



Good THINGS HAPPEN

Newsletter of Minnehaha United Methodist Church

→ WE SEEK WE SERVE WE CELEBRATE



LENT 2024

Worship in February and March

This year for worship we are once again utilizing materials from A Sanctified Art for our Lenten theme of “Again and Again.” In Lent, we’re reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, “Again?! How long, O God?” And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: “I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.” Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

The season of Lent has been observed since the very early church. A time of preparation for Easter, Lent was a time for more intense spiritual practices, even the giving up of things, so that we could get into the mindset of Jesus as he walks closer and closer to Jerusalem and certain death. While each Sunday was a “mini-Easter” the mood is often more somber, more subdued than other seasons of the year.

Easter this year falls on March 31 (a complicated combination of lunar calendars and modern calendars determine the date each year), with the season of Lent beginning 40 days (minus the Sundays) prior on February 14, Ash Wednesday. We will once again “fast” from alleluias in music during worship in Lent, and we will also hear the stories of how God has been active in our corporate life and will continue to be active – again and again.

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Time Change

It’s time to spring ahead and gain some sunlight in our evenings. Set your clocks forward one hour before coming to worship on Sunday, March 10. Or, as Yoda would say, “Set your clocks forward you must, or late to church you will be.”

Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday
♦ 6:30 Worship Service
Matthew 6:1-21

Feb. 18 (traditional)
Mark 1:9-15
“God Meets Us”

Feb. 25 (Methodicals)
Mark 8:31-9:8
“We Are Called to Listen”

March 3 (traditional)
Communion
John 2:13-22
“We Are Shown the Way”
Leah Challberg preaching and leading worship

March 10 (Methodicals)
John 3:14-21
“God Loves First”

March 17 (traditional)
John 12:20-33
“We Are Reformed”

March 24 Palm Sunday (Methodicals)
John 12:1-10
“We Draw on Courage”

March 28 Maundy Thursday
• 7:00 Simple communion service with hand washing.

March 29 Good Friday
♦ 7:00 Tenebrae Service

March 31 Easter
♦ 7 a.m. sunrise service outside, led by youth
♦ 9 Traditional
♦ 11 Methodicals
♦ 10 Easter Egg hunt between services for children
Mark 16:1-8
“The Sun Rises”

United Women in Faith

Newsletter news from the UWF!



Hello Folks! We certainly dodged the winter bullet this year but it's made me gloomier than ever; I'll never choose to live in Seattle or wherever the sad, gray, mid temp weather is but....I've been cheered by the wonderful actors who have been working hard to put on the UWF (United Women in Faith) sponsored all church musical: "Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank". Twenty seven actors, supporting adults with Eric Strom as Music Director, Jenia Strom and Sue Johnson as Stage Managers and many others will produce/perform this fun, lively musical about battles by pirates, pillaging and ship takeovers, captured actor pirates and reality shows. If you get this newsletter before Feb. 11, COME! And get your friends and neighbors to come. Proceeds from the six performances go into the UWF budget to serve women and children locally and internationally.

Despite practicing for the Musical, we also served at Simpson Shelter on Jan. 31 and Dec. 20. Both meals were homemade chili with sides and dessert; there were over 50 people eating those evenings. Servers on Dec. 20 were Mary Vrabel, Char Johnson, Josh Espinosa and Maureen Trepp. On Jan. 31, Char and Craig Johnson, Josh Espinosa, Kevin Korell, Sarah and Calvin Emrick, Kevin's friend Carrie and Maureen Trepp served. We are very pleased that the MinneHarvest allows us to use some of their food items in our meals so we can hold down costs.



We have not served during this period for a funeral or other gathering. Please consider having that big family party here at Minnehaha UMC and we, your UWF, can help you out. Char Johnson has been doing an excellent job as our lead for funeral arrangements.

Thank you to all of you who make a difference with small works of kindness, sharing your time and energies with others and trying to recognize the You instead of Me.

Peace, Maureen Trepp



Family Fun

Wednesday Night Dinners from 5:30-6:15 pm

Everyone is invited to these weekly meals for good food and good conversation! Suggested cost: \$5/person; \$20/family.

