10 Ways to Celebrate Advent at Home

Find resources at http://bit.ly/mifamilyadvent

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

When your Christmas tree is up and before you decorate it, say a prayer of thanks for the tree, ask God to bless your home, bring you peace, and to help you remember the gift of baby Jesus.

Nativity/Creche

Set up your family's nativity set or make your own. You can draw a picture of what you imagine the scene looked like or download one. Play with the nativity and use it to tell the story.

Advent Wreath/ Devotions

Make or purchase an Advent Wreath to use for weekly devotions or find a devotional (your church may have a suggestion) that you can use daily or weekly. (Find resources at http://bit.ly/mifamilyadvent)

Paper Chain Countdown

Countdown to Christmas by making a paper chain. On each chain you can write something to do or someone to pray for. Or you can write a scripture verse. Additional ideas on resource website.

Serve & Give

Give to your favorite local organization or charity. Serve at a local food bank, soup kitchen, or church. Adjust according to the ages of the children or youth in your family.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Collect items for a local food pantry or organization. Each day (or once a week) put items in a box. Pray for the people who will receive each item. Deliver the box at the end of Advent.

Christmas Card Prayers

Open Christmas cards from friends and family, say a prayer for each person/ family who you receive a card from. Display the cards in a place where you can see them throughout Advent!

Christmas Lights

Go for a walk or drive and look at Christmas lights or community displays. As you watch the lights, talk about how Jesus is the light of the world. Watch/listen to the *Light of Christmas* video by Owl City feat. Toby Mac.

Christmas Morning

Start your Christmas morning by reading the Luke 2 story about the Birth of Jesus before opening gifts. Sing "Happy Birthday to Jesus." Say a prayer for your family and others.

Family Time

Watch a Christmas movie (like *A Charlie Brown Christmas*) and talk about the true meaning of Christmas. Watch another movie together for family time during the busy season.

Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church