

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PRESENTS

Follow the Star

COMMUNITY ADVENT EVENTS



COMMUNITY ADVENT CELEBRATION GOALS:

- Honoring God by:
 - Sharing the Good News
 - Loving our neighbors through community advent events
 - Showing them what Jesus looks like
 - Special emphasis on children
 - Charitable Outreach:
 - Encourage special giving (over and above tithing) or through fundraising to purchase food gift cards
 - Distribute food gift cards to Wednesday Community Dinner guests each week in Advent
 - Extravagant hospitality and giving . . . all events, activities and meals at no charge

The Greatest Commandment: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

COMMUNITY ADVENT CELEBRATION GOALS:

- Making disciples and changing the world, beginning in our own community:
 - Telling the Good News of Jesus' birth through:
 - Fellowship and Fun
 - Visuals
 - Interactive Story Telling and Scripture Reading

The Great Commission: Then Jesus came to them and said, ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

TRIAD

Church is unknown for a lot of people. Using Triad events allows them to meet people and build trust.

- **Splash Event**

- Low Jesus

- **Second Event**

- Midsize
- A bit more Jesus

- **Third Event**

- Smaller
- Invite them to Christmas
- Offer a couple of different studies to invite them to
 - This is where we do deeper formation and relationship building

Note: Because conflicts in the calendar, we had to rearrange the order of the events, however we feel we can still use these methods to reach our community.

PROPOSED EVENTS:

- **Saturday, Nov 29th, 5-8 pm** - Outside Community Advent Celebration
- **Sunday, Nov 30th, 8:30 am-1 pm** - First Sunday in Advent Celebration
 - Will be planned by the Worship Committee
- **Saturday, Dec 6, 3-5 pm** - Parking Lot Pre-parade Party
 - Will go on later if we provide shuttle service
- **Friday, Dec 12th, 3-7 pm** - Inside Community Advent Celebration

EXTERIOR STATIC ADVENT INSTALLATIONS

- To be installed prior to events and will remain all during Advent
- Large Advent Candles Display in yard lit each week and Christmas Eve
- “Bethlehem Star” in tall tree for optimum viewing
- Church Families to “Sponsor” and light a tree(s)
- Vendor donated commercial lights in trees



ADVENT CANDLES

SAT, NOV 29TH - 5 TO 8 PM

EXTERIOR DRIVE-THRU EVENTS

- Welcome at Great Bridge Blvd entrance
- Large Advent candles in yard
- Trees lighted in front property
- Star of Bethlehem in tree
- Shepherds abiding in fields
- Heavenly Hosts Colonnade
 - Drive-thru w/music
- Stationary Manger Scene - Front of school
- Petting Zoo - Atrium
- Wise Men giving gifts - Sanctuary Steps
- Front parking lot activities:
 - Bonfires, refreshments, games, live music



SAT, DEC 6TH - 3 PM - 8 PM

PRE-PARADE PARKING LOT PARTY

- Free parking, first come-first serve
- Simple refreshments and bonfires
- Restroom Access
- Shuttle to and from parade route



FRI, DEC 12TH - 3 TO 7 PM

EXTERIOR DRIVE-THRU EVENTS

- Welcome at Great Bridge Blvd entrance
 - Shepherds abiding in fields
 - Heavenly Hosts Colonnade
 - Drive-thru w/music
 - Petting Zoo - Atrium
- Enter building through south entrance
- Wise Men giving children gifts - Main Hallway
- Angel Gift Shop, Crafts and Games in the Grove
- Soup Sanctuary in Whitehurst Hall plus dessert Bar
- Ongoing Dramas/Interaction in Whitehurst Hall telling the story of Jesus' birth.
- Cookie Gift Boxes parting gifts to each family



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Develop a Plan of Action with Milestones (POAM)
 - Shows details for each task, responsible group, POC, start and completion dates
- Start advertising campaign to encourage church members to schedule their holiday calendars and plan designated Advent giving (**emphasising above and beyond their tithe**) focused on these events.
- Reach out to other groups to participate (OG School, local Methodist churches, Scouts, other church affiliated groups)
- Contact local vendors, businesses, restaurants, etc. for donations and sponsorships
- Design “Follow the Star” signature t-shirts
- Volunteers to purchase their own shirt to be worn during events
- Put sponsoring vendor information on back of t-shirt
- Discuss with each ministry, Sunday School, Small Group, etc. how they choose to sponsor each separate activity to avoid fatigue or duplication

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Hire traffic direction for safety and directional signage thru out property
- Where can you help?