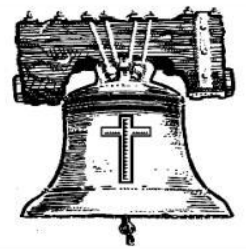


CENTRAL

Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

P E T E R S B U R G , I L L I N O I S

Hello Friends:

As this little newsletter article reaches you, we find ourselves in the middle of the Lenten Season and well on our way to Easter! **There are so many great "images" or "pictures" that God paints in our hearts and minds as we traverse this holy time of year.**

We are going through a period of darkness, yet the light is dawning! Darkness can symbolize or communicate ignorance, isolation, a coldness, even hopelessness. We need the light of God's love to shine on and shine through. His light represents truth, newness or renewal, and hope. We read in Matthew that there was darkness over all the land during the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. How thankful we are that at His resurrection an enduring light pierced through that seemingly insurmountable night! Isaiah helped to prepare us for this new reality many years before Jesus walked among us. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." (This is usually used as an Advent text, but it is appropriate to apply it ultimately to the death and Resurrection of our Lord!)

We are experiencing a great weight upon our shoulders, and yet relief is coming! Lent is a time to get in touch with our own sinfulness and/or brokenness. This is not a fun process but it is certainly necessary if we are to live in reality. If we think that we are somehow on a "moral high ground" over and above and/or superior to our fellow human beings, we are not living in reality. Paul is pretty clear that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Have we recognized or owned up to this tragic reality? Have we felt the weight of shame that comes from turning our back on the One who has created and provided for us through His immeasurable love? Lent is a time to revisit this with self-awareness and with humility. Lent is a time to genuinely grieve our sins, leading us to repentance. We need to feel the weight on our shoulders or on our chests, so that when Easter comes, we feel the strong and mighty hands of the resurrected Lord lifting and casting those burdens into the abyss, raising us up so that we might rejoice, and dance, and sing in celebration! Relief is coming!

We have experienced the grief of death, yet a promise of true life has been given! Change, loss, grief, and death are very much a part of the human condition. We have all been there and felt that pain. I remember as a child thinking quite a bit more about death and loss than a lot of children my age, due to the fact that my twin sister, Rachel Ann Edgecombe, died around 6 hours after she was born (we were significantly pre-mature). Do I have any memory of Rachel? Of course not. Did I spend quite a bit of time dreaming about what might have been? Absolutely! Did I question why I had the chance to live and Rachel did not? Absolutely! Did I feel that I was not quite complete without my sister to grow up alongside me? Absolutely! Death is a part of our experience, but because of the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter, we know that death will not be part of our experience forever. In Christ, life conquers death. I truly believe that one day I will see Jesus face to face, and I will even get to be with my sister again.



I'll close with a couple verses from one of my favorite hymns, *Go to Dark Gethsemane* – 1825:

*Calvary's mournful mountain climb there adoring at His feet. Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" Hear the cry: Learn of Jesus Christ to die.
Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay. All is solitude
and gloom, who hath taken Him away? Christ is risen! He meets our eyes:
Savior, teach us so to rise!*

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on February 15, 2024



- Bank Balance as of January 31, 2024: \$76,651.64.
- February Home Communion was delivered to 6 individuals.
- **MOTION:** That Session sets Sunday, May 19, 2024 as “Presbyterian Homecoming Sunday”. Pastor Ryan will put together a Homecoming Committee. Motion by Jane Stephenson, seconded by Steve Territo. **Motion Passed. APPROVED.**
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for January:
 - Two home visits, one hospital visit, and numerous telephone calls.
 - Cheered on Zane Edgecombe and Ethan Satorius as they played basketball against each other in Lincoln.
 - Hosted Lunch with Pastor Ryan—about 20 in attendance.
 - Attended PORTA Ministerial activities.
 - Continues weekly Bible Study.
 - Attended regular Food Pantry meetings.