Wednesday Night Childcare is available from 6-7:30 pm. Meet in the gym for games to run-off some energy! The nursery and preschool rooms are also open for little ones.

Minnehaha Playgroup now meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am. Babies and toddlers with their caregivers are invited to stop by each Thursday morning in the Nursery and Preschool Rooms for a time of play and community. Follow the "Minnehaha Playgroup" on Facebook for more information.

Young Families Playgroup on Saturday, Feb. 3 from 9:30-11:30 am. All families with kids 5 and under are invited for a morning of playtime and community! Come join us upstairs on the second floor in the Nursery room and Preschool Room. The gym downstairs will also be open from 9:30-11am.

Family Fun Sledding Day on Sunday, February 25 at 1:00 pm. Everyone is invited to bundle up and bring a sled for a fun afternoon together. Location is TBD. Let's pray for snow!

Family Pizza & Movie Night on Sunday, March 3 at 5:30 pm. Mark your calendars for a fun evening with pizza and a family-friendly movie in Youth Room 304.



Parenting Skills Speaker:

Samantha Moe

Join us for this free parenting workshop from Samantha Moe.

Childcare available: <https://forms.gle/Cfg5jHvheqtfepkV6>



Essential Parenting Skills: Calm Big Emotions & Create a Peaceful Home

Samantha Moe, MA, SLP

Wondering if parenting could feel easier? You're not alone. When you have a child with big emotions and big reactions, there are times when creating a peaceful home seems like a puzzle. In this workshop, you'll discover practical, brain-based strategies to calm and prevent challenging behaviors, based on the Mad to Glad Blueprint. Join us to learn essential tools that improve listening, self-control, and positive connections. Together, let's bring more peace and happiness to your home! (Focused on children ages 3-13)



DETAILS

When? Wednesday, Feb 7
6:30 - 8:00pm

Where? Minnehaha United
Methodist Church
3701 E 50th St, Minneapolis

CAN I BRING MY KIDS?

Yes! Free on-site child care will be provided during the workshop. Scan this code to register for free child care



February
Youth Groups
Sundays 4-5:30 pm



Feb. 4: Watch *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* movie w/popcorn (Rm 304)

Feb. 11: Attend 3pm performance of *The Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank* (Fellowship Hall)

Feb. 18: Broomball at McRae Park

Feb. 25: Sledding Hill (17th Ave & 49th St.)

Minnehaha UMC Summer Camps



Registration for 2024 Camps Now Open!
www.minnehaha.org

Vacation Bible Camp

Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God
 Minnehaha, Richfield, & Lake Harriet UMC's

When: Monday, June 24-Friday, June 28 from 9am-Noon
 Available after-care for all ages from 12-4:30pm (\$30/child, per day; \$75/week)

Where: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
Who: Pre-K 3 (toilet trained) to entering 5th grade
 Middle School Helpers: entering 6th-8th grade
 High School & Adult Leaders
Cost: Free

Minnehaha Theater Camp

When: Monday, August 5-Friday, August 9 from 9am-3pm
 Evening Performance on Friday, August 9
Where: Minnehaha Church
Who: Completed 5th-12th grade
Cost: \$50



Minnehaha Music & Drama Camp

When: Monday, August 19-Friday, August 23 from 9-3pm
 Evening Performance on Friday, August 23
Where: Minnehaha Church
Who: Completed K-8th grade
Cost: \$50

MinneMission: Minneapolis Mission Trip

When: Monday, July 8-Wednesday, July 10
Where: Stay at Lake Harriet UMC; serve with various local non-profits to explore justice issues like food insecurity, poverty, and earth care.
Who: Completed 5th-7th grade
Cost: \$70

Looking for a Sleep-Away Camp Experience?

Many from the Minnehaha Community Participate in our Conference Summer Camp Program at Camp Koronis

We encourage you to join us!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW AT campminnesota.org

Teddy Bear Camp – Session 2

For 6-9 year olds
 July 25-27



Trailblazers Camp/Mini Horse Camp

Session 2

For 8-12 year olds
 July 21-24

Pathways Camp – Session 3

For 9-13 year olds
 July 7-12



Horse Camp – Session 2

For 9-13 year olds
 July 7-12



*Camp Koronis has options for non-binary campers. Please contact Jean for more info.

