

Hanging of the Greens

Megan Miles '20

The hanging of the greens is a Western Christian ceremony or event where people of all ages are invited to “deck” the church out with Christmas and Advent decorations. The hanging of the greens can also be a liturgical service that is celebrated before the start of the Advent season. The celebration is practiced in both Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Methodist Church contexts. It often involves changing the liturgical colors to reflect the transition from Ordinary Time to Advent.



Because there is so much flexibility to this annual tradition, there are several ways children can be involved. They can either be invited to participate with adults in a church-wide hanging of the greens, or they could even hold their own version if the church has a children’s ministry area.

If you’d like to explore this ceremony for your context, here are some resources you may find helpful:

- Hanging of the greens liturgical service (UMC): umcdiscipleship.org/resources/hanging-of-the-greens-service
- Advent wreath craft (this could be one of the decorations used to hang the greens): sweetlittleonesblog.com/2015/11/family-advent-wreath-craft-for-kids.html?m=1
- Advent prayer station guide (you could set up some of these stations as part of your hanging of the greens ceremony, or use this as a separate Advent activity): stealourstuff.wordpress.com/2012/12/13/advent-prayer-stations