

# *Celebrate*

Anticipation! A single word that describes the time leading up to Christmas. This season of anticipation isn't just for children wondering what awaits them under the tree, but for all of us. The birth of Jesus for thousands of years was the long-awaited hope of the people of God. The restoration, forgiveness and peace that his birth would bring, guided and comforted generations leading up to the first Christmas day. Upon seeing the baby Jesus, Simeon expressed this hope in the following words, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples..." (Luke 2:29-31)

This advent calendar is designed to grow your anticipation leading up to Christmas. More than that, it is designed to engage us in thought, prayer and action so that we can better experience and express the joy of Jesus. Each of the following pages marks a day leading up to Christmas. On each day there is a reading, a space to reflect and a suggested response. Feel free to jump into the calendar at any point and don't give up if you miss a few days. Also keep an eye on our C3's Social Media pages. The C3 Staff plan on sharing some short videos about this Advent Calendar. You are in our prayers this Christmas season. We hope that you and your family will grow closer to God and deepen your appreciation for the gift of Jesus during this season of Christmas.

THE EVENT THAT  
*Changed the World!*

# Celebrate

## Christmas@C3

CELEBRATE THE EVENT THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

### LADIES' CHRISTMAS TEA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4 / 12-1:30P

The 14th Annual Tea is for ladies ages 12 and older. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and an uplifting message. Please consider inviting friends and family to this great event. Tickets (\$10) are available online at our website [C3WHEELING.COM](http://C3WHEELING.COM).



### MEN'S AXE THROWING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9 / 7P

Join the men of C3 Thursday, December 9 at 7PM for a fun Christmas party at Route 40 Lumberjaxe (Belmont, Ohio). Test your skill throwing axes and knives or just hanging out with the guys, we have the place to ourselves! Please bring \$20 to cover the cost of the event. Snacks provided BYOB.

### C3 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 / 5PM

The C3 Worship Team will perform a holiday concert on Sunday, December 12 at 5PM in the C3 Worship Center. They will be performing all of your favorite Christmas songs as well as some contemporary choices. Jan L'Ecuyer will lead the event with special guest Eli Lambie joining in on some songs. This is a free event, invite your friends!



### "JUST FOR KIDZ" | ANGEL TREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Soup Kitchen works in conjunction with other local social agencies to make sure that these gifts go to families who need them the most. Visit the KIDZ Angel Tree in the Atrium, select a ball (there are different levels of giving, please refer to color codes at the tree) and the list will be inside. Please return gifts to C3 by December 12 for distribution.

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## STUFF THE TRUCK FOR HOMELESS + FOOD TRUCKS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

Stuff the Truck while getting stuffed. On Thursday, December 16 from 6pm to 8pm, C3 will host the YSS truck onsite to collect items for the Winter Freeze Shelter. To make it easy on you, we will also have local food trucks in the C3 lot ready to make you dinner. Free coffee and hot chocolate will also be available. Come and get some great food, bring items for YSS and help us “Stuff the Truck”!



## YOUNG LIVES | GIFT TREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

C3 has partnered with Young Lives (a ministry to teen moms) to provide Christmas gifts to their children. Young Lives' staff and volunteers will work directly with these moms to make sure these gifts make a huge impact in the lives of these children. Visit the “Christmas at C3” area in the Atrium for gift list details. Please return gifts to C3 by December 19.

## GELIN, HAITI | GIFT TREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Celebrate Christmas in another part of the world. By taking a Haiti Angel Tree bulb you will sponsor a Christmas Celebration for a child in our sister church of Gelin, Haiti. Please return gifts by Sunday, December 19.



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 / 1PM | 3PM | 5PM



C3 is offering three services on Christmas Eve. The 1PM service will be a very special kid's service. There will be a shorter message, kid's songs and the opportunity for the kids to come down front and sing Silent Night. This service will last 45 minutes. The 3PM and 5PM are candlelight services and will last an hour. Before each service you'll have the opportunity to take a Christmas picture in the Atrium at the C3 Photo background.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[C3WHEELING.COM](http://C3WHEELING.COM)

THE EVENT THAT  
*Changed the World!*

## READING

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne." - Psalm 132:11-12

## REFLECTION

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## RESPONSE

Anticipation is at the heart of advent. God made a promise to King David that led, eventually, to the birth of Jesus. What are you looking forward to? Take time and plan what you would like to do this December. Brainstorm about what you would like to do, who you would like to see, how you would like to celebrate and what you can give.

## READING

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. - Isaiah 11:1-3

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## RESPONSE

One week from today the C3 Men's ministry is hosting a night out to celebrate Christmas. Pray for this event and that families at C3 would be strengthened, encouraged and blessed by the meaning of Christmas this year.

## READING

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon[a] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. – Isaiah 9:6-7

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## RESPONSE

Pray for the C3 Ladies Tea happening tomorrow at noon. Pray for the setup occurring today and that people would come tomorrow and be encouraged by the message.

## READING

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days... And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. – Micah 5:2-5

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## RESPONSE

C3 is hosting an Angel Tree this year where you can help give a family in need a great Christmas. If you're interested, plan on grabbing a bulb tomorrow.

