



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

2017 LEADER'S GUIDE

APRIL 17 - JUNE 4

# Building a Life of Faith





# WHAT'S IN A LEADER'S GUIDE?

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## This tool was created for you.

You have likely received a shipment of Offering materials. These are to help your church members learn and understand the work supported by their gifts and motivate them to give. Please distribute these items and help us share this important message.

This guide also includes examples of effective ways to promote and celebrate the Pentecost Offering. But don't feel limited! Your enthusiasm and creativity are invaluable to this cause.

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# THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START—A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

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Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as a bringer of new life with an Offering intended to nurture the faith of those newest among us.

As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a churchwide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in the promise of the Holy Spirit—which is **“for you, for your children, and for all . . .”** —Acts 2:39.

## QUICK FACTS

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- Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.
- The first Presbyterian Youth Triennium was held in 1980.
- The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

## HISTORY

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Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$11 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God’s family. We believe we are called to do even more—to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.



# YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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## CONGREGATIONAL INITIATIVES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

**40% of the Pentecost Offering remains with your congregation** to support ministries with children and youth in your church and local community. Churches have used these funds to:

- » Run an affordable day care for young teen mothers to enable them to complete their education.
- » Identify and train local leaders for participation in the **“Educate a Child: Transform the World”** national initiative.
- » Conduct workshops and presentations, and develop resources to end child sex and labor trafficking.
- » Help promote the National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths.
- » Create web and print resources to address systemic issues that impact children, such as poverty, health, and consumerism.
- » Initiate local, afterschool or summer programs for latchkey children.

*See page 5 to learn how other congregations have been inspired to use their portion of the Pentecost Offering.*



## SERVING COMMUNITIES (YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS)

**25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) opportunities.** Your gifts to the Offering have helped this ministry area to:

- » Train and equip volunteers to engage in mission at more than 21 sites in the U.S. and around the world.
- » Provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.
- » Reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend.
- » Provide funds for retreats, speakers, and counseling to help YAVs discern God’s call.



# YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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## GUIDING YOUTH (YOUTH MINISTRIES)

**25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12–18,** and those called to accompany them.

Your gifts to the Offering helped this ministry area to:

- » Fund the design of a new Christian Formation endeavor called *The Senior Project*. This project offers a path and plan for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.
- » Provide a grant to the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association—a professional association for paid and volunteer adult youth leaders seeking to serve God in their work with young people. **pywa.org**
- » Fund the design and translation of Spanish Language Quicksheets.
- » Create new Quicksheets—free, downloadable resources for youth ministry, covering a wide variety of relevant, insightful topics. **presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youthministry**
- » Support the planning of Faith in 3D 2017—a one-of-a-kind event for middle and high school youth over the MLK weekend—set for January 13-16, 2017. **faithin3d.org**
- » Begin planning for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.



## CHILD ADVOCACY

**10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative,** which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly (2014). The goal of this initiative is to motivate and inspire Presbyterians to better the lives of one million children by 2020.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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## IDEAS FROM OUR CONGREGATIONS

Inspire your congregation to give by sharing some of the ways other churches have used their 40% of the Pentecost Offering on behalf of children, youth, and young adults in their communities:

### ASSISTING THE FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AT RISK

- » Providing financial support to local homeless shelters.
- » Operating an affordable day care for teen mothers to assist them in completing their education.
- » Creating, promoting, and expanding services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting due to the absence of parents.

### SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

- » Providing vouchers for new school shoes.
- » Collecting and providing school supplies.
- » Providing training for volunteers for the Child and Youth Protection Policy.

### GROWING MISSION WORK WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- » Contributing to the congregation's own children and youth fund.
- » Supporting college outreach ministries.
- » Providing scholarships to Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- » Supporting the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program within the local presbytery.



## MINISTERING TO CHILDREN AND AT-RISK TEENS

- » Contributing and volunteering at an affordable day care ministry for teen parents.
- » Contributing to a school backpack program so low-income children get the nutritious foods they need when school is not in session.
- » Supporting a domestic violence shelter, which empowers victims and their families to break the cycle of domestic violence by providing shelter and ongoing support services to victims, as well as public awareness and prevention programs.
- » Providing clothes and necessities to children and youth of low-income families at Christmas.
- » Contributing to a center for children of abused spouses.
- » Purchasing Bibles for vacation Bible School students.
- » Supporting a presbytery summer camp.
- » Offering an after-school bible study that provides transportation, devotionals, recreational time, and snacks.

