

Family Connections

November 27 - January 8



Christmas and Epiphany

Family Connections - Unit 3: Nov 27 - Jan 8

Advent is the time of preparation for the birth of Christ. This year we will focus on the idea of Jesus as the Light of the World.

Nov. 27 - Advent Workshop

- All groups will gather in Fellowship Hall for an Advent Workshop.
- We will be making and talking about the symbolism of Advent Wreaths.
- Children will make an Advent Wreath to take home for their families. Advent candles are available for purchase in the narthex on the Advent table or you may use ones that you already have.
- The candles represent the four Sundays of Advent
 - Hope (blue)
 - Peace (blue)
 - Joy (pink)
 - Love (blue)

Dec 4 and 11: "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Preschool through Grade 2

- Children will be hearing the Christmas story, making ornaments to decorate their classrooms, and playing a game using manger scenes.
- **Let your child help to display a manger scene or creche at home.** Begin with just Mary and Joseph, and help your children to tell the story of the angel's visit to Mary. Then add a few more pieces each day/week or hide Jesus and the shepherds until Christmas morning. The Wise Men can be kept far off in another part of the room, so they can arrive on Epiphany (January 6).

Grades 3 through 5

- John the Baptist was a relative of Jesus. He was sent by God to help prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. He told them to be generous, kind, and honest.
- Sometimes, when we do good things for others, they feel so good that they turn around and do something good for someone else. This is sometimes called, "paying it forward" and there is no telling where it can end! Just like John, we may never see the results of our actions, but we can be a part of something good.
- **Find an opportunity to "Pay it Forward" during the season of Advent.**

Dec. 18: The Light in the Darkness

- All students will meet in Fellowship Hall for our Advent Celebration.
- A long time ago, when God's people had been afraid and sad as if they were living in darkness, God used the prophet Isaiah to promise a great light.
- The children will make luminaries to be placed on the front walk on Christmas Eve.
- On Christmas Eve, we will light the candles. Why? (so the luminaries can light the way for worshipers to find their way to Jesus.)
- **Parents can help by donating baked goods and snacks for our party.**
- **At home: Watch or read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and talk with them about the light from the star at the end of the story.**
- **Sometimes we may feel as though we are sad or frightened, and living in darkness. How can we help to bring light to the world?**

December 25th and January 1st: No Church School

January 8th - "On the 12th day of Christmas..."

- Classes will be making a song book and hearing about the "secret meanings" of the gifts in the song.
- Older students will have the extra challenge of trying to think of new gifts that might be more relevant for them. **Maybe they will share their song with you at home!**