MINNEHAHA UMC, RICHFIELD UMC, & LAKE HARRIET UMC INVITES YOU TO:



Vacation Bible Camp CAMP FIRELIGHT

A Summer Camp Adventure with God

WHEN: Monday, June 24 – Friday, June 28
 9:00am-Noon
 Available after-care for all ages from Noon-4:30pm
 (\$30/child, per day; \$75/week)

WHO: Pre-K 3 to entering 5th grade
 Middle School Helpers: entering 6th-8th grade
 High School & Adult Leaders

WHERE: Lake Harriet UMC – 4901 Chowen Ave. S.
COST: Free

Camper Registration Helper/Leader



Minneapolis Mission Trip July 8-10, 2024

Explore your call to service, soak in youth worship, and explore Mpls.

Serve locally, grow responsibly, and have fun! Middle school youth are invited to explore the call to love God and neighbor with various service opportunities in the Twin Cities and Metro area. This 3-day, 2-night opportunity is a way to experience a service learning trip--only right here in Minnesota. Minne Mission is partnering with local non-profits to explore a variety of justice issues such as food insecurity, poverty, and earth care.

Who: Completed 5th-7th Grade
Where: Overnight lodging at Lake Harriet UMC
Cost: \$70

Registration



Camping Sunday Feb. 11

Join us in worship at 9:30 am to sing camp songs and hear stories from kids and teens about summer camp. We'll conclude the service with a Mardi Gras Parade singing and playing "When the Saints Go Marching In. Then head downstairs for a Pancake Breakfast!



**MINNEHAHA
MUSIC & DRAMA
CAMP**

Monday, August 19-Friday, August 23
9am-3pm

Evening Performance Friday, Aug. 23

Come and join the fun! Using songs written by Sandra Boynton and a script written by Maureen Trepp, we'll create a musical in one week!

Children completed K-5th grade

Cost \$50
-Scholarships Available-

REGISTER ONLINE MINNEHAHA.ORG



**MINNEHAHA
THEATER
CAMP**

AUGUST 5-9
9AM-3PM

**EVENING PERFORMANCE
FRIDAY, AUG. 9**

**LET'S CREATE A SHOW TOGETHER
AS WE EXPLORE IMPROV, PLAYWRITING,
MAKING SHORT-VIDEOS, AND ACTING!**

YOUTH COMPLETED 5TH-12TH GRADE

COST \$50
-SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE-

REGISTER ONLINE MINNEHAHA.ORG



MINNEHAHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CAMPING SUNDAY
FEB. 11

★ **9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

- We'll sing camp songs & hear stories from kids about their summer camp experiences.
- Donations collected during the Offertory for Camp Scholarships
- We'll end worship with our Mardi Gras "When the Saints Go Marching In" Parade. Don't have your instrument ready? That's okay, we have a kazoo for you!
- Following the service, enjoy a Pancake Breakfast in Fellowship Hall!



Newcomer Class

We'll be holding an introduction and orientation class for anyone new to Minnehaha or interested in joining on Sunday, March 10 at 10:45 a.m. (during Sunday School) in the library. If you are interested in coming, please let Becky Sechrist know so we can plan appropriately.

Minnehaha Fellowship

Join other Minnehaha folks at Arbeiter Brewing on the 4th Saturday of each month from 3-5. You can bring your own food, and there are a variety of non-alcoholic drinks also available. In addition, Arbeiter welcomes children and dogs. Join us on February 24 and March 23

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 this year, and we will be starting our Lenten observance with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. If you've never been to an Ash Wednesday service before, this is a more solemn service that includes ashes made from the burning of palms from last year's Palm Sunday. We "impose" the ashes on our foreheads or back of your hand as a reminder of how sometimes even our best intentions can go awry, and as a reminder of our own mortality. All ages are invited to participate in the service.

Readers Needed for Good Friday

For Good Friday (March 29), we will be utilizing 14 readings during the worship service. Each reading comes from the Gospel According to Mark and each reader extinguishes a candle after the reading. If you would like to be one of the readers, please talk to Becky and she'll find a reading for you. Thanks!