## PROVIDING FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- » Providing assistance to teen pregnancy resource centers.
- » Supporting or creating a program that packages nutritious, life-saving meals for starving or malnourished children and their families in developing countries and the United States.
- » Contributing funds to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program of the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support response efforts for disasters in the United States.



# PROMOTING THE OFFERING

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## BEFORE THE OFFERING

**PLAN:** Life is easier when a plan is in place. If you make arrangements ahead of time, promotion will go more smoothly, and you'll make the most of every opportunity to motivate your congregation to share and support the Pentecost Offering.

- **Set dates** with your session. Congregations commonly receive the Offering on Pentecost Sunday (June 4) or other youth-focused Sundays (such as Youth in the Church and World on August 20), or during Vacation Bible School.
- **Commit to a goal** with the session—one higher than the total raised last year—and discuss ideas on how to use your congregation's portion (40%).
- **Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service** 800-524-2612 or [pds@pcusa.org](mailto:pds@pcusa.org) to order any additional materials you may need.
- **Locate and open** the shipment of materials you received. Display the Pentecost poster in a prominent place within your church. Find other tools to help with developing your interpretation plan by reviewing the outline of available resources on page 14.
- **Share** "Ways to Involve Children and Youth" with your Christian education and worship committees. [pcusa.org/resource/waysinvolve-children-and-youth-pentecost-offering](https://pcusa.org/resource/waysinvolve-children-and-youth-pentecost-offering)
- **Ask young people to present** Minutes for Mission from the pulpit. Note the bulletins feature unique messages that expand on specific Minutes for Mission (pages 10 - 13, feel free to pair as you like).
- **Ask your pastor** about sending a promotional email or letter to each person in your congregation. Be sure to include the link to the Pentecost Offering website ([presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](https://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- **Use** the curriculum from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to get people involved and to give examples of how the Mission Agency uses some of its fund. [specialofferings.pcusa.org/pgcdownload](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pgcdownload)

**BE CREATIVE:** Though we've laid out a plan for you, your creativity and voice is an important part of this process. We'll never know your congregation the way you do. What kind of activities do they love?

- **Ask for suggestions** from the youth and young adults in your congregation about how to use the 40% kept by your congregation.
- **Think about how you can integrate** the worship resources into your service holistically rather than treating them as add-ons. Doing this emphasizes the role our witness in the world plays in our own discipleship.
- **Create a plan** for involving children and youth in promoting the Offering through a skit or other worship activity. One option is having your youth choose one of the Pentecost-supported gifts from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog to sponsor, and present it to the congregation along with how they think their gift will make a difference for others.

You can find additional resources to help you plan your Offering interpretation on page 14.





# PROMOTING THE OFFERING

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## DURING THE OFFERING

- Hang the Offering poster in a prominent location, if you have not already created a display.
- Place a folded insert in the Sunday bulletin every week. There are two inserts (*Christ at work in our youth and Why we give*) this year. Feel free to use the same bulletin for multiple weeks if you are promoting all month.
- Put Offering envelopes in pew racks every week.
- Present Minutes for Mission, and encourage your members to give generously, with reminders of the goal you set with the session (pages 10-13).
- Use the worship resources found on our website, and focus on the Offering in a sermon.
- Involve children and youth—ask them to hand out bulletin inserts as an alternative to placing them in pews.
- Promote the Offering on your church's Facebook page with the Pentecost cover photo.
- Use the provided art, graphics, and content in your church newsletter, blog, or website.
- Enclose the brochure/mailer in your church mailing, along with a letter from the church pastor. This provides members who might have missed the Offering collection a chance to support the ministry. Be sure to include the link to the Pentecost Offering website ([presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)), so members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- Ask your pastor about sending a reminder email or letter to each person in your congregation, encouraging generous support. (Surveys show this makes a significant difference in congregant giving.)

## THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE



Through your congregation



Text YOUNG to 20222 to give \$10




[presbyterianmission.org/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/pentecost)





# PROMOTING THE OFFERING

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## AFTER THE OFFERING

 **Thank your congregation** for their generous gifts and share the total raised. Celebrate meeting or exceeding your original goal! Remind them of the causes they have supported: Ministries with Youth, Young Adult Volunteers, and advocacy and education for children at risk.


