



EARTH STEWARDSHIP



1

Start a reverse Advent Calendar - in a box or basket, collect one item everyday to donate to a shelter, food bank, charitable thrift store, etc. Deliver on Dec 24. Could be nonperishable food, clothing no longer needed, excessive decor, books, unused toys. This activity is rooted in generosity and sustainability



2

Read labels and choose natural fibers like cotton, linen and wool when buying clothes or household goods.



3

Choose LED Christmas lights, which use 80% less energy. Or look for solar-powered outdoor lights. Recycle non-working light strings at the Second St Market through January.



4

Start a new eco-friendly tradition. Spend time in nature considering the returning light. Volunteer as a group/family. Have an unplugged evening - no lights, TV, cell-phones, instead use candles and play board games or tell stories. Enjoy the Nutcracker or Messiah. Watch a Christmas movie together.



5

Plan gift purchases carefully. Minimize the number of gifts by drawing names. Buy local (save on carbon footprint) Avoid toys with batteries, or purchase rechargeable batteries. Research solar toys!



6

Consider sending E-cards or homemade cards instead of fancy cards.



7

Try "thriftmas" shopping. Shop at re-sale shops, flea markets or stores selling previously loved goods. Your loved ones will appreciate the effort, intention and thoughtfulness, not the cost. Choose a vintage cookbook or a retro lamp.

SEE YOU
NEXT
WEEK!



ADVENT CALENDAR



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8

Purchase new socks for men or women and donate to the ID ministry program at WPC. Other items needed are individual snacks, books for children.



9

Avoid single use plastic, from restaurants or for gatherings in you home. If having a large crowd, borrow needed plates and flat wear. Or even have guest bring their own! Remember the cloth napkins!



10

Decorate outdoors for birds and animals. Hang seed balls, pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and seeds.



11

Join Presbyterians for Earth Care.



12

Plan meals carefully to reduce waste. Up to 40% of food brought into the home in December is thrown away! Freeze or Compost leftovers.



13

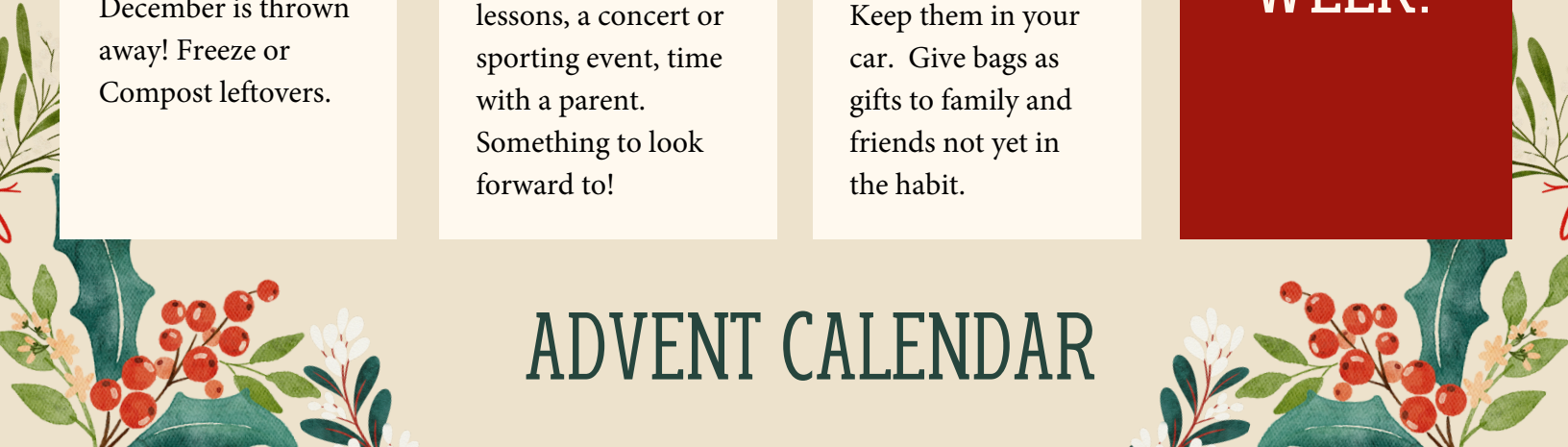
Gift an experience instead of material objects. Museum membership, music lessons, a concert or sporting event, time with a parent. Something to look forward to!



14

Always bring reusable shopping bags when food or gift shopping. Keep them in your car. Give bags as gifts to family and friends not yet in the habit.

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15

Plant a tree in honor/
memory of a loved
one in your yard or
through a charity like
onetreepanted.org.



16

Choose GMO- free
soy or beeswax
candles with natural
essential oils. Avoid
paraffin (petroleum
byproduct) candles
which contain
chemicals that can
lead to health issues
and indoor air
pollution.



17

Plan simple holiday
meals. Buy local,
organic and fair trade
when possible. Make
some meat-free meals.
Commercially
produced meat is a
significant
contributor to climate
change and often
leads to deforestation
and biodiversity loss.



18

Wrap more sustainably.
Reuse gift wrap, use
newspaper or fabric, use
gift bags over
and over. Avoid shiny
or glittery wrapping
paper. It is not
recyclable!



19

Be creative! Make
gifts and
ornaments from
nature or items in
your home. Many
ideas available
online.



20

Search websites for
local shelters or non-
profits and find their
Wish Lists. Purchase
and donate these
items.



21

Discover quiet in
the holiday chaos by
taking a walk/hike
in nature and
noticing the beauty
around you. Play I
Spy with your
children/
grandchildren to
help them notice,
too.

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22

Choose a charity for a family gift. Heifer, Project, World Wildlife Fund or Presbyterian Giving Catalog are wonderful ways to help children be stewards of God's creation.



23

Remember the saying: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Refuse extra packaging; Reduce the number of items you buy, reduce waste, Reuse whatever you can even regifting things you no longer need, Recycle what is left.



24

Deliver box/basket created through the Reverse Advent Calendar (Dec. 1) to the charity you have chosen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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