Committee News

Administration

Financial

- Income year to date is \$1,522.64 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$1,407.49. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$168.78 higher than our expenses.
- Treasurer’s report, General, MMF and Obligated Funds were reviewed.
- Designated and Endowment Funds were reviewed.
 - Janene Tice presented her Annual Report of the checking account for the Endowment Fund.
 - DuWayne Reichart made a presentation to the Committee on our Edward Jones account. Within the next year DuWayne will be retiring and managing our account will be transferred to his son, Brandon.
- Arrangements were made with DuWayne to change over to Chris Ford as primary fund contact and Rhonda Plaeger having access as Treasurer.
- 2024 CPC budget was presented and will be included in the Annual Report
- Rebecca Rowe and John Godbey will be completing the financial audit for 2023

Building

- Americall in Springfield and DIS Tech in Tallula are giving us quotes for a new phone system. It will be a VOIP system with all new phones. DIS Tech is also providing us with a quote to monitor our computer system remotely as well as an hourly price to do any needed repairs.

Submitted by Chairperson, Steven Territo

Catechism Corner

Catechism Corner From *κατηχέω*, ("to teach orally")

I thought it might be useful for us to review and reflect a little each month from a catechism used by the PCUSA. Hopefully this will serve a purpose in helping us think deeper about our faith and even inspire us towards a greater pursuit of Christian Theology grounded in Holy Scripture. I pray you find this new section in the newsletter helpful. I enjoy talking theology so come by the church if you have questions or thoughts about these!

The Study Catechism: Full Version Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Question 39: How did Jesus Christ fulfill the office of prophet?

He was God's Word to a dying and sinful world; He embodied the love He proclaimed. His life, death and resurrection became the great "Yes" that continues to be spoken despite how often we have said "No". When we receive this Word by faith, Christ himself enters our hearts, that He may dwell in us forever, and we in Him.

Acts 3:20-22 "That He may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus. Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever He tells you. And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.'"

John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known."

Question 40: How did Jesus Christ fulfill the office of priest?

He was the Lamb of God that took away the sin of the world; He became our priest and sacrifice in one. Confronted by our hopelessness in sin and death, Christ interceded by offering Himself—His entire person and work—in order to reconcile us to God.

Hebrews 4:14 "Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession."

John 1:29 Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

Question 41: How did Jesus Christ fulfill the office of king?

He was the Lord who took the form of a servant; He perfected royal power in weakness. With no sword but the sword of righteousness, and no power but the power of love, Christ defeated sin, evil and death by reigning from the cross.

John 19:19 "Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'"

Philippians 2:5-8 "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."

Quotation Station

(Thoughts on “The Resurrection”)

“The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God’s presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won’t stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!”

--Clarence W. Hall

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

--Martin Luther

“Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of God’s new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord’s Prayer is about.”

--N. T. Wright

“A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me.”

--Andrew Murray

“You are not suffering from anything that a good resurrection can’t fix.

--D. A. Carson

Monthly Riddle/Joke

Tell Pastor Ryan the answer to this riddle/joke and win a prize! “**What do rabbits say before they eat?**” (Don’t Google the answer, as that would be cheating!)

Time Change: March 10, 2024



Time Change Song

God of sleep, and God of slumber,
Help us not be late, we ask:
Changing clocks one forward number,
May we not forget this task.
Choir directors, preachers, teachers
all will bless your holy name.

Community Lenten Gatherings

Men and women of our community will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings throughout Lent for fellowship and study. The Men’s Breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m., followed by a gospel-centered devotion focusing on the purpose of the season, and dismissal by 7:45. Women begin with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and then a service starting at 10:00.

The Women will meet at Central on March 13; and Central will host the March 27 Men’s Breakfast. Please contact Coleen Janssen (women) or Dave Long (men) to find out how you can help! The remaining schedule is as follows:

	<u>Women:</u>
March 6	St. Paul Evangelical Free Church
March 13	Central Presbyterian Church
March 20	First Baptist Church
March 27	First Christian Church

<u>Men:</u>
United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church
St. Peter Catholic Church
Central Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday/Lilies

One of the highlights of our Easter Sunday service is seeing the beautiful Easter lilies donated in honor or in memory of our loved ones. If you would like to participate in this wonderful symbol of life everlasting, please complete a form (one for each Easter lily), which you will find on the table in the Narthex or later in this Chimes edition, and return it with a check written to Central Presbyterian Church in the amount of **\$20.00**, to the church office no later than noon, **Monday, March 11, 2024**. If it is inconvenient for you to make it into the church, you will find a form at the end of this newsletter that you can complete and mail to the church along with your check. The form and money **MUST** be in the church office no later than **Monday, March 11, 2024**. After that date, there is no guarantee we can order more Easter lilies.

