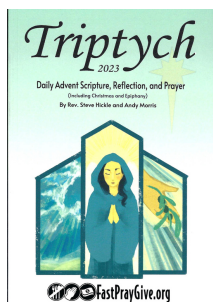


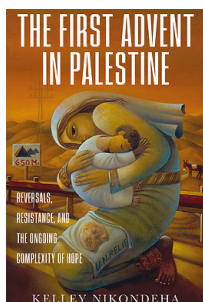
December 2023 Christmas Resources

NC Conference Media Center Resources

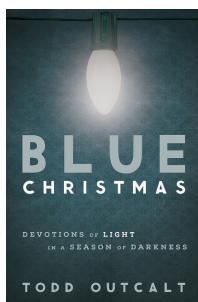
nccumc.org/media-center



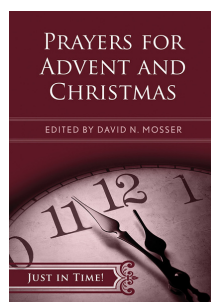
Triptych 2023: Daily Advent Scripture, Reflection, and Prayer (including Christmas and Epiphany) by Steve Hickie and Andy Morris. This guide offers a view through the season using the "lens" of three foundational scriptures, Isaiah 58:1-14, Luke 1:46-55, and Luke 4:16-21.



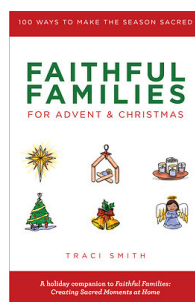
The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope by Kelley Nikondeha. Reading the Advent narratives of Luke and Matthew anew, in their original context, changes so much about how we see the true story of resistance, abusive rulers and systems of oppression, and God coming to earth. Features the stories of modern-day Palestinians



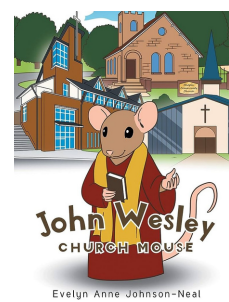
Blue Christmas: Devotions of Light in a Season of Darkness by Todd Outcalt. Features devotions, prayers, a "Blue Christmas" worship service, and reflection questions.



Prayers for Advent and Christmas edited by David N. Mosser. Includes invocations, opening prayers, prayers of confession, and pastoral prayers for the Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the Sunday after Christmas.



Faithful Families for Advent and Christmas: 100 Ways to Make the Season Sacred by Traci Smith. Find easy, fun, and meaningful ideas for bringing the sacred back into the season. Includes prayers, practices, and stories grouped by different themes of the Advent and Christmas seasons.



John Wesley Church Mouse by Evelyn Anne Johnson-Neal. Chapin United Methodist Church in South Carolina is putting the last plans for the service of worship together. "Twas the day before Christmas and all through the church..." Read the poem to hear about a tornado, a fire, a box of hymnals, and a brave little mouse ending in a lesson of great joy!

Upcoming Events

nccumc.org/events

- **Jan 7:** Conference-Wide Leadership Training (Online)
- **Jan 17:** Local Church Treasurer Training, NC Conference Building, Garner, NC
- **Jan 20:** Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity) (Online)
- **Jan 30:** The Good News of Shipwreck: What Does Church Look Like Now? Hayes Barton UMC, Raleigh, NC
- **Feb 3:** Safe Sanctuaries: Basics and Best Practices, Crossroads Church, Fayetteville, NC

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

nccumc.org/grants

- **Applications due Jan 8:** Peace with Justice (NC Conference Board of Church & Society)
- **Application due Jan 10:** New or Emerging Young People's Ministry Awards (United Methodist Rural Advocates)
- **Applications due Feb 1:** Intentional Growth Center Grants (Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church)
- **Applications due Feb 1:** Reynolds Ministry Fund (United Methodist Foundation of Western NC)
- **Application due Feb 28:** Josephine Forman Scholarship (General Commission on Archives and History)



nccumc.org/beumc

#BeUMC honors the core values that connect the people of The United Methodist Church. No matter the challenges we face, God is with us, and we continue to have opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

With every breath, with every thought, we strive to focus on Jesus. This quarter, we reflect on how United Methodists are the Christ-centered People of God.

We offer toolkits, resources, discussion guides, and more to share the message of Jesus with your congregation and community.



Sign up for our weekly email newsletter & topics related to your interests at: nccumc.org/signup



districts.nccumc.org/christmas2023

This year's District Christmas Offering will be evenly divided between two vital ministries: Project AGAPE and Professors in Methodism (an endowed fund of Forming Trusted Leaders).

Project AGAPE – ministry to Armenia and to some of our most desperate Christian brothers and sisters – is a collaborative effort of the NC and the Western NC Conferences of The UMC in a joint effort with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Professors in Methodism increases access to a comprehensive theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

- Give online at the website listed above.
- Mail a check to the Conference Office. Make check payable to NC Conference and send to Conference Treasurer-Raleigh Area, P.O. Box 890202, Charlotte, NC 28289-0202. Please include the district advance number (see list below) on the memo line.
- Give through your local church. Designate your district advance number on your check.

District Advance Numbers

- Beacon – “S00261 Beacon District Offering”
- Capital – “S00262 Capital District Offering”
- Corridor – “S00263 Corridor District Offering”
- Fairway – “S00264 Fairway District Offering”
- Gateway – “S00265 Gateway District Offering”
- Harbor – “S00266 Harbor District Offering”
- Heritage – “S00267 Heritage District Offering”
- Sound – “S00268 Sound District Offering”

Downloadable graphics, videos, and bulletin inserts are also available at the website above.