Holy Week Services

Holy Week is observed during the last week of Lent, between Palm Sunday (March 24) and Easter Sunday (March 31). It is traditionally a time to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, his last supper with the disciples, and his arrest, trial and death.

- A Maundy Thursday Service will be on Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. It will last about half an hour and will include communion and hand washing.
- We will have a Good Friday service on March 29. It will start at 7:00 p.m. and will include 14 readings from the gospel of Mark about the events leading up to Jesus' death. It also includes music, silence, and the extinguishing of lights.

Three Different Services for Easter

Join us for Easter Sunday on March 31. Our sunrise service will be outside (weather permitting) at 7:00, led by the youth. We will have two indoor services, with the choir and organ at 9:00 and the Methodicals band at 11:00. In addition, there will be breakfast from 7:45-9 and coffee from 10-11, and an Easter egg hunt for children from 10-11. We hope to see you on Easter morning!

Taizé- Time for Renewal

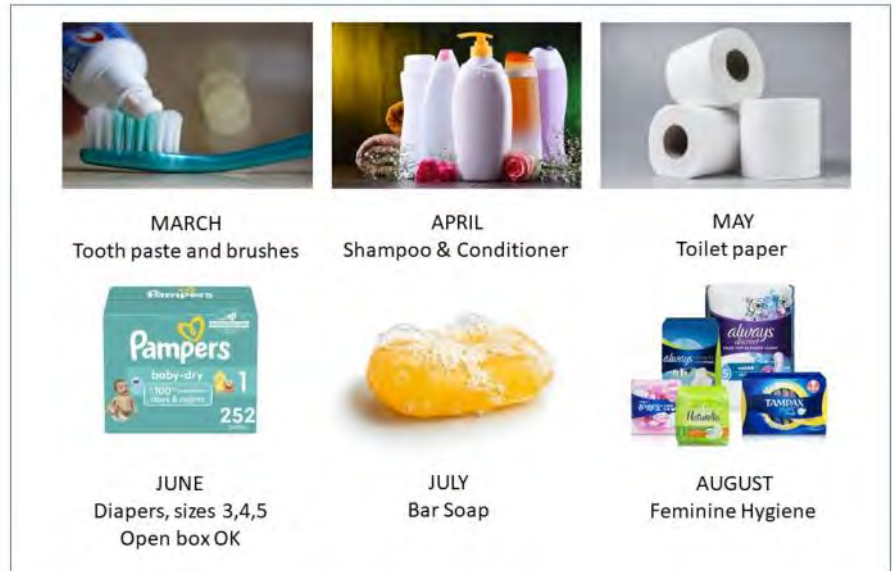
It's easy to get caught up in the daily demands of life. In our busyness, we can lose track of ourselves, and of what God is calling us to be and to do. Take an opportunity to slow down, to rest in silence and music, and to feed your soul. On the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. from October through May, we offer a Taizé service, a time of sanctuary, a time for prayer, a time for community, and a time for silence. As we sing and pray, our hearts are opened so that we may hear God speaking to us, and our souls are fed so that we may be about God's work in the world. Please join us on Feb. 16 and March 15 for a time of renewal. The service is also livestreamed, so you can worship through your screen, wherever you are, either in real time or anytime after.



MinneHarvest

Our free food give-away once a month is a source of food relied upon by many, and it happens through volunteers who come each month. We gather outside on the 4th Saturday of each month. You can volunteer anytime between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. We start setting up around 6:30, serve the food starting around 7:00/7:30, and are usually done cleaning up by 10:30. Join us on Feb. 24 and March 23 for all or

Food Shelf Donations



Food Shelf

The Minnehaha Food shelf is currently seeking volunteer assistance to support our administrative functions. We have various tasks that could be grouped together or broken down. Some of the tasks we could use immediate assistance with include updating our Facebook page, writing occasional articles and other publicity, periodic communications with our finance firm, and monitoring our PayPal site. If you are interested in supporting the food shelf in any of these rolls, or as a Food Shelf Board member, please contact Janice Linster at jlinst01@gmail.com.