## READING

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.- John 1:1-5

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## RESPONSE

It's amazing to think of all the different things that God made. Make some paper snowflakes. Look online for simple instructions to create your own unique creations. No two snowflakes are alike and no two people are alike. Take a moment to remember the unique way God has made everything, including you!



## READING

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... - John 1:6,9,11&12

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## RESPONSE

Take a moment and think about who you could include in your Christmas plans. Maybe it's a long-time friend or someone you're just getting to know. Take a moment and write them a note, make a call or send a text to them.

## READING

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. - John 1:14-18

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## RESPONSE

Make a plan to serve in your community. Call a local charity and see if there is an opportunity to help this Christmas season. You can also invite others to serve with you.

## READING

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, ... “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.” .... – John 1:35-39

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## RESPONSE

Listen to the song “Noel” by Lauren Daigle and reflect on what God has given us in the life of Jesus. Consider also how, by accepting Jesus’ invitation to “come and see,” we have witnessed God’s work in our lives.

## READING

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ... Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him ... Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." - John 1:43-46

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## RESPONSE

Excitement is contagious! Philip's excitement motivated him to share. Make a reminder for yourself to greet everyone you meet tomorrow with a smile and a compliment. This isn't always easy, but it may have surprising results if you give it a try.

## READING

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem... A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low... And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together... the LORD has spoken." - Isaiah 40:1-5

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## RESPONSE

Plan a movie night! One great way to prepare for Christmas is to watch something that tells the Christmas story. Pick a favorite holiday movie and make time to watch it together with your family and/or friends.



## READING

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ... And the crowds asked (John), "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." - Mark 1:1-4 & Luke 3:10-11

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## RESPONSE

Take some time to shop for the Stuff the Trucks event on next Thursday. YSS needs: boots, socks, paper and personal hygiene products. Check their website for the full list and show up Thursday from 6-8pm.

## READING

In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and... said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" - Luke 2:8-14

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## RESPONSE

Celebrate the birth of Jesus in song! Invite a friend and come to C3 for our Christmas Concert at 6pm tonight!

## READING

...the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ... And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.- Luke 2:15-20

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## RESPONSE

Fun fact: On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1965, Jingle Bells was the first song broadcast from space! Keep celebrating with song this week. Put on some Christmas music today and let it keep your Christmas spirit up! C3 has a Christmas Spotify Playlist you can find on our website.

## READING

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him... "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples..." - Luke 2:25&25-31

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## RESPONSE

Pray about someone you could take a holiday treat to this Friday. As you are out during this week, grab the ingredients or the item so that you can surprise them. Pray that this would be a nice way to connect better with that person.

## READING

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ...he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate... - Luke 1:46-52

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## RESPONSE

Listen to "Mary Did You Know" by The Pentatonix and reflect on Mary's words in the scripture. How has God surprised you so far during this advent season?



## READING

Zechariah said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David... And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." - Luke 1:68&69 & 76-79

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## RESPONSE

Take a moment to pray for the Stuff the Trucks event happening tonight at 6-8pm in C3's parking lot. Pray that those without homes in our community would find warmth and shelter at YSS Winter Freeze Shelter.

## READING

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. - Galatians 4:4-7

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## RESPONSE

Deliver a holiday treat to a neighbor or someone who you are just getting to know. Take a moment to enjoy connecting with others. If they don't have a church, invite them to Christmas Eve.

## READING

... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him... - Matthew 1:20-25

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## RESPONSE

If you haven't done so already, take time to set up a Nativity in your home. If you have little ones at home, try to include them by having them help, draw or sculpt in Play Dough the characters in the story.

## READING

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled... he inquired... where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea..." - Matthew 2:1-5

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## RESPONSE

Have a gift exchange. Find something around the house that you can wrap up and give to someone. If you have others in your family, host the exchange in your home. Practice being thankful for the simple gifts given and enjoying the joy of giving.

## READING

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh..- Matthew 2:9-11

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## RESPONSE

Do a random act of kindness today. You could pay the bill for someone behind you in line, send an encouraging text, offer to help watch someone else's kids, or just keep your eyes out today for an opportunity to be kind.



## READING

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. - James 1:16-18

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## RESPONSE

Presents come in all shapes and sizes and we often worry about giving the "perfect" gift. God's perfect gift to us was his son, Jesus. God gave a personal gift. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this week, think about how you can give personally to those who you will be with. Give the gift of a better connection to others this year.

## READING

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. – 2

Corinthians 8:9

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## RESPONSE

Take some time to read about the story of Saint Nicholas. Think about how his story of gift-giving was a way to practically display the love of Jesus. Ask ourselves how we can have the same attitude in the way we give gifts.

## READING

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God ... to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David...And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ... "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." - Luke 1:26-33

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## RESPONSE

Take some time to reflect on the wonder of Jesus coming to earth. Consider reading the legend of the candy cane and pause and enjoy the gift of life and salvation that Jesus gives.

## READING

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." – Luke 1:39-45

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## RESPONSE

Please pray for and plan on joining C3 at one of our Christmas Eve services: 1 pm (kids) or at 3 or 5pm. Invite a friend. We love guests!

## READING

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. - Luke 2:1-7

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## RESPONSE

Merry Christmas! Take time today to be thankful and to reflect on the wonder of Jesus' love.