If you prefer to purchase your lily elsewhere, feel free to do so, but still return the form so that the names can be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin. If you purchase your own Easter lily, please deliver to the church no later than Saturday morning, **March 30, 2024**. Thank you.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Palm Sunday is March 24. We will be celebrating this holiday with our Palm Sunday Breakfast before church from 9:30 to 10:15. Please join us for delicious foods and fellowship on this very special day in our Christian faith. The menu consists of assorted egg casseroles, muffins, fresh fruit, juice and coffee. Even if you don't wish to eat, please come and visit over a cup of coffee or juice. A sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the Narthex. Freewill donations will be accepted and will be added to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that ends on Easter Sunday. We hope you will plan to join us for this fellowship.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

A Maundy Thursday communion service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, at Central Presbyterian Church. This service of remembrance focuses on the night Jesus gave to his disciples the gift of The Lord's Supper (also called The Last Supper, Eucharist, and Communion) and begins the movement toward the cross of Good Friday. This is both a somber and a celebratory event: somber in respect of the sacrifice made by Christ, and celebratory in response to the gift received by all his disciples.



Easter Sunday Worship Service

Resurrection Sunday Worship service will be Sunday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable.

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The offering will be collected through Easter Sunday. Special offering envelopes are available in the church pews and on the table in the Narthex.

Our Church Auditors

At the end of each year and upon completion of the Annual Report, the financial records of Central Presbyterian Church are audited for completion and accuracy. For several years, John Godbey and Rebecca Rowe have agreed to volunteer their time to take on the task. The records for 2023 were audited on Wednesday, February 21. Central is very grateful to John and Rebecca!



Annual Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, February 25, our Annual Congregational Meeting was held following worship for the purpose of reviewing the 2023 Annual Report. Rev. Charles Goodman was present as Moderator, along with Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session. Thanks to all who attended. If you did not receive a copy of the Annual Report, you may obtain one from the church office.



Keep Connected!

Pastor Ryan Edgecombe is in the church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you wish to make an appointment to visit with him, please call the church office at 217-632-2651. You may also call or text his cell phone: 217-972-4859.

Members are encouraged to continue to stay connected with the church family. If you have an emergency or are in need of assistance from Central, please contact:

Church Office, 217-632-2651, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; or leave a message anytime.
Pastor Ryan Edgecombe, 217-972-4859
Marilyn Montgomery, Deacon Chair, 217-341-5361
Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session, 217-341-7599

Another option for keeping connected is through the use of the **Central Presbyterian Prayer Chain** on Facebook. Group prayer is so powerful. The congregation is encouraged to reach out with any prayer request—nothing is too trivial! The posts are seen only by group members. If you are a Facebook user but not yet a group member, look us up and join today!

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the April, 2024 *Chimes* submitted to the church office no later than **Friday, March 22**. A *Microsoft Word file* attached to an email is the preferred method of submission. **Please reference “Chimes article” in the subject line.** Please email the church with any suggestions as to what you may want to see in the *Chimes*. Our email address is office@central-pres.org.

Menard County Food Pantry

The Menard County Food Pantry is planning monthly food drives with the local churches and civic organizations on the first Sunday of each month. The committee is asking for specific items for each month. For **March**, they are collecting **Meat** (“**Meat the Need!**”) Hamburger Helper, beef stew, canned meat, pork n beans; in **April**, they will be collecting **canned vegetables** (“**Eat Your Veggies!**”). Donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex. If more information is needed, contact Lindsay Wilken, FSS Coordinator.

Diaper Bank Needs

The Diaper Bank is currently stocked with most sizes of diapers and baby wipes, as well as adult briefs and pads. Needed items at this time are sizes 1-4 diapers and pull-ups. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.

Health Notes: *submitted by Alice Studzinski*

March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

In multiple sclerosis (MS), damage to the myelin coating around the nerve fibers in the central nervous system (CNS) and to the nerve fibers themselves interferes with the transmission of nerve signals between the brain, spinal cord and the rest of the body. Disrupted nerve signals cause the symptoms of MS, which vary from one person to another and over time for any given individual, depending on where and when the damage occurs.

