

CBO 2018 PROMOTIONAL CALENDAR

Planning Ahead

Each year, we all strive to avoid the frenzied rush that precedes the celebration of Christmas. Planning ahead helps to reduce stress and brings into focus the real reason for our celebration: the gift of Christ. Keep your plans on track by adding dates from this itemized list to your church's calendar or automated software, or to your personal datebook.

October 2018

- **Read over the materials.** Familiarize yourself with the theme and available resources.
- **Your church will have ordered any resources on your Annual Church Registration form. These will be delivered to Pastors at the retreats in October or mailed directly to the church if they are not in attendance! If you ordered Devotional Booklets, you will be invoiced for these in the October mailing.** Seeing displays or receiving handouts of posters, meditation journals, offering envelopes, and PPT slides helps your congregation become excited about the offering.

November 2018

- **Prepare for Project Prayer.** Early in November, begin promoting and preparing for Project Prayer. Project Prayer can be a wonderful experience for your congregation as you stand together to pray for the world. Refer to the "Project Prayer" section of the Resource Book to help in planning this event.
- **Begin promoting the Observance.** Start placing posters and displays around the church on November 5. The Resource Book includes a section called "Additional Ideas for Display, Promotion, and Lasting Impact" that gives creative ways to share the theme with your church.
- Plan to place devotional booklets in people's mailboxes prior to the last Sunday in November.

December 2, 2018: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon Theme: I Am Still Hopeful

Advent Candle: Candle of Hope

- Introduce the "Great Joy for All" theme to your church.
- Use the wide range of resources to make the Observance unified.
- Introduce the meditation journals. These are designed to help your congregation focus on Jesus, the Son of God. In these journals, you will find inspiring stories and meditations with questions for reflection after each day's reading. At the end of the journal are additional reflective questions.
- Introduce the district goal for the Observance Offering.

December 9, 2018: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon Theme: A Call to Respond at Christmas

Advent Candle: Candle of Response

- Talk with your congregation about how your church responds to the arrival of Jesus in your community and share stories of the church being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

December 16, 2018: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon Theme: The Miracle of Christmas

Advent Candle: Candle of Miracles

- Share with the congregation about the miracle of Christmas. Have a time in the service during which people in your church can testify about the ways Jesus has changed their lives.
- Ask the congregation to begin considering what they will give next week to help share the miracle of Jesus.
- Whether you use slides, skits, bulletin information, verbal announcements, or all of the above, make certain that each Sunday the congregation is informed that the Christ's Birthday Offering will be collected on December 23, the final Sunday of Advent.

December 23, 2018: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This is the week of Christmas and the final week of the Christ's Birthday Observance.

Sermon Theme: Experience Peace at Christmas

Advent Candle: Candle of Peace

- This morning, the offering will be taken using the adult and children's offering envelopes. Provide all morning service attendees with the CCOGM bulletin insert that shows how the offering is used to share God's love around the world through our District. You may want to include this in your bulletin or have ushers hand out the flyers before the service so that people can prepare for the offering.
- Before the offering is taken, remind the congregation of the meaning of the offering. Pass out the offering envelopes and allow time for people to make decisions and complete their offering envelopes. You may have a time of silence, or you may want music playing softly.
- Collect the offering. Consider having people come forward to place their offerings in a common basket or container. Encourage them to stop at the altars and pray for the ministry of the local church and the church around the world.

January 2019

- Remit your congregation's offering to the Canadian Church of God Ministries District Office prior to January 15th.
- Thank your congregation for a job well done.
- During 2019, continue to offer opportunities for your congregation to rejoice together through testimony, fellowship, and prayer for one another.
- Encourage the congregation to begin saving for the Christ's Birthday Observance in 2019. Maybe some of the young people in the church could create decorative envelopes or boxes. Celebrate the birth of Jesus throughout the year.