

# Advent Resource List

Date: October 2021

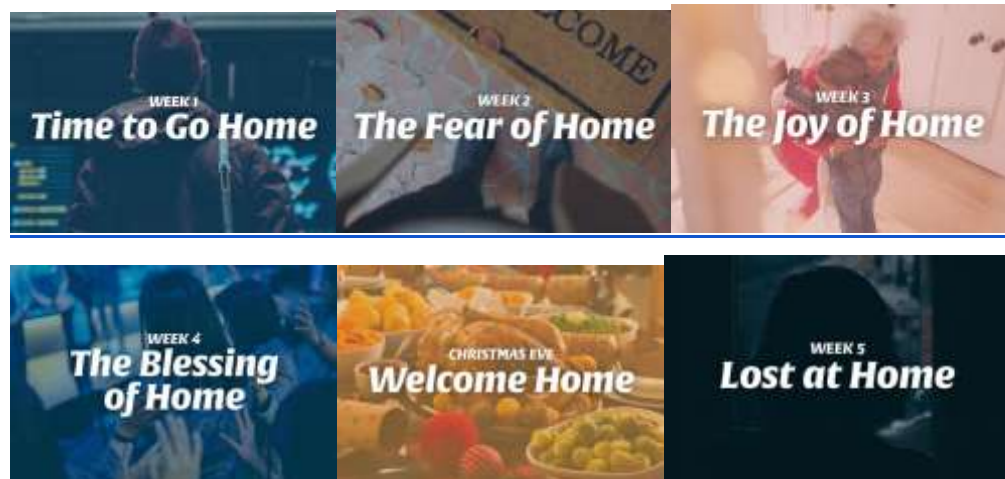
**Purpose:** Our churches have been facing unprecedented circumstances as we are passing through the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of the uncertainty of the denomination, it is easy for us to forget that we are in a connectional system that can help each other during such times. The goal of presenting the following ideas are to foster potential partnership, within our districts, to better communicate the message of hope during Advent.

Advent is a time we expect the 'arrival' of hope. In the time when many witness hope diminishing, we are in a critical moment to prayerfully prepare for the Advent season. Through the Advent preparation webinar, we hope to share resources for churches to use for their Advent preparation

## Worship Preparation Resources

### 1. Lectionary Resource

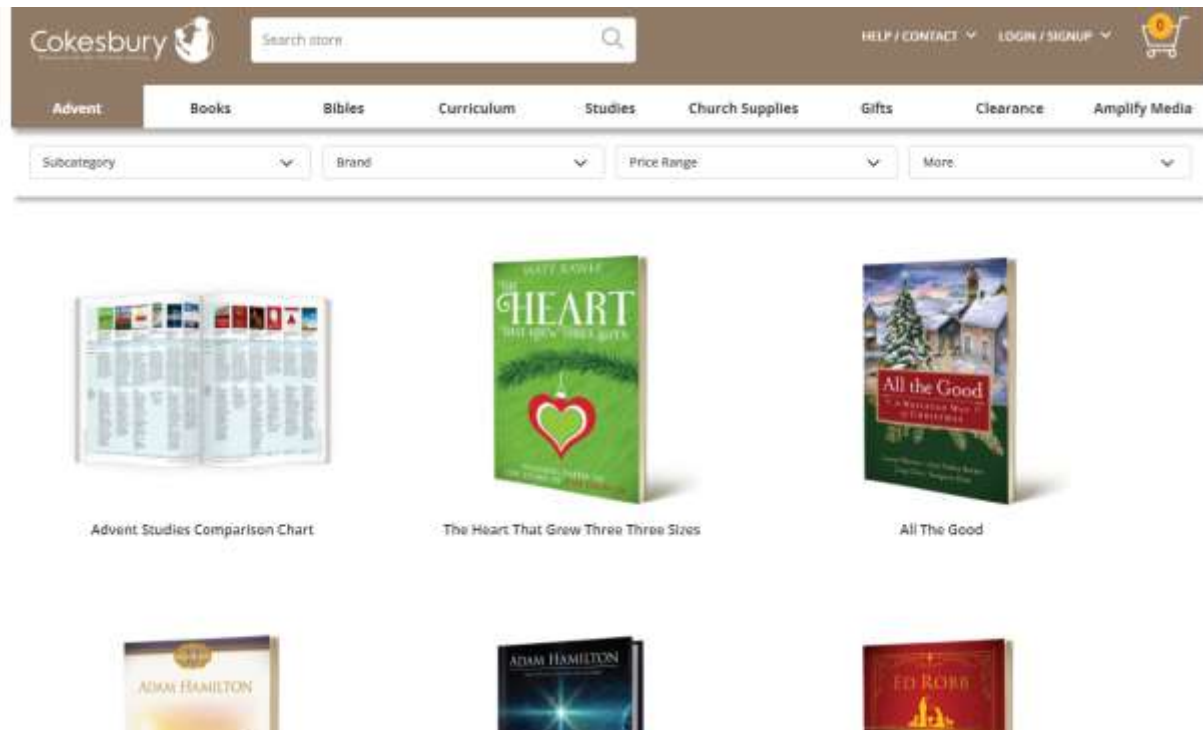
Discipleship ministries of the United Methodist Church started to provide sermon preparation materials for lectionary preachers. They couple the lectionary into sermon series and provide worship elements, from call to worship, offertory prayers, to sermon series graphic designs.



