

## Ways to Give Financially This Season

### RCRC End-of-Year Financial Status

Donations to the Operating Fund in November were lower than our monthly average and expenses. As of 12/10, RCRC needs about \$24,000 in general fund donations to meet our expected expenses for the year.



**Goats & Quackers**

Each set provides  
5 ducks and 2 goats.  
\$155 /set  
Indicate your gift amount  
on your envelope or online

See all the giving options at [worldrenew.net](http://worldrenew.net)



**Toy Drive**

Donate toys for  
children ages 2-10  
by December 14.



**Fill the Mitten Tree**

with new mittens that fit ages preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
for School 33, Rochester Family Mission  
and JLU Childcare

Please bring them by December 14  
Questions? Ask Ann Michele Bouwmeester

*Please help support*

**Caring Choices Pregnancy Center in Webster**  
giving campaign

Drop off items off the coatroom from  
12/21 through 1/18/2026, Sanctity of Life Sunday.

A full wish list is on the Welcome Center.



**Christmas  
Pageant 2025**

Join us for a night of music and song, and a  
Christmas Pageant (with a twist!).

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

After the pageant, stay for some cocoa and treats,  
decorate your own Christmas cookies, and make an  
ornament to hang on your tree! This event is free,  
no registration or tickets required

**This Weekend**

### Invite a Friend!

A member of our congregation, Mary Benedett, created postcards to invite her neighbors and friends to the upcoming Advent and Christmas events at Rochester CRC. She made copies for others to use as they share this special time with those outside of our congregation. You will find them in the narthex.

We asked Juli Elliot a question that you may be asking,

## “Why Don't We Sing Christmas Carols During Advent?”

Another way to frame this question would be, "Why do we observe the Christian Year at RCRC?" To answer this, I'll rely upon a book I've enjoyed reading recently titled, "The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services" by Constance M. Cherry. Since its beginning, the Judeo-Christian tradition has been expressed in a recurring rhythm that celebrates how God has intervened in history in general and in the lives of his covenant people in particular. We mark days important to the faith as a way of remembering these many occasions. The Christian year tells the story of God. It relives and celebrates the events of history in which God miraculously intervened- the greatest story being of Jesus. As Jesus's disciples, we are on a journey, a spiritual pilgrimage in which we are transformed by the repeated rhythm of hearing God's story.

Most of us live by our secular calendars to responsibly fulfill our commitments. If we sincerely follow the Christian calendar year through our weekly worship, we will both ensure that Christ remains the focal point and all of the claims of the gospel will be communicated. Christmas is a time for celebrating the birth of Jesus, the incarnation. God's activity and major themes of

Advent include: the annunciation, anticipation of the incarnation, preparation to celebrate the coming of the Savior, the prophetic voice of John the Baptist, the Old Testament prophetic writings, often including the coming judgment as well as a recognition of the three comings of Christ- he has come in the incarnation, he is come in that his presence lives in and among us even now, and

he will come at the end of the age. So, we might miss the substance and message of Advent if we jumped ahead to sing of Christmas even as we know its story holds the hope of the world.



### **VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

#### **Nursery**

Ann Michele Bouwmeester  
Evelyn Bommelje

#### **Ushers**

Kathy Quinn and Jake Leakey

#### **Coffee Service & Cleanup**

John or Katie Singleton  
David and Mary Cok



Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
to Joyce Dobbenga!

### **Pulpit Schedule**

Advent - Steven  
Rodriguez

Christmas Day  
Bethany Miller

December 28  
Brad Zinnecker

Download the order of  
worship [HERE](#)  
or get a printed  
copy on Sunday.