

## Advent Wreath Sundays

### Advent Wreaths

Thank you to everyone that has given towards our Advent Wreath organizations this year. After three Sundays, we are at a total of \$2,905. Please look at the wreath hanging in the back of the sanctuary with felt fruit adorning it. Each type of fruit represents a different organization and the level of donations we have received for each one.

- El Centro por los Trabajadores: \$595 [Grapes]
- African AIDS Orphans: \$1,305 [Oranges]
- Greater Community AIDS Project (GCAP): \$625 [Apples]
- Crisis in Sudan: \$380 [Pears]



### Advent Wreath Sunday-- The Crisis in Sudan

This Sunday, the last one during Advent, special mission giving will be directed towards the crisis in Sudan. There, violence, hunger, and homelessness are happening right now in the Darfur region. The Advent Wreath tradition fosters using our resources for more than gift buying, and the Sudan offers an urgent opportunity.

Come hear Nancy Tegtmeier, Director of the Church World Service Gateway Office in Springfield, explain why things have gotten so bad in the Sudan, and how the world has responded. She will speak during the 9:00 a.m. education hour.

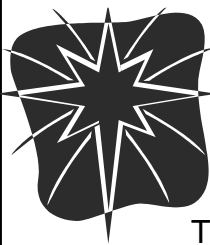
## Christmas Eve & Weekend Schedule

(Note Time Changes )

**Friday, December 24, 7 pm**  
Christmas Eve Worship Service  
Candlelight and Carols  
Traditional Wassail Bowl

### Christmas Eve Offering

This year's Christmas Eve offering will go to The Christmas Fund. Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and through our gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.



The Christmas

Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross), one of four [Special Mission Offerings](#) of the [United Church of Christ](#), is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The offering, which is administered by the [Pension Board](#) on behalf of the [UCC](#), is an expression of joy and gratitude for those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to clergy families in need and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.



**Sunday, December 26,  
10 am (Note Time Change)**  
Combined Worship with  
McKinley