Let's Not Forget

Has anyone realized that this is Memorial Day Weekend? Some of you. A few of you need reminding what day of the week it is, right? Memorial Day typically starts the summer off for us. What's typical these days?

Americans love Memorial Day in part because it gives most of us a three-day weekend. That used to be a big deal, but we have been on a three-month, three-day weekend, and the natives are restless! But I want to take just a moment at this time in our worship so we might never forget the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day, celebrated on the last Monday of May, was first started to commemorate fallen Union soldiers that died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, it had grown to honor all Americans *killed* in all wars. Thus, we *thank* our living veterans on Veterans Day in November and *honor* our deceased veterans on Memorial Day in May.

Memorial Day developed from the early days into a day for general expressions of memory for deceased relatives, whether they had served in the military or not. Families would go to gravesites of passed loved ones to leave flowers to memorialize that person. So, the day is supposed to be a day of remembering and honoring those that have gone before us. Let's not forget the sacrifices they gave for us.

Speaking of sacrifices, have you ever considered that all that you enjoy here at YOUR CHURCH NAME is due to those who went before us? TELL BRIEFLY THE STORY OF YOUR BEGINNING AND THE SACRIFICES MADE THROUGH THE YEARS. Those people gave freely and sacrificially so that YOUR CHURCH NAME could be the lighthouse for the Good News we have become. Let's not forget that.

As we take up the offering this Memorial Day weekend, I want to encourage you to give a gift that would be worthy of those that have gone before us. Let your gift be a memorial to their faith. Let your gift help pave the way for future generations to be impacted by YOUR CHURCH NAME. The best way to not forget is to give in the same manner as those we memorialize.