

Advent Calendar 2017

North Congregational Church

“Rejoice, Rejoice!” We sing these words every Sunday in Advent, as we prepare room in our hearts and our lives for the coming of Jesus into the world, always and again. As we light our candles to drive out the darkness, this year we are also dedicating ourselves to being lights that drive out darkness and embody the theme of rejoicing.



The four-week season of preparation, Advent, begins December 3, and December 24th is both the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve! The season features special programs, special music, beloved traditions, and ways to rediscover the light of God’s love and take it into our world.

This brochure outlines the events of Advent and Christmas; I encourage you to join in as many as possible, and to invite family and friends to come too! While the world approaches Christmas as a commercial holiday, Advent reminds us that the deepest meaning of this season is spiritual. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel is coming!

Rev. Dr. Mary E. Biedron

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Welcome the Christ Child in a service of song, scripture, and candle lighting, followed by a festive reception in Fellowship Hall with cookies and punch, and an opportunity to share Christmas wishes with friends old and new. As always, the youth of North Church will read the scriptures and light candles as we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World.

WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 31st, 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a more informal morning of Christmas carols and friendship in the Plymouth/Bradford Room!

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS CARDS

Advent Sundays following worship

At the end of the worship services in Advent, the children of our Sunday School will offer scenes from the Christmas story in the Link for everyone to enjoy! Bring your camera for this long-standing North Church tradition!

CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS

Bring one copy of your Christmas card to the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, and hand in a check for the postage saved by not mailing cards to your North Church friends. We'll donate all the Christmas Card funds to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen to feed the needy in this season.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd

Advent - 2017

December 2nd - Saturday

10:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School,
Reception of New Members
Lighting of the First Advent Candle
Message: **"Keep Awake!"**



Living Christmas Card: *"No Room at the Inn,"*
by the Sunday School children

11:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Sanctuary

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship, **Children's Christmas Pageant**, Sunday
School, High School Class following the Pageant,
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle



Message: **"Prepare the Way"**
Living Christmas Card: *"Angels Appear
to the Shepherds,"* by the Sunday School children

11:30 a.m. Christmas Craft Lunch

12:00 p.m. Christmas Craft Workshop

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship, Special Music, Sunday School,
High School Class
Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
Message: **"The True Light"**



Living Christmas Card: *"Herod and the Wise Men,"*
by the Sunday School children

6:30 p.m. Pilgrim Fellowship Christmas Eve Rehearsal

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School,
High School Class
Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle
Message: **"In Remembrance of God's Mercy"**
Living Christmas Card: *"Behold the Christ
Child,"* by the Sunday School children



December 24 - Sunday Evening

7:30 p.m. **CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
Lighting of the Christ Candle
Message: **"The Unlikeliest Story!"**
Christmas Eve Fellowship and Reception



December 31 - Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship, Christmas Carols, No Child Care
Message: **"Christmas Every Day"**

January 7 - Epiphany Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School
Message: **"The Light Still Shines"**



*Remember to invite your friends and neighbors
to join in this special season at North Church.*