

Advent 2025

This Year during Advent, your Regional Church wants to share the preparation for Christmas with our local congregations.



These Advent Candle lighting Litanies help remind us of what it means to be church together in the Region of Ohio, and feature the Regional Mission and Vision Statements as a way to draw us together as wider church.

USING THE LITANIES

Each week the litanies are divided into several leader parts and congregational response. You may have a single reader, who reads all of the "Reader" parts, or congregations who traditionally have families (kin or chosen) read, may divide up the parts. At least one reader part is appropriate for a young reader.





NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
Advent
2025

Reader: We come this morning to light the first Advent candle, the candle of HOPE.

All: Why do we need Hope?

Reader: Our world can seem scary.

Reader: Many parts of life are outside of our control. Storms come and go, both in the weather and in life.

Reader: In advent we are waiting- waiting for the birth of Jesus- waiting for a sign that God is with us.

Reader: God tells us, "Heaven and earth will cease to exist before My words ever fail."

All: God is with us. God sends this light shining in the darkness as our sign. The Messiah is near.

Reader: We light this first candle of HOPE, trusting Christ to light our way.

The Work of Christmas

THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE WORK OF
THE OHIO REGION



The Christian Church in Ohio Offers HOPE:

The Regional Church Offers Hope by:

- Helping our congregations and leaders feel less alone and feel more connected, to each other, to the broader church, and to the ecumenical and interfaith community;
- Bringing people together for celebrations, workshops, trainings, spiritual growth and development, and camps, conferences, and retreats;
- Providing opportunities and resources to reflect on the changing nature of society and the Church in order to imagine new ways of engaging in ministry and serving humanity in Christ's name and by Christ's grace;
- Advocating for justice within the church and in the world;
- Representing the Local Church at General Church Meetings and General Assemblies.

Some Regional Church Priorities & Programs That Bring Hope:

- Miracle Day at the Campbell Mansion in Bethany, West Virginia;
- A vigilant Finance Committee which meets monthly to review reports and ensure transparency and accountability;
- Ohio being well-represented at the General Assembly in Memphis;
- Youth Leadership Training and Advance Conference Retreats



DECEMBER 7, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY
Advent
2025

Reader: We come this morning to light the second Advent candle, the candle of PEACE.

All: Why do we need Peace?

Reader: Our world is broken. How can we imagine peace when we see a lack of basic human rights?

Reader: We see fighting and divisions that seem insurmountable—divisions with our nearby neighbors, and those around the world.

Reader: In advent we are waiting. Waiting for the birth of Jesus—waiting for a sign that God will teach us what really matters

All: God is with us. God sends this light shining in the darkness as our sign—the Messiah is near.

Reader: We light this candle of PEACE because Christ lights our way.

The Work of Christmas

THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE WORK OF
THE OHIO REGION



The Christian Church in Ohio
Offers PEACE:

The Regional Church Offers Peace By:

- Accompanying congregations through times of transition and uncertainty, such as when a pastor resigns or retires;
- Advising congregations on the options for transformation and renewal or by helping them conclude their regular and visible ministry with grace and dignity;
- Providing best practices for stewardship, renewal, leadership development, and accounting to local church leaders;
- Modeling healthy boundaries, anti-racism, equity and true inclusivity for our churches and for the world.

Some Regional Church Priorities & Programs That Bring Peace:

- Regional Elders offering direct care, connection, and communication with congregations and clergy;
- Cross-Ohio tour of Geoffrey Brewster of the Pension Fund to share about Clergy Assistance Resources;
- Disaster Response Team and Spiritual and Emotional Care Team;
- Participating in Convergence 2025 Music Conference and singing songs of resistance & resilience ;
- Bringing Church Leaders together for the Thriving Church Workshop with Erin Cash and Kory Wilcoxson;



DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
Advent
2025

Reader: We come this morning to light the third Advent candle, the candle of JOY.

All: Why do we need Joy?

Reader: Our world is so busy we can miss joy, rushing too fast to see and to listen.

Reader: Sharing Joy connects with others, motivates us to share the good news and heals our brokenness.

Reader: In advent we are waiting. Waiting for the birth of Jesus—waiting to repair the world.

All: God is with us. God sends this light shining in the darkness as our sign—the Messiah is near.

Reader: We light this candle of JOY because Christ heals us.

The Work of Christmas

THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE WORK OF
THE OHIO REGION

The Christian Church in Ohio
Offers JOY:



The Regional Church Offers Joy By:

- Celebrating congregational and pastoral anniversaries;
- Celebrating pastoral installations and pastoral retirements;
- Ordaining and commissioning new clergy to ministry;
- Opening up Camp Christian for weddings, family reunions, church retreats, and school outings;
- Connecting with the broader church when our Regional Minister serves on General Ministry Boards and serves as part of the College of Regional Ministers;
- Advocating for clergy sustainability, health, and wellness by resourcing and advising Pastoral Relations Committees, Personnel Committees, and Search Committees.

Some Regional Church Priorities & Programs That Bring Joy:

- Our sharing Camp Christian with the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ camps, conferences, and retreats;
- Theological reflection and spiritual guidance through monthly newsletter articles and sermons by our Regional Minister;
- Transitional Ministry Skills Training with the United Church of Christ;
- Annual Christmas Market and Cookie Decorating at Camp Christian.



DECEMBER 21, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
Advent
2025

Reader: We come this morning to light the fourth Advent candle, the candle of LOVE.

All: Why do we need Love?

Reader: There is so much loneliness in the world, so many wounded hearts, such deep aching for wholeness.

Reader: Love mends all divides, restoring us to share the Love God has shown us.

Reader: In advent we are waiting. Waiting for the birth of Jesus—waiting for connection, healing and transformation.

All: God is with us. God sends this light shining in the darkness as our sign—the Messiah is very near.

Reader: We light this candle of LOVE because Christ embraces all.

The Work of Christmas

THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THE WORK OF
THE OHIO REGION

The Christian Church in Ohio
Offers LOVE:



The Regional Church Offers Love By:

- Encouraging leaders by gathering in District Clergy meetings, Men's Rallies and the Fall Women's Ministry Retreat;
- Training Camp Directors, Counselors, Staff in emergency preparedness, anti-racism perspectives, and ethical boundary practices.

Some Regional Church Priorities & Programs That Bring Love:

- Summer Camps, Conferences, and Retreats
- Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) Winter Retreat
- Advance Conference Winter & Spring Retreats
- Quarter Life Retreat
- Disciples Fellowship Retreat
- Adult Conference: - education and spiritual growth for adults;
- Promoting denominational and ecumenical workshops such as:
 - Undoing the Stigma: Loving People who Use Drugs Workshop
 - Webinar for small congregations- Restructuring Governance
 - Conversation with Dick Hamm, The Past Present and Future of New Church
- AND connected us with many other resources, expertise, and opportunities throughout the wider church.