 **Keep 40% of the Offering** for your congregation's use on behalf of local, youth-focused ministries and programs. See page 5 for ideas, and share how the retained portion will be used.


 **Send in the remaining 60%** as your congregation's offering. At the direction of the 220th General Assembly (2012), congregations are encouraged to remit Pentecost gifts directly to the Presbyterian Mission Agency, with "Pentecost Offering" on the memo line.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

*The Agency will record and notify presbyteries of congregational donations.*

Congregations may continue to remit to their normal receiving agency if so desired.

 **Share your stories with us!** We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Pentecost Offering.

 **Stay up-to-date on all things Special Offerings** by subscribing to the Special Offerings **blog**, "liking" the Special Offerings **Facebook** page, or following Special Offerings on **Twitter**. Update your congregation throughout the year on how the money is being used.

**BLOG** | [pcusa.org/blogs/Daily\\_Offerings](http://pcusa.org/blogs/Daily_Offerings)

**TWITTER** | [twitter.com/pcusa\\_so](https://twitter.com/pcusa_so)

**FACEBOOK** | [facebook.com/specialofferings](https://facebook.com/specialofferings)



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### Creating Hope for Today and Tomorrow: Pentecost Offering Helps Teen Mothers and Their Children Flourish

**As a high school student, Lily Jones had a beautiful 18-month-old daughter and a strong desire to finish school.**

Lily knew the importance of education to her future and that of her daughter Sophia, but day care posed a problem. Family had been helpful caring for Sophia, but they could no longer provide the day care Sophia needed. In Ligonier, Indiana, a town with a population of 4,400, child care choices are limited, particularly for those in challenging financial circumstances.

Fortunately, Lighthouse Ministry Daycare, a provider housed in and supported by Ligonier's First Presbyterian Church, had a spot for Sophia.

Parents like Lily and children like Sophia are top concerns for Lighthouse. "Our first priority is to provide child care so teen parents can get through high school," says Rachel Bales-Case, director of Lighthouse. Sophia and most of her 20 classmates at Lighthouse receive care at a reduced cost. Lighthouse serves not only children whose parents are students, but also a number of children whose parents work at low-wage jobs.

One of the funding sources of Lighthouse is the Pentecost Offering that First Presbyterian receives each year. This Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) church-wide offering serves youth, young adults, and at-risk children. Congregations retain 40 percent of the Offering for local causes, while 60 percent is sent to the national church to support Young Adult Volunteers, ministries with youth, and work on behalf of children at risk.

Thanks in part to the generosity of First Presbyterian and other local supporters, the future looks bright for Sophia and Lily. Sophie is now four and is flourishing in the preschool

curriculum that Lighthouse teaches. Lily is enrolled in college studying to be a teacher when she graduates. She works at her old high school as an assistant for special-needs students and has two other part-time jobs. She is also a board member at Lighthouse.

Without Lighthouse, finishing high school would have been challenging for Lily, and college likely would have been unthinkable. She is grateful for the opportunities she has received and for a safe and nurturing place for Sophia to stay during the day. "You know and trust the people there at the church," she says.

John Lersch, pastor of First Presbyterian, considers Lighthouse a ministry of the church, and he notes the congregation's support of Lighthouse, which started in 2008, is indicative of its concern for others.

"In this church, the people have good hearts," John shares. "It is not just about ourselves. It's about others. That is the sign of a healthy church."

First Presbyterian's Pentecost Offering is another example of its good-heartedness. Through the Offering, the church helps youth, young adults, and at-risk children in its own community and also reaches out across the country through ministries of the national church that serve children, youth, and young adults.

**Please give generously to this Offering, and support the future of our young people.**

#### **Let Us Pray**

Caring God, we pray for teen mothers and for their children. Grant them lives filled with hope and promise. Help us to reach out to them and extend the embrace of your loving arms. **Amen.**



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### Extending the Spirit of the Season: Congregation Sees the Holy Spirit at Work Through the Pentecost Offering

**At Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, worshipers on Pentecost Sunday are urged to seek a Spirit-filled common life that will permeate the congregation's mission and ministries.**

"Pentecost is a big part of our church's identity," says Laura Neely, Parkway's associate pastor. On Pentecost Sunday, they rejoice in the Holy Spirit's coming, and after worship, the celebration continues with a Texas-style barbecue. Beyond the Offering, "Pentecost red" is a favorite color for shirts and other church materials. Red carpet occupies the center of the church as a reminder of the Spirit.

