

*The Season  
of  
Advent*



*2014*



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Friends,

We are pleased to offer information and meditations, to facilitate your observance of this year's season of Advent. Lectionary based meditations are being offered for each day from Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> (3 days of lead in to Advent) through Christmas Day. The actual beginning of Advent and the Christian year is on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, which is four Sundays prior to Christmas. We are presenting this material using the theme **"The Baby Changed Us All."**

Advent can be observed individually, as a family, or within the congregation. In each context, study, meditations, and service projects (collecting winter wear for those in need, visiting nursing homes, or taking baked goods or crafts to shut in members) are constructive activities. In all of these involvements, we seek to understand the coming of Christ, while acting on his behalf.

The display of Advent Wreaths and lighting of Advent Candles is primarily a congregational practice, though some families maintain this tradition. The five candles also have special meaning. There are four candle of color formed in a circle, with a white candle in the center. Each week a new candle is lit. The first candle is the candle of Hope. It is purple. The second candle (purple) is Peace. The third candle is Joy. The color of this candle is traditionally pink. The fourth candle is purple and it the candle of Love. The fifth candle, which is white, is traditionally lighted on Christmas Eve. It is called the Christ candle.

Besides the Advent Wreath, some celebrants attach particular importance to decorating their trees or displaying their Nativity scenes in progression. There are variations of these practices, but each involves adding

gradually to the display with the baby being the last addition to the manger or the star being the last addition to the tree.

Whatever your way of observing Advent may be, we trust that you will benefit from the renewed awareness of the love of God. Be blessed and be a blessing.

### ***Basking in the Light,***

### ***Your Friends at Disciples Home Missions***

*The writers for this year's Advent resource are the Rev. Betty Miller Green and the Rev. Dr. Irvin W. Green. Together, they have written Advent (2011, 2013) and Lenten (2012, 2013) resources for Disciples Home Missions, as well as being involved in planning and presenting the educational component of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (DOC) on multiple occasions.*



*Betty Miller Green is an ordained minister, with diverse educational preparation that has extended her ministry to the fields of Education and Behavioral Health. She has served in support roles at several congregations, with a focus on Family Ministries and the empowerment derived from Women's Ministries. Rev. Green served the Michigan region as Regional Moderator. She is presently a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree at United Theological Seminary.*

*Irvin W. Green is the Interim Pastor for First Christian Church (DOC) of Cuyahoga Falls, OH. He has served Disciple and United Methodist congregations and institutions in five regions, over a period of more than twenty six years. Dr. Green has served in multiple capacities in the regional and general ministries of the Church. Presently, he is a member of the National Convocation Board of Trustees and the Ohio Region's New Congregation Committee.*