For more information visit - <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-home-for-christmas>

## 2. Advent Studies Resource

Cokesbury has an Advent Study section, which your church can use in Bible Studies. The pastor can also plan their sermon based on the Advent Study to add on to the readings and discussions.



For more information visit - <https://www.cokesbury.com/advent-studies>

## 3. VAUMC Advent Virtual Choir

We invited churches to participate in the Virtual Choir. This will be an opportunity to sing the hope of Jesus to the world, as we record a virtual choir of 'My Hope is built on Nothing Less.' Recordings are asked to be submitted by November 15, so we can edit the video and share it before Advent. More information is available at <https://vaumc.org/adventchoir/>

## Other Resources

- **Boosting Webpage or Social Media invitation post** - Boosting a post is an effective method to reach the community beyond our social bubbles. The most effective method to engage members in the community is through building a landing page, with the description of how the church will prepare and celebrate the season. Another method is to create an event or post, sharing the information of Advent or Christimas worship and boosting the post.
- **Applying for Outreach.com UMC Advent specials** - United Methodist Church established a strategic partnership with Outreach.com. While the grant lasts, Outreach.com will sponsor a \$300 for all United Methodist Churches ordering signs through a specific website. <https://umc.outreach.com/>  
Designs eligible for this grant are limited, but it is easily customizable.  
Some churches have ordered yard signs, with all information pointing to the Christmas celebration of the church. Some also ordered multiple yard signs, and asked their members to post the Advent invitation in their own yards. Outreach.com also provides mailing service for churches planning to mail out invitations.
- **Invitation cards** - Some decided to print out the invitation for Christmas service on a business card. Members are encouraged to grab a stack and invite their loved ones to the church, during the time of Advent.
- **Daily Devotion** - Some churches used the grant to design and print out a Daily devotion during Advent season. They will develop an Advent Daily devotion schedule and ask members to become contributors. Members are asked to pick up the daily devotion and read the daily devotions together. It can also be used as an invitation to others.
- **Mission Opportunities** - December is a month Virginia Conference encourages churches to be part of an Annual Conference offering to support the at-risk children through our faithful partner in ministry; United Methodist Family Service.  
All of our churches offering resources are available on our website at [www.UMFS.org/church](http://www.UMFS.org/church). That includes the following:

- Bulletin inserts – download the file from our website, or place an order to have printed bulletin inserts and offering envelopes mailed to you.
- UMFS videos – short 1-minute videos to bring the work of UMFS to life for your congregation.
- Images of children and families at UMFS – images to share in your church emails, social media posts, website, or more.
- UMFS logos – including a new UMFS offering graphic.
- Church offering scripts – to help introduce UMFS to your congregation or share a ministry moment during the service.