In addition to Pentecost imagery, Parkway's ongoing recognition of the Offering is another tangible reminder that extends beyond the seasonal celebration. The congregation sees the ministries the Offering supports as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's work.

The youth group has been one of the more visible supporters of the Pentecost Offering at Parkway. In 2014, a video by Parkway youth promoting the Offering won first place in a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) video contest. The youth chose scholarships to the 2016 Youth Triennium from among the prize options. Triennium is one of the national ministries that benefit from the Offering.

"[Triennium was] an amazing experience," says Elizabeth Fryer, one of two Parkway youth who attended. "The most meaningful experience would probably be in our small groups when we were talking about the Good Samaritan. We looked at the perspective on how we stereotype people. That was a different twist I had not seen before."

Triennium was "the best experience of my life," says Jacob Beavers, another Parkway youth. "I am definitely going to bring some things back to the church." His goal, he says, is "just to spread the love like I see it being spread here."

"Triennium is a leadership development opportunity," Neely says. "It's a chance to develop leaders for the church—not just ordained leaders, but all kinds of leaders."

At Parkway, members also have seen how the Young Adult Volunteer Program, another Pentecost Offering recipient, can develop future church leaders. "One of our young women, Karen Ware Jackson, served as a YAV in Hollywood, then went to seminary and now serves as a pastor," Neely says. She added that Jackson's experience with the YAV program not only changed her life, but also reinforced the congregation's support for nurturing young adults.

Sixty percent of your Pentecost Offering gifts go to our national church for ministries that encourage, develop, and support our youth and young adults and address the needs of at-risk children. Congregations retain the other 40 percent for local ministries that serve people in the first third of life. Parkway has used its retained share of the Offering to help a local shelter provide emergency and transitional housing for homeless women and children. It has also helped its presbytery's camp rebuild after flooding.

"Pentecost Sunday comes just once a year," Neely says, "but its impact definitely filters through our ministry the rest of the year, especially with the connection with the Pentecost Offering."

**Please give generously to this Offering, and support the future of our young people.**

#### Let Us Pray

Empowering God, Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the Spirit's power to transform lives. Help each of us to hear the Spirit's call every day of our lives. May we follow that call into a world of need. **Amen.**



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### Young Adult Volunteers: Serving Others Opens Eyes to the Church's Relevance in Our World

**Sitting on a city bus in Washington, DC, with the plight of homeless people weighing heavily on him, Andy Thomas experienced a homecoming of faith.**

This Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) had just attended a memorial service for the 41 homeless people who had died in the nation's capital in 2015. Andy and others had marched through the streets with signs bearing their names. After the service ended, his fellow YAV Lynette decided to participate in an overnight vigil outside a government building in honor of those who had perished. Andy didn't stay, but he gave her his beanie to help keep her warm and headed home on the bus.

He knew Lynette would be safe, but he felt the need to pray for her and for "the well-being of every soul who doesn't have a place to call home." As he prayed, tears streamed down his face. "And for the first time in my life," he says, "I had this overwhelming feeling that the Holy Spirit was with me."

The son of a Presbyterian pastor, Andy grew up going to church, but like many others, he drifted away as a teenager. While he continued to respect his parents and the congregation where he was raised, he felt the institutional church lacked the sense of community and relevance his heart craved.

After college, he left his native Arizona for Oregon, hoping to land a job with a non-profit organization to work for "positive change." No career opportunity came his way, and after a year of waiting tables in Portland, he considered his mother's suggestion that he apply to the YAV program. He had a desire to serve but was unsure about working in a church context. "I didn't want to spend a year with church people," he admits. Nevertheless, he applied to be a YAV and accepted the offer to serve in Washington, DC.

His attitude began to change when he arrived at Church of the Pilgrims, a Presbyterian congregation there. The diverse congregation seemed to embrace the message on its front door: "All Are Welcome," and he admired how members built connections with one another and with the surrounding inner-city community.

Andy and other YAVs joined with the congregation in serving the neighborhood and amplifying the concerns of those whose voices often go unheard. Though reluctant at first, he soon found himself participating with his fellow YAVs in daily spiritual practices of prayer, Bible study, and theological reflection. His experience at Pilgrims and with his YAV group led this former church skeptic toward his encounter with God on that city bus.

