



ADVENT REC MINISTRIES

Advent is an active church that believes in the importance of **connecting** through relationships with one another to strengthen our faith, both collectively and as individuals. Through programs such as our Advent Hoops basketball program, those connections can happen on the court, as well as on a softball diamond with our softball teams.

Likewise, we feel that our children and youth benefit greatly through the programs and experiences on the court or field. We are blessed with an outstanding Christian Life Center that is well suited for many types of indoor court related recreation. While a large part of our **Advent Rec** mission is involved with coordinating and sponsoring our Advent Hoops basketball program each winter, we also want to be a resource to help guide any of our congregation who feels the calling to lead a new sport or recreational endeavor. We want to hear how we can continue to challenge and nurture an active Advent Rec ministry. Please contact Bishop Scott at bishop.scott11@gmail.com with your prayerful thoughts and suggestions.

ADVENT HOOPS BASKETBALL

Welcome to Advent HOOPS Basketball 2016-2017

Last season, over 150 youth and men competed for Advent in over 100 league and 40+ tournament games from November through February. Our 25 volunteer coaches helped guide the way. Our Advent boys Midget team even brought home the league tournament title! Advent basketball teams compete in the GDUMRA (Greenville District United Methodist Recreation Association) league with many local Methodist and non-Methodist churches and synagogues. **Junior and Senior boys and girls teams have participated in the South Carolina United Methodist Basketball Tournament in the past. This year's tournament is being held in Greenville from January 20th – 22nd.**

Important Notes for this Season

Please review the age groups that better coincide with school grades, most notably at the Junior & Senior levels:

Age Groups	Grade Range	Age Range	Sept. 1 Cutoff	Gender	Goal
Instructional Mites	K5 - 1st	Ages 5 – 6	Cannot be 7 prior to 9/1	Coed teams	8 ft.
Mites	2nd - 3rd	Ages 7 – 8	Cannot be 9 prior to 9/1	Boy's & Girl's Teams	8 ft.
Midgets	4th - 5th	Ages 9 – 10	Cannot be 11 prior to 9/1	Boy's & Girl's Teams	10 ft.
Juniors	6th - 8th (Middle)	Ages 11 – 13	Cannot be 14 prior to 9/1	Boy's & Girl's Teams	10 ft.
Seniors	9th - 12th (HS)	Ages 14 – 19	Cannot be 19 prior to 9/1	Boy's & Girl's Teams	10 ft.

Players may not play **below** their age group without league approval. Players may **'play up'** if a player is needed to complete a team.

Advent Hoops General Information

- **School Teams:** Our Advent Hoops program and the league is geared for recreational players. If a student is a member of their Middle or High School team, they are prohibited from playing for a team in the GDUMRA league. This is a league rule and is meant to allow for a quality playing experience for all players. *Please note:* If your child is planning on trying out for their school team, please be sure to register for Advent basketball, and if they make their team and elect to play, we will refund all fees.
- **Coaches:** We rely on a great group of volunteer coaches. Coaches endeavor to provide for equal playing time and to give all players opportunities to play a variety of positions.
- **Season:** The season will begin on **11/17/16 – 11/19/16** and run for 8 games through **2/2/16**, with a Thanksgiving break and a 2 week break around the Christmas/New Year's holiday. I-Mite through Junior games are played on Saturday's, with Senior games played on Thursday nights. The season ending league tournament for Midgets through Senior's will be held in early February. The Midget tournament will be February 11th with the senior tournament beginning the week of February 9th.
- **Practices:** Advent teams generally practice one night per week in the Advent CLC, beginning in late October. **This year, we will not be able to host practices or gyms after Christmas due to the sanctuary renovation. Practice times and locations are tbd.**
- **Team Placement:** The Advent Rec committee places all players on teams based on maintaining a balance between team numbers and returning core groups of players from the prior season.



- *Uniforms:* The Advent Royal & White jersey has become iconic, so we will be ordering the same type of jersey for the upcoming season. This should give you an idea as to sizing for growing youth.

Youth basketball - Advent Members & Non-Members (On-Line at www.adventumc.org)

- *Advent members:* Online registration is open and available. All members must also complete an Advent Liability Release form.
- *Active Participants (non-members):* Online registration is open and available, however, please note: Active Participant registration to play basketball at Advent will be considered if your youth participates in a minimum of 50% of at least one church activity at Advent (such as worship, youth group, choir, etc.) per month. This is a league rule meant to maintain a competitive balance in the league.
- *Pastor Appeal (non-members):* Online registration is available, however: If a player attends another church or religious organization that does not offer a basketball team for that player, they can have a Pastor Appeal form signed by their organization and play for Advent.

Men's basketball - Advent Members & Non-Members (On-Line at www.adventumc.org)

- *Men's basketball (members and non-members):* Online registration is open and available. All players must also complete an Advent Liability Release form.

Required Forms

Non-members must print the applicable forms, complete them and turn them in to the **church office** with a copy of child's birth certificate (or other official record of age).

- [Active Participant form](#) that is required by the league (GDUMRA) for non-members to play for a participating church.
- [Pastor Appeal form](#) as explained above.
- [Liability Release form](#) required by Advent for all players, youth and men's teams.

All forms are due to the church office by October 12, 2016, or you or your child will be unable to play and registration fee will be returned to you.

Registration & Fees

Important: Registration will begin on *September 6, 2016* and will close on *October 7, 2016*. The following fees will apply for all registrants.

Instructional Mites:	\$40
Mites	\$50
Midgets:	\$75
Juniors & Seniors:	\$75
Men's	\$75

ONLY online applications will be accepted, and online payments via the link on the Advent web site will be accepted. Thus all registration fees are due at the time of sign-up. Payments by check can be left with the church office during normal office hours. Because of the volume of applications, if you do not receive a confirmation that your application is complete, you are not registered to play basketball in the 2016-2017 season.

Please note: If your child is planning on trying out for their Middle or High School team, please be sure to register for Advent basketball, and if they make their team and elect to play, we will refund all fees.

Coaches & Volunteers

The strength of the Advent Hoops youth basketball program is the great group of coaches and volunteers that mentor our youth. We always need coaches at all levels and we encourage you to consider this opportunity to make an impact on our youth. Likewise, we need help from parents in running the games at the CLC and assuring a quality playing experience for our youth and visitors attending the games. This may include score keeping and/or front door monitoring. If you have an interest in coaching, please note as such on the registration form, or please contact Advent Rec committee chair Bishop Scott at bishop.scott11@gmail.com

Questions

Please feel free to contact the church office if you have particular questions or comments. You may also contact Advent Rec committee chair Bishop Scott at bishop.scott11@gmail.com

