

# Local Church Budget

**June 1, 2024**

There is something to appreciate about every season of the year. The coolness of fall is a symbol that soon the beautiful colors of falling leaves will cover the ground. The warmth of summer brings nice weather to enjoy being outside. Even the cool, stillness of winter reminds us that rest is necessary. The freshness of the rain in the spring reminds us that rain and storms can be the catalyst for new things. Different seasons bring different things into our lives.

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (Isaiah 43:19, NIV). As we gather from Sabbath to Sabbath, God longs to do new things in our hearts. Our church is moving forward, and we want to be receptive to how God is doing a new thing among us. Regardless of the season, and regardless of the weather outside, the word of God should be planted in our hearts. By coming together, we can encourage one another throughout the various seasons we all face in our lives. Today’s offering is for our local church budget. Our church has ministries and plans, and our support helps us continue to serve our members and community in new ways.

# NAD Women's Ministries

**June 8, 2024**

All around the North American Division women find creative ways to serve their communities. Today's annual Women's Ministries offering helps provide opportunities for more women to become involved, and out of these opportunities come stories of those whose lives have been changed by your generosity.

These include the group of Adventist women who are helping provide for the personal needs of teen girls living in a shelter. Stories like the woman who, from her own personal experience, understands the challenges facing a single mother, and with some friends started a ministry to provide single moms and their children with a safe place to live, life skills training, and after-school tutoring. Stories of a group of women who decided to take seriously the mentoring words of Titus 2, teaching younger women in their church and women in their community financial skills, how to preserve food, how to cope with grief, and more, and now some of those women are in Bible studies!

These funds also help provide leadership training for women. Additionally, a portion of our Women's Ministries offering helps to supplement the scholarship fund from the proceeds of the Women's Ministries Devotional book, continuing the legacy of faith and service to future generations.

As you give, please pray for more opportunities for women in our local church and beyond to live out Hebrews 13:16 which says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share with others..."

# Local Church Budget

June 15, 2024

Revelations 7:9 says, “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” As I look around my college classroom, I’m always amazed at the rainbow of faces that I see. The gospel is beautiful because our great hope is that one day, we will all be united in heaven, and we will get to worship God for eternity.

In the meantime, we must exist in this fallen world. As I discuss with my students what is happening in the world today, we wrestle with our place as Christians and as a church body. God has called us to be His hands and feet, and this generation of college students has a strong desire to see impactful outreach within our local church ministries that they can connect with to help our community. In one such example of ministry, one student said that their church back home would support mothers in need with free diapers if they didn’t have money. The multitude described in the book of Revelation will be composed of many people who have allowed Christ to live through them and bless others.

Today’s offering is being collected to support the local church budget. Our church is able to serve as a house of worship for all people because of your generous gifts, so thank you!

# Combined Youth Ministries

**June 22, 2024**

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I see everything by it.” That is a quote by C.S. Lewis. A friend of mine went to a large public university for his undergraduate and graduate studies, and he faced many challenges as he tried to live out his Christian walk while being surrounded by those who thought faith was a laughable concept. He had this C.S. Lewis quote taped to his mirror and in his Bible, as a reminder that his faith in Jesus Christ is the most important illuminating factor in his life and the force that guides his steps.

Fortunately, a few years into college, a small Adventist campus ministry was started, which was supported by the local church. He got connected to this ministry, and while studying to become an architect, he was also learning leadership skills such as how to lead Bible study through this campus ministry. College campus ministries can be lifelines for college students who are looking to connect with other believers while away at college. Today’s offering is for combined youth ministries which benefits young people.

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**June 29, 2024**

I grew up in a small town where our county fair and ice cream socials at the local grocery store gathered us each summer. In some ways, I believe that heaven is really like a small town. When I go to our local diner with my husband for breakfast, the server knows my name because we are there so frequently and have been for years.

Similarly, my most treasured memories of church throughout my life are when the people I go to church with move from acquaintances to what I would consider family. Years ago, my husband was pastoring a smaller congregation, and the people who lead the musical worship part of the service became some of the closest people to us. In that season, we were far away from our families and the small town I had grown up in, and yet these people became our family.

As we gather from week to week, we have a lot that goes into allowing us to meet to create those connections. Our leaders over the church and ministries prayerfully work together so that the unity God desires can be felt in our church family. Today's offering is for the local church budget. Please consider how different ministries in our church have impacted your life, and give freely as you are impressed!