

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,
for the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7)

Dear Communities of Faith in UCC-East,

Strengthening Invitation to Hope, Renewal, and Belonging, Advent and Christmas call us to shine Christ’s light into our communities —beyond our building’s walls, through open doors, shared tables, and compassionate hearts. Advent is about believing in what is not yet visible and nurturing a spirit of belonging—where every person has a place at the table. This year, may we find fresh energy for strengthening our invitations to neighbours, thriving in community, and flourishing in faith.

As we prepare for the sacred season of Advent, we are invited once again to awaken to the light of hope, growth, and renewal. The messenger said to them, *“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”* This is a time to remember that every small act of faithfulness—each candle lit, each invitation extended, each welcome offered—has the power to ripple outward, transforming hearts and communities alike. Excellence in Ministry Coach Eddie Pipkin describes all our small steps as “incremental excellence.”

Getting to know our neighbours, deepening relationships, are all part of our resilient “invite culture” as we seek to be transformed by the Spirit. What is your community of faith exploring for Advent, Christmas, and for 2026?

Here are some resources:

- [Advent as a Season of Invitation Card](#) (PDF): Use this fillable, printable card to invite others to your church to celebrate this Christmas season!
- [Practical Ideas to Strengthen invitation and outreach During Advent and Christmas](#), Sharon’s 2-page idea sheets attached
- [Advent as a Season of Invitation](#) (Word): Tips for working on the invitation-culture of your church during Advent.
- [Advent as a Season of Invitation Card](#) (PDF): Use this fillable, printable card to invite others to your church to celebrate this Christmas season!
- [Advent as a Season of Invitation: Roleplay](#) (Video): United Church growth animators Tori and Scott play out a conversation between neighbours with three possible responses to an invitation to Christmas worship.
- [Extending an invitation during Advent](#) (Video): Alydia speaks with growth animators Tori and Scott about sharing our faith with others during Advent.
- Advent Invitation blog2025 <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/preparing-advent-season-invitation>
- [Preparing for Advent, the Season of Invitation | The United Church of Canada](#).
- Visit Advent Unwrapped for updates and for archives of great resources from the United Church of Canada. <https://united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped>

If you are not signed up for the region's weekly announcements of your newsletter, it is a great way to be informed.

Join in for the casual virtual drop in each Wednesday with growth animator Sharon, 9:45 Atlantic, 10:15 NL Join Zoom Meeting

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/88456179164>

Join the weekly prayer gathering hosted by growth, held every Thursday 1:00 Atlantic, 1:30 NL for about thirty minutes. Here is the link to register.


https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluc-ysrT8iGt3sG3YOOq4KeD6lAt_Zd4Li#/registration

Let's keep discovering the beauty of connecting with neighbours and community partners, sharing warmth and hospitality, and expanding the realms of impact where God's love is made visible through us. Whether through simple gestures or collaborative projects, each faithful action is a spark that draws others toward the light of Christ and experiences of God's love and belonging.

Blessings,

Sharon

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