



Year of Festivals

Intergenerational Celebrations



Abingdon Press

Deep Blue Year of Festivals

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ISBN: 9781501820335

PACP10041804-01

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Cover art—from the *CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*: Jeff Moore, design director; Dan Lynch, art design/direction; Tim Moen, character designer; Jesse Griffin, 3D artist; Julio Medina, 3D artist; Eric M. Mikula, facial rigging; and Christopher Slavik, layout artist.
Page 1 (Deep Blue Kids): Tim Moen, Jesse Griffin, Julio Medina, Eric M. Mikula, and Christopher Slavik.
All other art: Shutterstock®.

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25—10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America

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Reverse Advent Celebration

Deep Blue Scripture:

The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up a righteous descendant from David's line, and he will rule as a wise king. Jeremiah 23:5

The Reverse Advent Celebration will help participants to feel the connection of all the weeks of Advent while creating a home Advent wreath. As the wreath is assembled, the story of Advent will be shared in reverse order. This experience will allow all ages to see the end result while preparing for the beginning. It is recommended that this event happen on the first Sunday of Advent in stations. If possible, set up the stations along a corridor so the participants will get the feel of the movement, or around a large fellowship hall. The feel of movement is important for this event. Many times, the feel of Advent is lost in the excitement of the season, yet there are four Sundays that move us close to Christmas Day. The closing worship will be the lighting of the first Advent candle as a community of faith. The four candles represent hope, love, joy, and peace.

Time: This event should take about an hour for all those participating to go through all the stations and then to close with worship.

Deep Blue List

- Will need four purple candles for each wreath, a wreath form, and greenery for each wreath.
- Arrange for leadership at each station.
- Arrange for worship leadership.





Stations

Fourth Candle—This station is designed to provide the participants with the four candles of Advent. This station will focus on the meaning of the fourth Sunday of Advent. The story to be shared at this station will be the final events of Mary and Joseph traveling to Jerusalem just prior to the birth of Jesus, and that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Third Candle—This station is designed to provide participants with the greenery for the Advent wreath. Here the story of the birth of John the Baptist will be told, focusing on the greatness of Elizabeth having a child and the joy of God's love for all.

Second Candle—This station is designed to provide the participants with the wreath form. Here the story of the angel coming to Mary to tell her she will give birth to Jesus will be told, and that Jesus will be the love of God shown for all.

First Candle—This station is designed for the participants to assemble the Advent wreath with the candles, the greenery, and the wreath form. It is in this station that the story will be told of God's light shining in this world all around us.

Closing Worship

Deep Blue Notes

Blessing of the Advent Wreath (found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship* #261)

Song (recommend *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

Scripture Reading (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

Litany of Blessing of the Advent Wreath (adapted from the *The United Methodist Book of Worship* #261)

Leader: Christ came to bring us all salvation. Christ has promised to come again. Let us pray that we will always be ready to welcome Christ.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: That in keeping Advent, may we prepare our hearts for God's love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: May this Advent wreath remind us of the coming of Jesus.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: As we approach Christmas, may we all be filled with peace, joy, love, and hope.

All: Loving God, we joyfully await the coming of Jesus. Pour upon us your blessings as we light the candles of this wreath. May the light reflect the love of Christ for all. Amen.

Song (recommend *This Little Light of Mine*)

Lighting of the First Advent Candle (found in the *The United Methodist Book of Worship* #262)

