

# ***Advent At Home 2021***

## **Mt. Olive United Methodist Church**

*A ministry for any age or stage to experience a season of preparation. This guide allows a moment for your household to have reflection together each Sunday in Advent. Take these reflections to fuel you throughout each week of preparation leading up to Christmas.*

***\*\*First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021, HOPE\*\****

**READ:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

### ***REFLECT:***

- Where in my life am I craving warmth?*
- Where can I seek joy?*
- Where do I need light?*

***What are the names given to the gift given to us in the HOPE that Jesus is coming?***

*Jesus will be our wonderful counselor, our mighty God, our everlasting Father, our Prince of Peace!*

### ***RESPOND THIS WEEK:***

*How will the Hope of Jesus fuel you this week?    How will you share HOPE & Light?*

*Response Ideas:*

*-Who is someone in your neighborhood you or your family has never met? Is there a safe way for you or your family to connect with your neighbor?*

*-What is a favorite tradition your family has at the beginning of Advent that you could invite another in to join you? Stop and reflect on who might be lonely at the start of this Advent season.*

***\*\*Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021: PREPARE\*\****

***READ: Isaiah 40:3-5***

***REFLECT:***

- What do you enjoy about preparing?    -What is hard about anticipation?
- Where does God speak to your heart?

***When God is speaking what can we KNOW to be TRUE?***

*We know that be preparing to hear from God & taking time to listen that the glory of the Lord will be revealed to us. We may not know when or all the details but we can trust that God prepares a way.*

***RESPOND THIS WEEK:***

*Where in your heart are you listening for God's voice?    What is God preparing for you?*

*What do you want to ask God for?*

*Response Ideas:*

- What is something you love to prepare this time of year? A Christmas goodie? Cards? Gifts? How can you take that preparation time you spend to also talk to God? How can you make this preparation time an intentional time of preparation for your heart too?
- Who can you surprise with extra love in something you are preparing this Advent season?

***\*\*Third Sunday of Advent, December 12, 2021: PEACE\*\****  
**READ: Matthew 2:10-11**

***REFLECT:***

- What is something that gives you great peace or joy when you see it?
- What is a sound that when you hear it, you feel excited or happy?
- What is a taste that makes you close your eyes or say out loud “That is so yummy!”
- Whose hug makes you feel safe?

*At the very site of baby Jesus the shepherds and Kings immediately bowed down before him. Jesus coming into the world took every sense and feeling and gave us immediate peace.*

***RESPOND THIS WEEK:***

How are you feeling on this Sunday? How are you feeling this season?

It is okay not to feel joy or peaceful all the time. Even when we aren't feeling excited or are sad or grieving God still offers us the peace and love of His Son, Jesus. Wherever your heart is at this Advent season remember that in all seasons, in all feelings, in all circumstances, the peace of Jesus was born for you.

*Response Ideas:*

- Who is someone in your life who may be hurting or grieving this week?
- Who might be having a very hard Advent season this year?

***How could a phone call, dinner dropped off, cookies baked and delivered, or even just a hug be the peace and love of Jesus to someone in your life this week?***

**\*\*Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19, 2021: LOVE\*\***  
**READ: John 3:16-19**

**REFLECT:**

-Have you ever been rescued from a hard situation? *(Maybe a friend stood up for you when others were being unkind, a teacher helped you when you were struggling, a family member took time to care for you when you felt alone or sad....)*

-What does it feel like to be on the receiving end of that kind of love?

-Read this passage from John 3 again and know that this is for you. This great love of God's Son was brought into the world for you.

**RESPOND THIS WEEK:**

*As God's child on the receiving end of such love in the gift of Jesus how does this move you forward to love others as you have been loved?*

*Response Ideas:*

*During this busy season, how can you show love to people who serve as helpers/workers/supporters in your life who may be forgotten by others?*

- postal workers*
- law enforcement and first responders*
- store clerks/cashiers*
- teachers & school staff*

**In this Advent season, what did your heart learn and discover about:**

**HOPE**

**PREPARE**

**PEACE**

**LOVE**

*How did this season prepare your heart for 2022?*