MS symptoms are variable and unpredictable. No two people have exactly the same symptoms, and each person’s symptoms can change or fluctuate over time. Fatigue occurs in about 80 percent of people. Other symptoms include walking difficulties, spasticity, vision problems, cognitive and emotional changes, depression, bowel and bladder problems, pain and itching, weakness, numbness and tingling, and MS Hug (a squeezing sensation around the torso that feels like a blood pressure cuff when it tightens).

Treating MS requires comprehensive and interdisciplinary care including medications, rehabilitation, and managing relapses. Complementary and alternative medicines that are used by some patients include vitamins, herbs, acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, and exercise.

One way to get involved in raising funds and awareness for MS is to participate in one of the annual Walk MS events sponsored by the National MS Society. Locally, the Walk MS : **Peoria 2024 event will take place on Sunday, April 21.**

<i>Worship Attendance</i>			
February 4	42	February 18	35
February 11	37	February 25	41
Average Worship Attendance: 38			

Scenes from Central

Sunday School Class



Pastor Ryan visits Alia!



Sunday, February 4



Sunday, February 11



Sunday, February 18



Sunday, February 25



Easter Bunny Treats

Taste of Home

“Our whole family has fun making these bunny-riffic treats together. They are just so cute.” Holly Jost, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Ingredients

1/3 cup vanilla frosting
36 miniature marshmallows
36 large marshmallows
Red and pink heart-shaped decorating sprinkles

Small black nonpareils
White jimmies
Pink colored sugar



Instructions

1. Place frosting in piping bag. For each bunny cut 2 miniature marshmallows in half and use frosting to attach them to 1 large marshmallow to form arms and legs.
2. For the face, attach 2 miniature marshmallow halves for cheeks. Use the heart-shaped sprinkles, black nonpareils and white jimmies to form nose, whiskers and eyes.
3. For the ears, cut 1 large marshmallow in half diagonally. Dip each sticky side in colored sugar and use frosting to attach the ears to the top of the large marshmallow. Use frosting to connect the 2 large marshmallows, let stand until dry.

Total Time: Prep/Total Time: 15 min. Yield: 1 dozen

Deviled Egg Chicks

Ingredients

12 large eggs, hard boiled and peeled
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1-1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
1 sm. carrot, peeled & sliced into rings

1/4 tsp garlic powder
1/8 tsp. salt
6 black olives



Directions

1. Peel 12 hard-boiled eggs. With a sharp knife, slice off a very thin layer from the base of the egg—this will give it a flat surface to stand on a platter. Cut off a generous top third of the egg. Squeeze around the egg base gently to loosen the yolk and it should pop right out. Keep the lids paired with their bases.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, combine 12 cooked yolks and mash well with a fork. Add 1/3 cup mayonnaise, 1-1/2 tsp. Dijon (or add to taste); 1/4 tsp. garlic powder and 1/8 tsp. salt, or season to taste. Mash everything together until smooth. Transfer mixture to Ziploc or pastry bag and pipe generously into egg bases. Place top 1/3 back over the base and press down slightly to adhere.
3. For the eyes, poke through an olive with a plastic straw several times then gently squeeze down the straw and the little circles of olives will pop right out. For the beaks, thinly slice a few rings of carrot and cut each ring into sixths. Insert 2 olive spots for eyes and 2 carrot wedges for the beak. Set chicks on a platter and garnish with fresh parsley or dill to give them that “free range” feel.

Happy Birthday!

Octogenarians

March 15	JoAnn Morris	Countryside Est., 19080 Sunny Acres Rd., Apt. 210 Petersburg, IL 62675	
March 1	Priscilla Reynolds	March 17	Christopher Carter
March 2	Kayla Gerdes	March 22	Patrik Claussen
March 2	Ken Morris	March 23	Liah Roberts
March 6	Kristina Hutton	March 24	Janet Scheina
March 10	Seth Edgecombe	March 27	Austin Godbey
March 11	Phil Deverman	March 28	Amalie McLin
March 12	Gary Gerdes		

Happy Anniversary!