Auctioning Your Talents

The Auction is coming on April 14! We'll start with lunch (provided by the youth as a fundraiser) in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 and the auction will begin shortly after (probably in the 11:45/12:00 time frame. Come to bid on services provided by others in the congregation.

Speaking of those services, please let Sue Claude know right away if you have a service to offer. Do you make a phenomenal chocolate chip cookie? Are you willing to make a batch a month to the highest bidder? Or, do you have a cabin you are willing to let others stay at? Maybe you are willing to babysit for a day or an evening. Or, you and a few friends are willing to be a work team that will pull up carpeting or do some packing for a day or a weekend?

Come on April 14 and be part of the fun!

Going Beyond Our Land

Acknowledgement Statement

In 2023, we wrote a Land Acknowledgement Statement for our church. In response to that statement and committing to do more than write words, we made a \$1,000 Honor Tax contribution to the Lower Sioux Indian Community with the excess funds that were collected from the Sacred Sites Tour that several of our members attended. An Honor Tax is a voluntary payment made directly to a tribe, and in our case the Lower Sioux Indian Community, in recognition of our life in, work on, and visits to Dakota land. This Honor Tax considers the history of land theft and broken treaties that continue to impact the Lower Sioux Community today. It is also a way we recognize and support the enduring sovereignty of the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

o The Lower Sioux have outlined a set of important priorities they plan to address with the funds that they are receiving not just from us but from individuals and organizations across MN. Here are just a few examples:

- ✦ Support for Lower Sioux youth: Lower Sioux hopes to hire more staff for their recreation center and to create drug and alcohol prevention programs for young Tribal citizens.
- ✦ Land acquisition: Lower Sioux's current land base is small and inadequate for the size of their population. They don't currently have enough land or housing to meet the strong demand from Tribal citizens. Buying land is not cheap. And they've got to compete with farmers who have a lot of money and connections.
- ✦ Public education: Lower Sioux hopes to educate the general public about its history and goals through meaningful outreach.
- ✦ All of the funding will go toward the community, rather than individuals.

RUSTIN

The Racial Justice Team invites you to watch *Rustin* on Saturday, February 24th at 1:30pm in Rooms 302/304 at church. *Rustin* is a film about Activist Bayard Rustin who "faces racism and homophobia as he helps change the course of Civil Rights history by orchestrating the 1963 March on Washington." We will watch *Rustin* and then discuss the film immediately afterward (discussion starting roughly 3:15-3:30pm). We'd love to have you join us for the film, the discussion, or both!



MUMC Financial Position

At the Annual Meeting on January 21st, attendees voted to accept the church's financial statements for 2023 and approved the proposed budget for 2024. The Finance committee wants to make sure everyone has access to this information even if you did not attend the Annual Meeting.

General Fund	
Statement of Revenues and Expenses	
12/31/2023	
	2023
Revenues	
Contributions	412,592
Building Usage (NET)	20,423
Fund Raising (NET)	12,217
Other Income	140,528
	585,760
Expenditures	
Interfund Loan	1,000
Financial Expenses	2,716
Conference Apportionments	47,538
Staff Parish Relations	305,752
Trustees	94,112
Office Expenses	11,483
Programming and Ministries	16,733
Total Expenditures	479,335
Net increase/(decrease)	106,425
Net Assets - January 1, 2023	47,325
Net Assets - Ending balance	153,751

This information to the left gives a summary of the 2023 revenues and expenses in the operating fund ('General Fund') of the church. We outperformed our budget last year for three main reasons:

- 1) We received an Employee Retention Credit (ERC) of ~\$118K which was part of the federal government's COVID stimulus program. The receipt of ERC funds was not included in the 2023 budget.
- 2) Contributions exceeded budget by ~\$58K. Thank you to the congregation for your generous support!
- 3) There were no staff salary increases budgeted in 2023, but bonuses of ~\$16K were paid after receiving the ERC money.

2023 expenditures tracked closely to budget. This resulted in a net increase of \$106K in the assets of the General Fund compared to a budgeted decrease of \$53K. This puts us into a good financial position going into 2024!

