

Advent²⁰¹⁹ share the gift



ADVENT means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of **ADVENT**, we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We long for the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised “*the righteous branch*” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. The paradox of **ADVENT** is that we live between memory and hope.

share the gift...

While **ADVENT** is a season of waiting, it is not a season of idle waiting. We actively look forward to God’s future in hope while bearing witness to the gift of God’s love in the person of Jesus Christ. This **ADVENT**, how will you *Share the Gift* of God’s love? We’d like to encourage you individually and/or as a family to participate in small acts of kindness this **ADVENT** season as one way to *Share the Gift*.

this advent...

Below are a few things to consider as you prepare for Christmas this **ADVENT** season:

1. Briefly consider what the theme *Share the Gift* means to you and/or your family.
2. Is there a time when you and/or your family have participated in a small act of kindness for someone else? What was that like? Why did you do it? In what way did that act bear witness to the hope that we have in Christ?
3. Is there a time when you and/or your family have been the recipient of a small act of kindness? What was that like? In what way did that act bear witness to the hope that we have in Christ?
4. How might you and/or your family incorporate this practice into your **ADVENT** preparation this year?
5. Some ideas might include:
 1. Make dinner for a family in need.
 2. Serve at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
 3. Do your siblings chores without being asked.
 4. Write encouraging notes to people through social media or drop a note in the mail.
6. Share your *Share the Gift* stories with us in worship during **ADVENT**.

some ideas: 50 small acts of kindness...

1. Leave money on a vending machine for someone
2. Bake cookies for someone
3. Serve at a homeless shelter
4. Do a 5k for a good cause
5. Help at a veterinarian office
6. Pick up litter on the beach/park/tail, etc.
7. Let someone go in front of you in line
8. Give a stranger a compliment
9. Make dinner for a family in need
10. Insert coins into someone's parking meter
11. Buy flowers to hand out on the street
12. Leave letters of encouragement on people's cars
13. Buy a movie ticket for the person behind you
14. Pay for someone's meal at a restaurant
15. Write letters to soldiers
16. Donate one of your Christmas gifts to an orphanage
17. Participate in a fundraiser
18. Use your allowance to donate to a charity
19. Hold open the doors for people
20. Thank a teacher with a gift
21. Donate old clothes to the Salvation Army
22. Help an elderly person with their groceries
23. Shovel a neighbors driveway when it snows
24. Walk a neighbors dog for free
25. Babysit for free
26. Plant a tree
27. Do a favor without asking for anything in return
28. Show new kids around your school
29. Buy ice cream for a child
30. Pay for a stranger's library fees
31. Bring in donuts for your coworkers
32. Gift someone a gift card
33. Read to kids at the library
34. Participate in a community service project
35. Leave a generous tip for your server
36. Start mentoring a younger child
37. Spend time with your grandparents
38. Make a family member breakfast in bed
39. Pack someone a lunch for the day
40. Write a kind/encouraging message on a napkin
41. Offer to return a shopping cart for someone
42. Take the day to not complain
43. Pay for someone's morning coffee
44. Give up your seat on the bus to another person
45. Recommend your favorite book/movie to someone
46. Take a younger sibling out to play
47. Make hot chocolate for the mail person
48. Pay for another student's lunch
49. Take the time to listen to someone
50. Be kind to yourself

Check out our resource table in the fellowship center or these websites for more ideas:

www.naturalbeachliving.com/acts-of-kindness/

www.randomactsofkindness.org/the-kindness-blog/2943-50-kindness-ideas-for-random-acts-of-kindness-day.