

Local Church Budget

November 2, 2024

Psalm 34:17-18 says, “The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit”. What are you crying out to God about today? Is there something you came in today with on your heart that only God can help you with? If so, you are certainly in the right place. When it says that God hears and delivers us from all of our troubles, He means **all**. I have sat by students in my office who have lost loved ones and grieved with them. I have comforted close friends who have faced difficult, disappointing circumstances. I, myself, have been in deep disappointment from time to time when I looked at how much more I needed to do to accomplish my goals.

Still, God has said that when we cry out to Him, He will deliver us. It is so good to know that God is close to the brokenhearted. That gives me encouragement to know that I do not have to have it all together in order to come to Him; I can just come as I already am.

Today’s offering is for local church budget. Please prayerfully consider giving to support the ministry and mission of our church that points others to the Lord who hears them and delivers them.

Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission

November 9, 2024

Global Mission is the frontline mission arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through the use of wholistic ministry, Global Mission pioneers are bringing light to cities of the world, with a special focus on the 10/40 Window. Since Global Mission began three decades ago, we've reached many new people groups and entered new countries. "I Will Go" is the strategic plan of the Adventist church for 2020-2025.

There are missionaries working right now in places like Sri Lanka, Malawi, Indonesia, Cambodia, and veiled countries where preaching the gospel is against the law. There are many mission challenges, because in some places where there is no Adventist presence, it takes about two years of sharing the love of Jesus with non-Christians who live in these areas before they open their hearts to Christ.

Please give sacrificially to support these missionaries and pray for these missionaries and their families. If you feel called to be a missionary there are many opportunities to work in unreached people groups. Visit vividfaith.com to explore missionary opportunities.

We invite you to GO!

Go through prayer!
Go through giving!
Go through service!

Local Church Budget

November 16, 2024

One time a friend of mine came over to my house, and I wanted to bake a dessert for him. He had an allergy to one of the ingredients, so I hastily used a substitute that I was unsure of. If you have ever baked, you know that even changing one ingredient can change the taste, texture, and really the entire baked good if you're not careful. I learned, on that day, that this ingredient should not have been swapped out! Needless to say, tasting this dessert was not a pleasant experience.

Similarly, God's word gives us words of wisdom for us to follow, and Proverbs 1:5 says, "let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance".

What wise, Biblical knowledge have you learned lately? Have you taken the time to share it with someone? If you have not, take some time today or this next week to pass it along. Today's offering is for the local church budget. Let's continue to turn our church into a place where we can come together and grow in wisdom and the knowledge of God. The more we study and learn together, the better equipped we can be to meet the needs of those who are around us.

Combined Youth Ministries

November 23, 2024

Evangelism is defined as, “the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ.” Today’s offering for Combined Youth Ministries supports two evangelistic ministries of the Iowa-Missouri Conference; the Youth department and K-12 education. Youth ministries are Adventure and Pathfinder clubs, Camp Heritage, elementary schools, and Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Youth ministries are thriving and alive in Iowa and Missouri! Adventure clubs, Pathfinder clubs, schools, and summer camp enrollments testify to the significant role Youth Ministries plays in our Conference.

In the book, Child Guidance, page 493, it states, “The spiritual training should in no case be neglected. Let us teach our children the beautiful lessons of God’s Word, that through these they may gain a knowledge of Him.”

Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Thank you for supporting the spiritual development of our children with your offerings. Please include Combined Youth Ministries in your systematic giving. Together, through our financial support and the hours invested by teachers, camp, Adventure and Pathfinder staff, we will make an eternal difference in the lives of God’s children and ‘Spread the Gospel Message’ through the world!

Union Adventist University

November 30, 2024

As a teacher, my favorite lessons are the ones that my students take and apply in their real life. I teach communication, and it is so important that students understand the power of their words. Proverbs 18:21 tells us that, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” and helping my college students understand that and use their words for positive things is always so encouraging to see.

I once had a student who struggled to express herself. As the semester went on, and she had more opportunities and gained more knowledge as how to share more of herself in a positive way, her confidence increased and she was able to express more of what she was thinking. She learned how to speak life to others, and even to herself.

Who have you taken time to “speak life” into? That is, who have you paused to encourage, say a kind word to, or pray for?

Today’s offering is designated for Union Adventist University, formerly known as Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. We have teachers working across our Iowa-Missouri Conference and at Union Adventist University that bring a message of hope to the students they teach, serve, and encourage. Please give a generous offering to support this educational entity.