

SOMA

A Church of the Christ

Advent Conspiracy Food Collection

Did you know... that Americans spend \$450 billion on Christmas every year? That's about \$900 per family every year! Most of which either gets returned or is put on the credit card (and sadly some of that isn't even paid off until the next Christmas!). We find ourselves asking the question, "What has happened to Christmas?!?"

What if...Christmas became a world-changing event again, by turning our focus back to the birth of Christ? What if you could trade your season of stress and bills for a season of celebration and freedom?

As Christmas draws near, these are the kinds of questions we're asking at Soma. In fact, we're asking people within our church community and our local neighborhood to actually spend less on gifts this year and give that extra money away. This past week, we announced the beginning of a huge Food Collection that we're doing in conjunction with all of our LiFE Groups as we seek to address a growing need for food in our local community (see the soup can on the side).

Consider...

Just as we are encouraging those at Soma, we want you to consider redistributing your Christmas money in ways that will display the love of Christ to people around you. You may end up spending less and contributing financially to Soma's Food Collection. Or you may end up giving that extra money to something in your local or global community. This year, give presence.

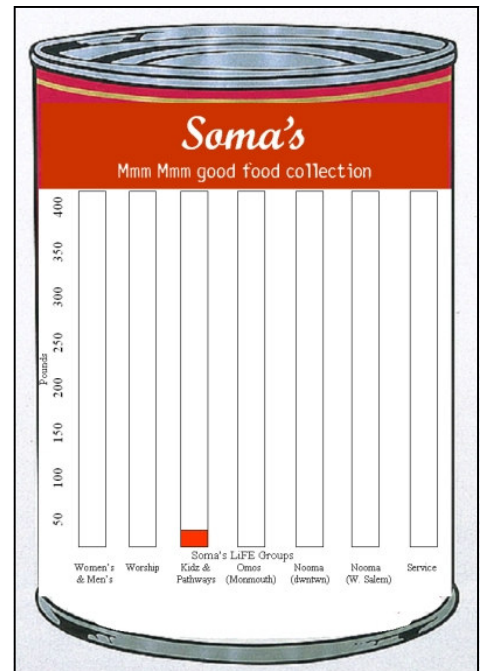
Worship fully. Spend less. Give more. Love all.

For more information about Advent Conspiracy, see www.adventconspiracy.org or email Dwayne Hilty



Praise God for...

- **LiFE Groups.** Please pray that new people coming to Soma would plug into a LiFE Group and that these groups would continue to grow and multiply.
- **People.** They are the purpose of our mission. We want to see people transformed into the image of Jesus and wanting to pursue the "missing" around us. Please pray that we would continue to see people coming to faith in Christ.
- **New LiFE Groups.** We are at an exciting, vibrant stage of life at Soma as we begin the journey of forming a missional church. Please pray that Soma would not only grow with new people, but that we would be spiritually forming followers of Jesus Christ.



In the Coming Weeks...

On October 19 Soma began its next worship series on Sunday nights: *Created for Community* - 1 John. The series itself will go throughout November (our Advent series begins in December), but what's most important is that we want to let scripture shape our understanding of what it means to participate and live within an authentic Christian community.



In November we will also see the continuation of *Compass*, a 45-minute introduction to the life of Soma and its LIFE groups held prior to worship.

And...please be praying for our worship team as we hold our first Worship Retreat on November 7-8 in Newport, Oregon.

By the Numbers...

a few stats...

Oct. 5.....	135
Oct. 12.....	65
Oct. 19.....	53
Oct. 26.....	68
Average.....	80
Giving Total.....	\$2,023.00

5

The # of worship stations we had at our Oct. 19 worship gathering

7-8

The dates in November when we'll have our first Soma Worship Retreat in Newport, Oregon

7-8

The # of bowls of clam chowder that Brian is planning on eating on the worship retreat

63

The estimated # of candles we have lit during one of our worship gatherings

19

The estimated # of times our stage lights kept blinking on and off during our Oct. 12 worship gathering (this would be Dwayne's fault for "accidentally" pushing a wrong button and setting the timer during worship)

Faces of Soma...



THANK YOU!!!

We are blessed to have so many of you giving financially to make Soma a success. **Thank you!**

If you would like to make a financial gift you can send checks to:

Soma: A Church of the Christ
PO Box 5554
Salem, OR 97304

And as always, if you any questions or need more information, simply call (503.689.1995) or email us at info@somasalem.org.

SOMA

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Being Jesus to an Emerging Generation

by

**Creating Authentic Community,
Practicing Missional Living,
Engaging in Creative Dignity,
& Nurturing Spiritual Formation**