Advent 2026: "God's Dreams"

Whether we are awake or sleeping, dreams are about imagining and participating in alternative realities. In this season of waiting for Jesus' birth and celebrating the ongoing presence of God-with-us, our congregations are invited to dream with God: to prayerfully imagine the world as God desires it to be, and to act in ways that make God's dream reality.

Advent this year comes at a time when many people are experiencing nightmares due to war and the volatility of economic, ecological, and social systems. We wonder together: How can we believe that God sends dreams? Or that God can make dreams come true? Rational Western minds may have difficulty trusting something as mysterious and ephemeral as dreams. However, dreams were deeply important to the communities represented in our scriptures, and early church theologians like Tertullian thought dreams were more reliable than some waking knowledge.

Throughout this season, may the Holy Spirit spark your imagination, enabling you to dream the dreams of heaven so they may become real on earth.

Advent countdown candles can be picked up on the table outside the worship space.

Mysterious Magi! This is basically Secret Santa for AMC households interested in spreading some mystery and joy. Each week of Advent, bring a small gift, ornament, Depot find, treat, card, surprise for your assigned household. Deliveries can be placed on the chair cabinets in the MP space in a labeled delivery spot. Please sign up at https://forms.gle/Um9uc8xranrsbCABA **by November 22nd.**

Candle Dipping: Saturday, December 5: 2pm and 3pm for K-5, 4pm for JYF
Garage at Steve Shantz's home (60728 CR 27, Goshen)
Children should be accompanied by an adult, but the JYF can be dropped off.

Messiah Sing-Along and Potluck: December 6
8 a.m. Orchestra rehearsal
Join us Second Hour for this annual tradition, bring your own Messiah score if you have it.

Advent Spiral: Saturday December 12, at 5:30 pm
Multipurpose space
The Advent spiral, a contemplative, candlelight labyrinth walk is an Assembly tradition. Children ages 3 and up are invited to participate. Please email Moriah to attend.

Longest Night Service: Monday, December 21, 7 p.m.
In the midst of this season of expectation and joy, we pause on the Longest Night of the year to also acknowledge our sorrows and longings. This service is geared for quiet reflection and will include singing, scripture, words of lament and assurance, and candles.

Christmas Eve Service, Thursday December 24, 6 p.m.
Multipurpose space and worship space
5:15 p.m.: Candle Dance rehearsal
6 p.m.: Join us for a simple soup and bread supper, followed by a play and candle dance
Sign up online to indicate interest in attending/ participating
Please email Anna if your children want to participate in the play.



Breakfast Potluck, December 27, 9:30 a.m. Followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.

Date	Scripture	Theme	Preacher	2nd hour	Extras
11/29	Habakkuk 1:1–7; 2:1–4; 3:3b–6, 17–19;	God dreams of hope	Nathan Toews	Into to Dream work with Sara Klassen	
12/6	Esther 4:1–17; Matthew 5:13–16	God dreams of Peace	JYF/ Reporting from Peace Summit	Messiah Sing-Along	Fellowship Meal
12/13	Luke 1:46–55 (Mary Sunday)	God dreams of Joy	Judith Davis, Kim Stuckey Schrock, Rebecca Yoder Smucker	Advent Spiral/ Dream work with Sara Klassen	Congregational Meeting 5pm on zoom Holden Evening Prayer at 7:30
12/20	Isaiah 42: 1-8	God dreams of love	Scott Coulter	Dream work/ Set up for Christmas Eve	
12/27	Lessons and Carols	God dreams of surprises	TBD	No second hour	9:30 Breakfast 10:30 Worship
1/3	Epiphany Matthew 2:1-23 Psalm 96:10–13	God dreams of protection	Anna McVay, Jim Stump and Karl Shelly	TBD	

