



GWP

# GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT ADVENT CALENDAR

December is full of “consume more!” messages but Jesus comes to show us abundant life. Let’s turn, together. While meditating on the day’s theme, color in the shapes labeled with the day’s number and the color listed in the reflection (or pick your own colors). With gratitude for the luxuries in your life, send your taxes to GWP c/o Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 (write checks to GWP).

**DEC 1 (DARK BLUE)** Advent=coming. Jesus comes to set the oppressed free! Who is oppressed in your community? **Pick a person or group to pray for during Advent.** Luke 4:16-21

**2 (LIGHT BLUE)** GWP is rooted in the Church of the Brethren, with volunteer Steering Committee members sharing leadership since 1978. Not all in the US are rich (and not all rich live in the US), but GWP’s education about luxuries is focused on the US as our own social and cultural context. Our empowerment is intrinsically linked to that of women and men around the world. **Send a thank-you to a woman in your life.** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**3 (LIGHT BROWN)** The poorest households are more likely to have access to mobile phones than to toilets or clean water (World Bank). Around 1,000 children under five years old die every day from unsafe water/hygiene (UNICEF). **Tax: \$.31 for each cell phone in your house.** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 31:15

**4 (DARK BROWN)** We celebrate Mary’s courage to bear God-in-flesh, even though she was young and unmarried. Girls in sex slavery can be under ten years old. **Tax: \$.25 for each year you haven’t been enslaved.** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 1:13-17

**5 (DARK GREEN)** A women’s sewing cooperative in Nimule, South Sudan, asked GWP to send their next grant to neighboring Narus to start another sewing cooperative. Women buy food, medicine, soap, and send their daughters to school with their earnings. Check the labels on everything you’re wearing. **Tax: \$.25 for each item made outside the US.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**6 (LIGHT GREEN)** “Everything they owned was held in common....There was not a needy person among them” Acts 4:32-37. **Check your Christmas lists: what could you borrow/lend rather than buy?**

**7 (LIGHT BLUE)** When the Nimule sewing cooperative asked GWP to send funds to Narus, they were thriving with eight (non-electric) sewing machines shared among 100 women. **Tax: \$.10 for every appliance in your house (garage, attic, and basement).** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**8 (DARK BLUE)** Girls in South Sudan often marry at age 12 to men with enough cattle to offer as a bridal price (New Community Project). The average US wedding in 2025 costs \$36,000 (Brides.com). **Tax: 1% of what you spent on the last wedding gift you gave.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**9 (LIGHT BLUE)** How young was Mary? Likely as young as 12. In four US states, girls as young as 12 are legally able to marry with parental & judicial consent (The Independent). **Tax: \$1.20 for each family member who didn’t marry before 18.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**10 (LIGHT BLUE)** More girls in South Sudan die in childbirth than graduate from high school (UNICEF). **Tax: \$2 for each member of your family with a high school degree.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**11 (DARK RED)** If you’re buying presents this Christmas, **support women-owned businesses in your community.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

**12 (LIGHT RED)** Complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among adolescent girls in most countries. **Tax: \$1.50 for each fatality-free birth in your family.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**13 (LIGHT BROWN)** Babies are beloved and bring hope, though pregnancy and child-raising are a burden for many women, families, communities – and our planet! **Look for a way to support a local shelter for women and kids.** Psalm 139:1-18

**14 (DARK BROWN)** The Dept of Labor defines a sweatshop as a factory violating 2+ labor laws. **Tax: \$.10 for each year pre-18 that you did not work to support your family.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**15 (SKIN)** Women are 90% of sweatshop laborers, the majority between 15 & 22-years-old (Feminists Against Sweatshops). **Read “What You Can Do to End Sweatshops” on [greenamerica.org](https://greenamerica.org) and consider how you can advocate for sweatshop laborers.**

**16 (DARK GOLD)** The US leads the Americas in supply of calories per person (Our World In Data). **Tax: \$.50 for each indulgent food/drink you enjoyed this weekend.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**17 (DARK RED)** 75% of women-led households in South Sudan cannot meet basic food needs (UN News). Poor families spend most of their money on stomach-filling food such as sorghum, maize & millet, missing key proteins & vitamins (World Food Program). **Tax: \$.10 per item in your fridge.** \$\_\_\_\_\_

**18 (LIGHT RED)** If women farmers had access to the same resources as men, 150 million more people would have enough food to eat (Heifer Int’l). Matthew 13:33

**19 (DARK BROWN)** People without privilege have to creatively persist to feed their families. **Tax: \$1.80 if you’ve ever gotten a loan from family, friends or a bank.** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Luke 18:1-8

**20 (LIGHT BROWN)** Check your kitchen, pantry, basement, and freezer. Estimate how many days’ worth of food you have on hand. **Tax: \$.30/day** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 6:25-34

**21 (DARK GOLD)** Does your state pay restaurant workers minimum wage + tips? (Only 7 do.) **Tax: \$.75 for each time you tipped less than 25% in the past week.** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 7:1-7

**22 (LIGHT GOLD)** Women produce 80% of the developing world’s food, yet still make up about half of the world’s poor (Heifer Int’l). **Learn about CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture) in your community.**

**23 (DARK GOLD)** Have you celebrated a holiday with an empty stomach? Be thankful with each bite you eat today. **Tax: \$.55 per meal you ate distracted yesterday (in the car, with a screen, at your desk...)** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 55:1-2

**24 (LIGHT GOLD)** Pause for a moment of stillness to reflect and remember our journey through this Advent calendar and season. **Pray once more for the person/group you chose on Dec 1. Do you feel moved to take any action?** Isaiah 55:3-8

**25 (LIGHT GOLD)** Celebrate God-with-us, in yourself, your family, and community. **Merry Christmas from Global Women’s Project!** Isaiah 55:12-13

**Total tax** \$\_\_\_\_\_