

Hope for the Holidays: 2017 Advent Calendar to Defend Immigrants & Refugees including a week of actions to support Dreamers (Dec 10-16)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 Pray for immigrants and refugees. For resources go to the Council of Churches' lectionary.</p>	<p>4 Look up statistics about immigrants and refugees in your community. Listen to their stories at the New Roots Archive from UNC.</p>	<p>5 Call your local refugee resettlement agency and ask about their needs. If they need nothing, ask about organizing a welcome dinner at your congregation.</p>	<p>6 Look up your state and federal legislators; write down their names, parties, and phone numbers. Put the list somewhere accessible (you're going to need it).</p>	<p>7 Research where your legislators stand on immigration issues such as refugee resettlement, 287g agreements, and border enforcement. Create a call to action with a specific request.</p>	<p>8 Call your legislators and follow-up on your request (or focus on a different issue). Repeat this as many times as you want throughout the month.</p>	<p>9 Watch "Which Way Home" or another documentary about immigration on Netflix. Or, for something more lighthearted, see the Pixar film "Coco" in theatres..</p>
<p>10 Organize a letter-writing campaign at your church. Personalize and download copies of this letter in Spanish or English and mail them to your representatives.</p>	<p>11 Call your Congressional representatives and ask them to pass a clean DREAM Act before the end of the year. Use this sample script.</p>	<p>12 Use social media and repeat the need for the passage of a clean Dream Act. The main hashtags are #DefendDACA and #DreamAct. Use this social media toolkit from FWD.us.</p>	<p>13 Use the many holiday parties as an opportunity to host a "Dreamer Dinner" with DACA recipients. Use this toolkit from America's Voice.</p>	<p>14 Donate to organizations that support dreamers. There are many, some that we recommend are United We Dream and the National Immigration Law Center.</p>	<p>15 Use the holidays as a time to have courageous conversations with loved ones. Use this guide about how to talk about immigrants and refugees and practice what you will say.</p>	<p>16 Volunteer to show immigrants your support. Show up at a protest, use any interpretation skills, or donate your time to local organizations working to defend DACA.</p>
<p>17 Set up a meeting with your pastor to discuss ways that your church can help protect the immigrant community or the possibility of becoming a sanctuary church.</p>	<p>18 Write Christmas cards to people currently being held in immigration detention. They are away from their families and will appreciate receiving words of encouragement.</p>	<p>19 Educate yourself about immigrants' rights. Know what to do when an undocumented person is approached by law enforcement and be prepared to intervene.</p>	<p>20 Thank a farmworker! As we begin to prepare for Christmas meals, remember those who worked hard in the fields so we can share a meal together.</p>	<p>21 Write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper and pay attention to how the media portrays immigrants.</p>	<p>22 Spend time listening to Christmas music from other countries. Try this playlist for "12 Songs for a Latin Christmas."</p>	<p>23 Identify one point of hope or joy in the world that you are inspired to celebrate this Christmas. Write it down or share with others.</p>
<p>24 Make time to read the Biblical story of Jesus' birth and consider the ways in which Jesus was a refugee.</p>	<p>25 Celebrate the birth of Christ, the immigrant and refugee.</p>					