March 9	Ken & Jinnie Morris	March 26	Marion & Dee Ring
March 18	Dave & Diane Ludington		



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, March 3	David Drake	Marilyn Montgomery	Marilyn Montgomery
Sunday, March 10	Dave Long	Camilla Long	
Sunday, March 17	Jane Stephenson	Linda Claussen	
Sunday, March 24	Dan Stephenson	Ron Sanert	
Palm Sunday			
Thursday, March 28	TBD	TBD	TBD
Maundy Thursday			
Sunday, March 31	Rebecca Rowe	Jan Costello	Jan Costello
Easter			

If you cannot fulfill your duty as liturgist or usher/greeter, please find someone to take your place. Also, let the church office know of the changes as soon as possible.



Members:

Linda Claussen
Emma Lou Denton
Steve Hollis
Ben Kinningham

Alia Montgomery
Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Bob Sampson

Mary Rose Satorius
Judy Stahl
Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Jim Allen (P. & M. Montgomery's cousin)
Lois Bastien (D. & C. Long's friend)
Raeleigh Bess (P. & M. Montgomery's great niece)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)
Judy Boutelle (Rev. J. Boutelle's wife)
Family of Jane Claussen (P. Claussen's mother)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Mike Damler (J. Scheina's friend)
Kay Daniel
Jim Daugherty (Former Boy Scout Leader affiliated w/CPC)
Barb Deihl (L. Williams' cousin)
Bill Dennis (Pastor.Ryan's friend)
Michelle Dorsey (L. Williams' granddaughter)
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)
Bethany Edgcombe (Pastor Ryan's wife)
Ellen (W. Carter's friend)
Katie Embrey (Phyllis Hunsaker's granddaughter)
Mark Goeringer
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Janet (J. Gamage's sister)
Jessie Heinz (C. Godbey's sister-in-law)
Jimmie (R. Rowe's friend)

Andrew Kelso (C. Godbey's nephew)
Cade Leesman (D. & C. Long's friend)
Manny Martinez (D. Long's friend)
Joe Mehr
Karen Myers (Pastor. Ryan's cousin)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Joy Rogerson (J. Gamage's sister)
Kevin Scarlett (B. Edgcombe's uncle)
Melissa Schaaque (S. Territo's sister)
Dawn Schafer (S. Schafer's daughter-in-law)
Richard Schafer (S. Schafer's husband)
Family of Bradford Sherwood
Kay Siegrist (friend of Linda Williams)
Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
Ted & Arlyn Tisdale (E.L. Denton's friend)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Lauren Woodley (J. Satorius' friend J.D. Proehl's granddaughter)
Family of Carla Zawouski (Pastor Ryan's friend)

Please pray for all we know who are homebound, residing in care facilities, undergoing surgery or medical treatment, serving in the military or who are away from their family and friends.

In Our Communities and In Our World:

All who are affected by COVID-19
Pray for racial equality
Peace between nation neighbors
Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

Displaced peoples in the world
Pray for the people who are affected by the
Ukraine/Russian conflict
Pray for our country

Please continue to keep our healthcare workers and those in the educational field in our prayers. They have been a guiding light to all of us in their courage and dedication to keeping us safe and helping the future generation. Thank You!

Please keep the church office informed of members or friends that need to be placed on or removed from our prayer list by sending an email to: office@central-pres.org. or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.

Easter Lilies Order Form

One of the highlights of our Easter Sunday service is seeing the beautiful Easter lilies donated in honor or in memory of our loved ones. If you would like to participate in this wonderful symbol of life everlasting, please complete the form below and return it, with a check written to Central Presbyterian Church in the amount of **\$20.00**, to the church office by noon, **Monday, March 11, 2024**.

If you want to purchase your lily elsewhere, please feel free to do so, but still return the form below so that we may include the names in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Thank you.

Please use a separate form for each lily, but you can write one check for multiples.

- Please print below the name(s) of the person(s) to be honored or remembered **exactly as you wish it to appear in the church bulletin**.

Please HONOR _____

OR

REMEMBER (a deceased loved one) _____

- Please print below the name(s) of the person(s) donating the lily exactly as you wish it to appear in the church bulletin. If you donated in the past and want the same bulletin entry used, write **“SAME AS BEFORE”** on the line below.
-

Please put an **X** by your choice below.

____ My check to Central Presbyterian Church is attached for \$_____ (\$20.00).

OR

____ *I will bring my own lily to the church on Saturday morning, **March 30, 2024**.*