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

All light their candles.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

Advertising

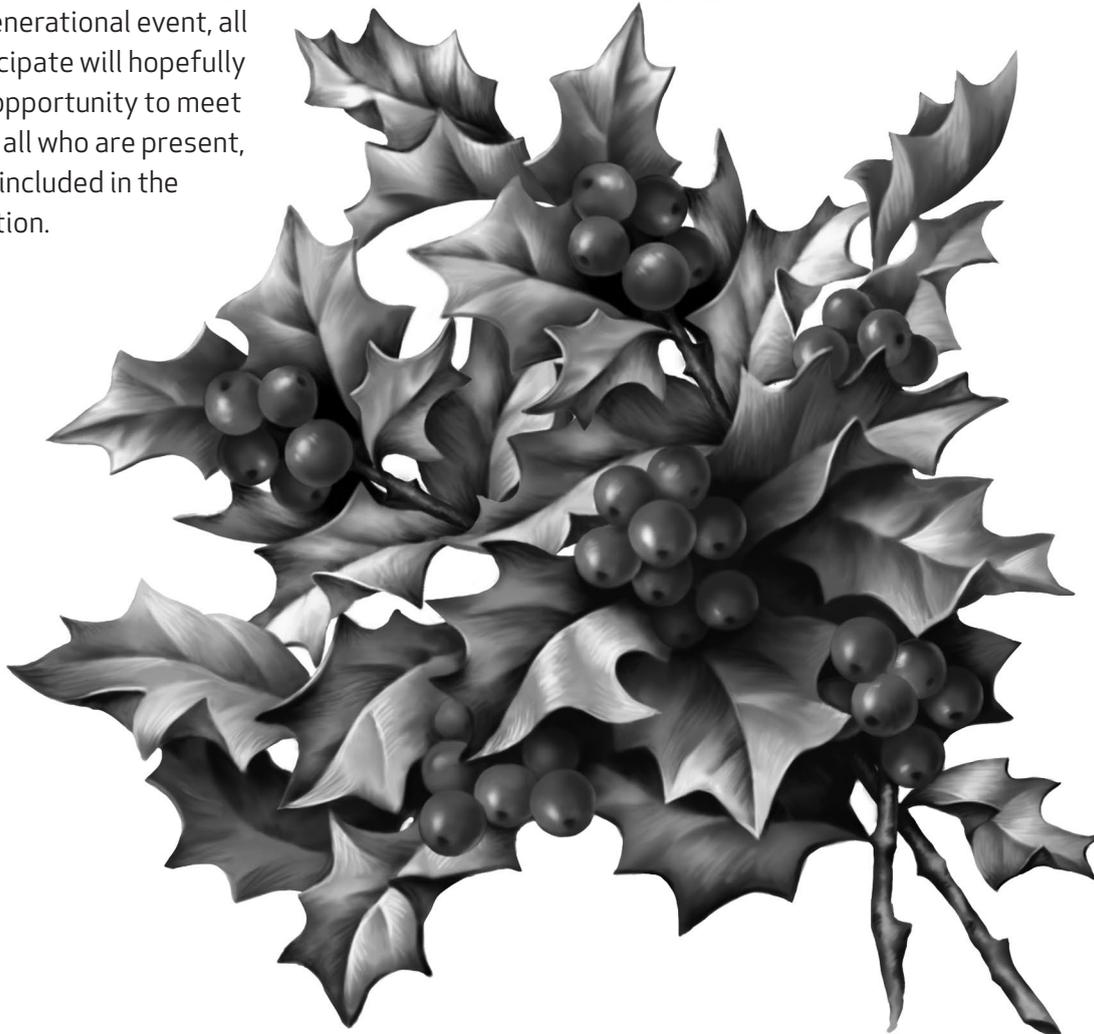
In advertising this Reverse Advent Celebration, focus on the intergenerational understanding of Advent. Encourage all in the congregation to join the celebration as a part of their preparation for Christmas. A flier is included for your convenience (p. 20). Photocopy the flier and share within the congregation.

Setup

Set up each station in different spaces, preferably along a corridor. This will help the participants feel the movement of Advent and the reverse nature of the event. Have all the supplies available for the creating of the Advent wreaths. This may mean that you will need to charge participants a small fee for the event.

Outreach

This event can offer an opportunity for extending an individualized invitation to those who may be seeking to have an entry point into the congregation. As an intergenerational event, all who participate will hopefully have the opportunity to meet and greet all who are present, and to be included in the congregation.



Deep Blue Notes

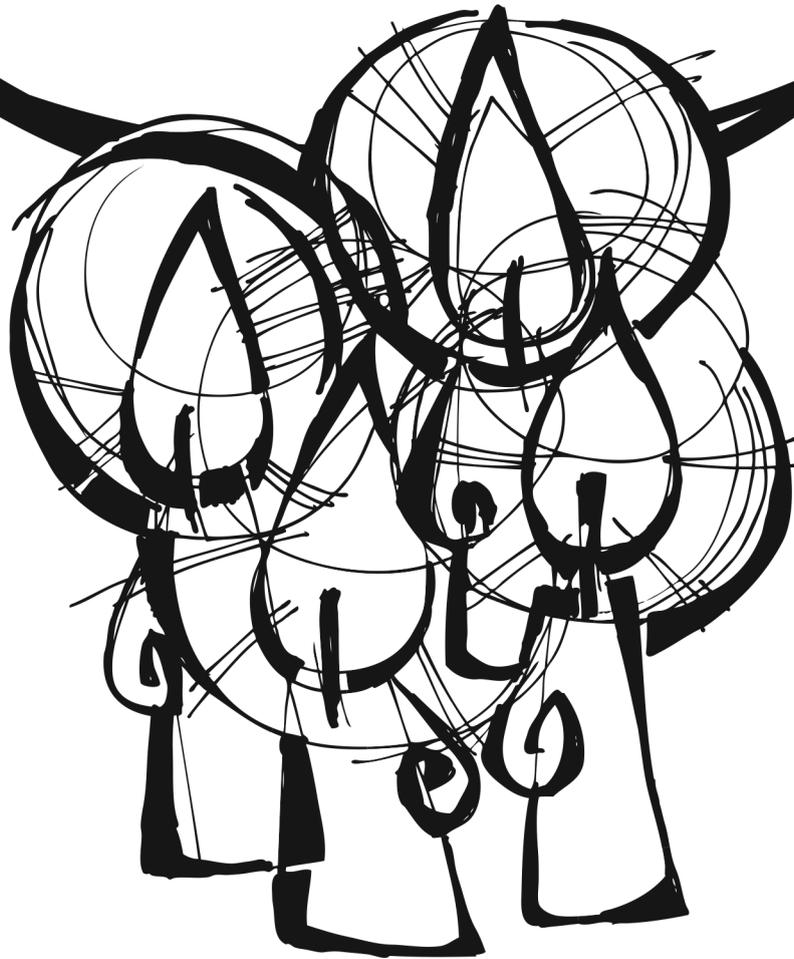
REVERSE ADVENT CELEBRATION
CREATE YOUR OWN
ADVENT WREATH

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Join in this intergenerational experience of creating your own Advent wreath.
You will experience the beginning of Advent in reverse.
Bring a friend and join the celebration.



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