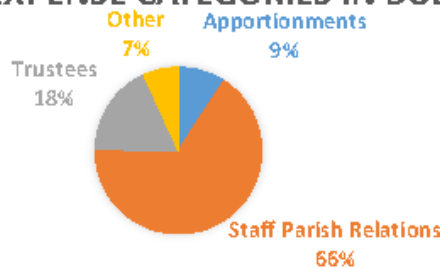
The budget for 2024 includes a budgeted increase in contributions of ~\$29K above receipts from 2023. We are not expecting or budgeting any

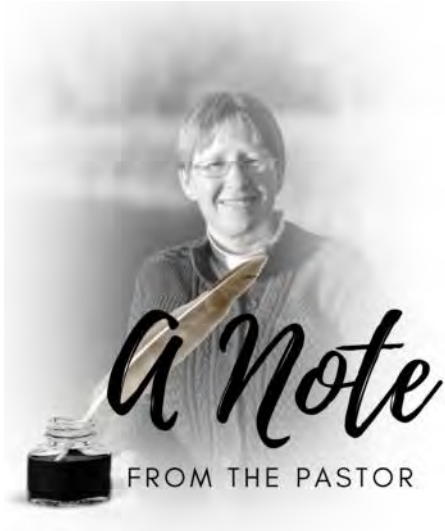
additional 'one-time' revenue events but several members did increase their pledge amounts for 2024. Expenses have increased primarily due to a budgeted overall staff salary increase of 20%. Staff expense does make up the majority of the MUMC budget as shown in the chart below and this increase is necessary to get our staff salaries more in line with market compensation.

Given all of this information, we are budgeting for expenditures to exceed revenues. The cushion we have from 2023 allows this but at this rate we will have used up the surplus in 4-5 years. This means that over the next few years we will need to continue to grow our revenue to support increasing expenses.

General Fund	
2024 Budget	
	Budget
Revenues	
Contributions	441,392
Bequests	-
Building Usage (NET)	20,000
Fund Raising (NET)	12,500
Other Income	26,735
Total Revenues	500,627
Expenditures	
Interfund Loan	1,000
Financial Expenses	2,705
Conference Apportionments	48,257
Staff Parish Relations	346,486
Trustees	94,441
Office Expenses	12,068
Programming and Ministry	20,082
Total Expenditures	525,040
Net Increase/(decrease)	(24,414)
Expected Fund Balance -12/31/2024	129,337

MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORIES IN BUDGET





What To Give Up?

About 13 years ago, I broke my ankle the day after Ash Wednesday. I had slipped on a patch of ice while out walking my dog. As I lay on the sidewalk, contemplating how I was going to get help, I remember thinking – well, this means 6 weeks on crutches, I guess I am giving up walking for Lent this year. Most years, I plan what I am going to give up (or spiritual practice I am going to add) in advance of Lent. But, sometimes, Lent is thrust upon us. Circumstances dictate what we will be giving up or adding.

And, sometimes, I don't really hit upon the thing I want to do until I am a week or two into Lent.

I've never done the traditional giving up of sweets during Lent, but I am contemplating mindful eating as my Lenten practice. I eat a lot of meals sitting at a desk while reading a

book or checking email. Mindful eating would invite me to engage fully in the practice of eating, and enjoying the abundance we get from God. I'm not fully committed yet – as of this writing, I am still almost 3 weeks away from the beginning of Lent. The point, though, of whatever we add or give up, is to turn our focus back to God. Whatever practice does that for you, I hope you engage in that this Lent.

In Joy,

Becky

The point, though, of whatever we add or give up, is to turn our focus back to God





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office@minnehaha.org

2/24

Visit us online!
www.minnehaha.org

Our Easter Garden

The Sanctuary will be decorated with flowering spring plants Easter morning. To contribute, please complete this form and bring/mail it to the church office or place it in an offering, with your payment, by February 25.

Given By: _____

Phone: _____

Suggested donation \$20. You may give more if you wish.

Given in:

Memory of Celebration of Honor of _____
other

(please print)



(Plants may be taken home after the **11:00** Easter service or during the following week.)