

buzz

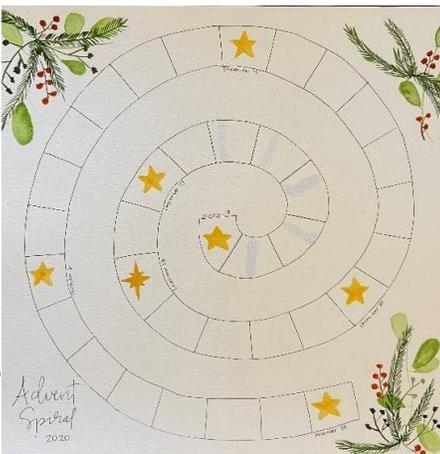
Spiraling this Advent: An Invitation to join in!

Life certainly feels like it is spiraling out of control. Is there any significance to this spiraling?

Ancient Christian wisdom uses spirals and labyrinths to remind us of God's steadiness amidst the twists and turns. With Christ's light at the center, the spiral is not moving out of control, but is moving inward toward a steady love that holds us close.

You are invited to an Advent spiral practice to journey with Mary and Joseph along their spiraling road. I wonder how it felt for them to follow a winding path of unexpected surprises. I wonder if we might understand them better this year, and relate to their journey in a new way.

Mikki Bowman has created a spiral for Advent through Epiphany. Each household with children and youth will receive a spiral to place as a centerpiece on the dining room table. Other households throughout



the church are invited to join in as well. Each day, in addition to lighting the Advent candles, you will color in the next space on the Advent spiral and move Mary and Joseph closer to Christ's light.

Households with elementary and preschool children will be receiving a weekly Advent devotional to supplement this practice.

Using the Advent Spiral as Youth and Adults:

As an alternative to coloring each day's space,

households with adults and/or youth might consider using a helpful resource created by Virginia Theological Seminary known as #AdventWord. Christians throughout the world center on a word-of-the-day to navigate a daily Advent practice. You can find videos, pictures, and reflections online that connect the global community around #AdventWord. Perhaps you could write or doodle the daily word in each day's space on the Advent spiral. The prompts for 2020 #AdventWord are:

November 29 Tender	December 12 Honey
November 30 Deliver	December 13 Go
December 1 Strengthen	December 14 Rest
December 2 Earth	December 15 Worship
December 3 Rebuild	December 16 Pray
December 4 Fellowship	December 17 Learn
December 5 Glory	December 18 Bless
December 6 Speak	December 19 Turn
December 7 Comfort	December 20 Rejoice
December 8 Patient	December 21 Mystery
December 9 Mercy	December 22 Wisdom
December 10 Baptize	December 23 Holy
December 11 Word	December 24 Proclaim

The website adventword.org explains: #AdventWord Images and meditations can be experienced through AdventWord.org, direct daily emails, as well as on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/adventword), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/adventword), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/adventword), and ASL videos via YouTube. Meditations will also be available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole via email and on www.adventword.org. Find *Watching & Waiting* devotionals on www.forwardmovement.org.

Copies of the Advent spiral will be delivered to families with children and youth. Other households who would like to join this practice can pick up a copy in the breezeway of the church after November 15—first come, first serve. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

—Katie Misz, Pastor of Family Life



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What's happening in the Virtual Nurture Wing?

The Family Life Ministry Team at Waterford Mennonite Church, out of concern for all God's people, has a program for the safe educational environment of children and young people. This program is called *Circle of Grace*, and is taught during the nurture hour in November.

What is a Circle of Grace?

The Christian faith teaches that God has created each of us as unique and special. Genesis 1:27 tells us that we are created "in God's image" and that God saw this as "very good." In that goodness, we are meant to respect ourselves and everyone else as persons created and loved by God. Adults assist children and young people to recognize God's love by helping them to understand that each of us lives and moves in a circle of grace. You can imagine your own circle of grace by putting your arms above your head then circle down in front of your body including side to side. This circle, front to back, holds who you are in your body and through your senses. It holds your very essence in mind, heart, soul, and sexuality.

How is the Circle of Grace Program different from other protection programs?

According to research, one in four girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused by age eighteen. Many protection programs focus on "stranger danger"; however, up to ninety percent (90%) of the time the perpetrator of abuse is known to the child or young person such as a relative or family friend. *Circle of Grace* goes beyond just protection by helping children and young people understand the sacredness of who they are and how to seek help through their relationships with trusted adults.

How can you show your support as a Waterford Church member?

During periods of extra stress, humans have a propensity toward emotional and spiritual difficulty. Each of us has shadows, sins, unhealthy coping strategies, and demons we face. Are you taking care of yourself? How are your relationships doing? The most important work you can do to support our children and youth is to be an emotionally healthy adult. Perhaps, during this time of chaos and stress, you are struggling, and your unhealthy propensities are getting the best of you. Do not hesitate to reach out for help and support. Your pastors are ready and willing to listen and journey with you. Let us continue to become a community that cares for one another and supports the most vulnerable in our midst.

With great care for our church family,

—The Family Life Ministry Team:
Katie Misz, Helen Bowman,
Mikki Bowman, Brent Beck

Thank You to the Comforter Makers

Thank you for making the 2020 MCC Great Lakes Alternative Comforter Bash a success! Our current total is over 600 comforters that will be distributed by MCC to those in need of warmth and comfort around the world. We appreciate the effort and hard work that was done by many hearts and hands.

We will continue distributing comforter making packets/snip & tie packets from The Depot in Goshen until November 27, or while supplies last. If you currently have packets to complete, please return the knotted comforters to The Depot at your convenience and they will be counted in our final 2020 tally.

Stay tuned for information on our 2021 Comforter Bash! Fabric packets for making tops for our 2021 event are available at The Depot from Nadine Zook Miller.