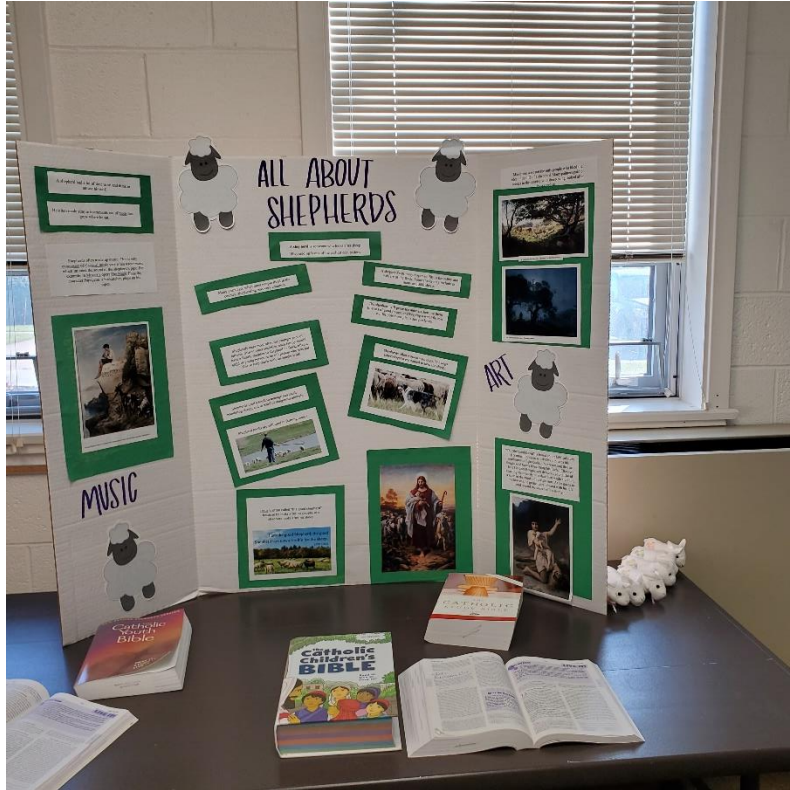


Advent Family Prayer Walk

Invite participants to pick up a booklet after service. Each station will be in a classroom except the last one which will be in the fellowship hall. Stations can be done in any order but should end with the Nativity last – that brings people back to the fellowship hall.



Shepherds

Set up: Classroom with sheep display, facts about shepherds and board to write with markers. Bibles available to read the scripture.

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of the long awaited savior. In biblical times sheep were so valuable that shepherd would stay with their flock day and night. Shepherds were often children, usually the youngest boy in the family until he grew older and could do harder manual labor.

Just as shepherds guarded their sheep and cared for the day and night, so does God care for us. Even when life gets difficult, God protects us., guides us, and never leaves us. We can trust that God is the perfect Shepherd.

Read the story of the Lost Sheep found in the gospel of Luke chapter 15 verses 1-7.

As we prepare for the coming of the shepherd who comes to lead us closer to God, consider who the shepherds are in your life. Who has helped you to know and experience God's love and compassion? Write their name on the poster.

Naming Distractions



Set up: Large gift box with slit in top, slips of paper with markers to write distractions on. Draw a curved road with dirt, sticks and stones leading to the box and a straight, clear road leading away from the box. Place a display board with ideas of distractions behind the box. Bibles to read the scripture.

There are so many distractions around us today that keep us from focusing on our faith. Read the parable of the sower in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 8 verses 4 to 8 and 14.

Distractions are like the weeds and thorns in the parable. In our life they keep us from growing closer to god and from being the person He meant us to be.

What are the thorns and weeds in your life that keep you from growing in rich soil and bearing fruit? List some of these distractions on the slip of paper and deposit the in the box as a gesture of letting go of some of those distractions during Advent so that you can focus on God.

Hope – Love- Joy-Peace



Set up: On a round table, place an Advent wreath in the center. Place 4 foil pizza pans with sand in them and tea lights around the table. Place a sign at each with one of the words Hope, love, joy, peace and the accompanying scripture passage.

Each week of Advent has a different theme. Think about these questions, and light a candle for each answer. What are you most in need of in your life right now? And Which of these do you feel called by God to share with others in their lives right now?

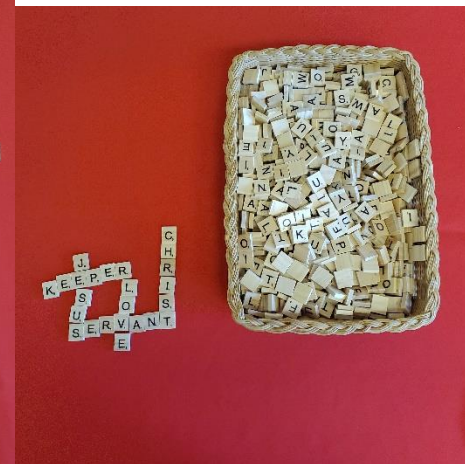
What Brings You Joy?



Set up: On a large bulletin board, attach letters J O Y cut out from brown paper. Place a basket of sharpie markers nearby.

Invite participants to reflect on the joy in their lives and using the markers write on the letters what brings them joy.

Names of Jesus



Set up: Use a bulletin board or poster to create a display of names of Jesus with scripture passages. I downloaded these for free - <https://avirtuouswoman.org/25-names-of-jesus-advent-cards/> . Provide a basket of letter tiles for participants to spell their favorite names. Have bibles available to read the scripture.

The Nativity (I didn't get a picture of this one)

Set up: Fellowship Hall with display of various Nativities and cut out characters from the scene with markers and tape. Large display board titled "Our Nativity".

At this final station, take time to view the different Nativities. Place yourself into the scene as one of the characters. Who do you identify with most at this point in your life? The expectant mom, the worried father, the scruffy shepherds, the travelling magi, the angels bringing good news, the animals wondering at the spectacle happening in their stable? Choose a character from the cut outs, write your name on it and place it below the Nativity scene as a way of symbolically entering into the mystery of this story for the rest of the Advent season.