue us because God loves us so very much.***

Jesus' name means the Lord is salvation! Share with family or friends the story behind your name if you know it.

## **Friday December 24**

***Join us for one of our Christmas Eve services:***

5:30 Family service

7:30 Traditional service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight

Communion Service

## **Saturday December 25**

***Read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 1:26–2:21.***

Remember the greatest gift of all—the hope we have in our Savior, Jesus!

Join us for our Christmas Day services at 11 AM streaming on Facebook and Youtube!

Merry Christmas from Epworth UMC!