

## 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><b>3</b> Pray for immigrants and refugees. For resources go to the Council of Churches' <a href="#">lectionary</a>.</p>	<p><b>4</b> Look up statistics about immigrants and refugees in your community. Listen to their stories at the <a href="#">New Roots Archive</a> from UNC.</p>	<p><b>5</b> 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><b>6</b> Look up your <a href="#">state and federal legislators</a>; write down their names, parties, and phone numbers. Put the list somewhere accessible (you're going to need it).</p>	<p><b>7</b> Research where your <a href="#">legislators stand on immigration issues</a> such as refugee resettlement, 287g agreements, and border enforcement. Create a call to action with a specific request.</p>	<p><b>8</b> 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><b>9</b> 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><b>10</b> Organize a letter-writing campaign at your church. Personalize and download copies of this letter in <a href="#">Spanish</a> or <a href="#">English</a> and mail them to your representatives.</p>	<p><b>11</b> Call your Congressional representatives and ask them to pass a clean DREAM Act before the end of the year. Use this <a href="#">sample script</a>.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Use social media and repeat the need for the passage of a clean Dream Act. The main hashtags are #DefendDACA and #DreamAct. Use this <a href="#">social media toolkit</a> from FWD.us.</p>	<p><b>13</b> Use the many holiday parties as an opportunity to host a "Dreamer Dinner" with DACA recipients. Use this <a href="#">toolkit</a> from America's Voice.</p>	<p><b>14</b> Donate to organizations that support dreamers. There are <a href="#">many</a>, some that we recommend are United We Dream and the National Immigration Law Center.</p>	<p><b>15</b> Use the holidays as a time to have courageous conversations with loved ones. Use this <a href="#">guide</a> about how to talk about immigrants and refugees and practice what you will say.</p>	<p><b>16</b> Volunteer to show immigrants your support. Show up at a protest, use any interpretation skills, or donate your time to <a href="#">local organizations</a> working to defend DACA.</p>
<p><b>17</b> 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><b>18</b> Write <a href="#">Christmas cards</a> to people currently being held in immigration detention. They are away from their families and will <a href="#">appreciate receiving</a> words of encouragement.</p>	<p><b>19</b> Educate yourself about <a href="#">immigrants' rights</a>. Know what to do when an undocumented person is approached by law enforcement and be prepared to intervene.</p>	<p><b>20</b> <a href="#">Thank a farmworker!</a> 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><b>21</b> Write a <a href="#">Letter to the Editor</a> of your local paper and pay attention to how the media portrays immigrants.</p>	<p><b>22</b> Spend time listening to Christmas music from other countries. Try this playlist for "<a href="#">12 Songs for a Latin Christmas</a>."</p>	<p><b>23</b> 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><b>24</b> Make time to read the Biblical story of Jesus' birth and consider the ways in which Jesus was a refugee.</p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Celebrate the birth of Christ, the immigrant and refugee.</b></p>					