Andy is among thousands of YAVs whose lives have been forever changed by their year of service. Through your gifts to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to change lives and prepare leaders. Sixty percent of the Offering goes to the YAV program and other national causes that serve youth, young adults, and children at risk. Forty percent is retained by our congregation for local ministries that empower individuals in this crucial first third of life.

**Please give generously to this Offering, and support the future of our young people.**

#### Let Us Pray

Empowering God, Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the Spirit's power to transform lives. Help each of us to hear the Spirit's call every day of our lives. May we follow that call into a world of need. **Amen.**





## MINUTE FOR MISSION

### Focusing on the First Third of Life: Ministries Supported by the Pentecost Offering Reach People During This Critical Stage

**Many congregations realize how important Christian formation is during the first third of life—from childhood through young adulthood.**

Children, youth, and young adults develop their spiritual moorings through supportive communities, caring mentors, and faith-related nurture and service. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering support our congregation's efforts of faith formation in the first third of life, with 40 percent of proceeds staying here, while 60 percent is used to support national initiatives focused in this area. The Pentecost Offering makes a difference for the life of the whole church and for congregations like ours.

In Rochester, New York, Third Presbyterian Church is passionate about Christian formation during this critical first third of life. Rev. Lynnette Duerksen-Sparks, the associate pastor of outreach and evangelism says, “[the Pentecost Offering] just made sense to us. It is aligned with so much of the work we are involved in.”

One young adult who grew up at Third Presbyterian has continued her journey of discipleship through the Young Adult Volunteer Program (YAV). She served last year in Asheville, North Carolina, helping to build houses with and for low-income individuals. Though her volunteer year has concluded, she is still continuing this work. The YAV program is supported by your gifts to the Pentecost Offering. You provide young people with a year of service and a lifetime of change.

The Offering also sends students to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Jane Carden, youth ministry coordinator, says, “[Triennium] is all about establishing relationships and connections.” Jane has led the delegation of the Genesee Valley Presbytery three different times. She's listened to many youth who have found their voice and learned to lead and share their faith when they return home.

This impact is important for all students, but especially those from smaller congregations in the presbytery—kids with limited opportunities for peer-to-peer relationships within their congregation.

In addition to spiritual development, the Pentecost Offering supports student achievement in local school systems, a key building block of success. For more than 30 years, Third Presbyterian has capitalized on the expertise of educators in its membership to provide a successful tutoring program. More recently, the congregation has organized community groups and equipped families to advocate for improvement in the city's school system. Addressing root causes of poor academic achievement in the United States is a major commitment of “Educate a Child, Transform the World,” a denomination-wide initiative supported by our gifts to the Pentecost Offering. This initiative equips and connects Presbyterian congregations that seek to advance learning through public schools.

Just like Third Presbyterian Church, our congregation supports the Pentecost Offering to help people begin life with a strong start. Our congregation and our church's national ministries are helping to shape the future of children, youth, and young adults. A solid foundation of faith and learning formed from childhood to young adulthood enables individuals to weather life's storms and build on life's opportunities.

**Please give generously to this Offering, and support the future of our young people.**

#### Let Us Pray

Empowering God, Pentecost Sunday reminds us of the Spirit's power to transform lives. Help each of us to hear the Spirit's call every day of our lives. May we follow that call into a world of need. **Amen.**



# 2017 PENTECOST OFFERING ORDER FORM

## Ways to change/update your order:



Contact Presbyterian Distribution Service at **800-524-2612** or **pds@pcusa.org** between 9:00 am – 5:30 pm EST



Mail this form to Presbyterian Distribution Service, **3904 Produce Road, Ste. 104, Louisville KY 40218**



Fax this order form to **502-569-8030**

Additional resources are available online at [specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost](http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost)

All materials are FREE to help you share the Pentecost Offering.

Qty.	PDS#	UOM	Item
<i>English Resources</i>			
___	12144-17-032	Limit 2	Poster
___	12144-17-033	P25	Bulletin Insert - <i>Christ at work in our youth</i>
___	12144-17-034	P25	Bulletin Insert - <i>Why we give</i>
___	12144-17-036		Leader's Guide
___	12144-17-038	P25	Brochure/Mailer
___	12144-17-075	P25	Offering Envelope
___	12144-11-037	Each	Coin Box

### *Spanish Resources (other available online)*

___	12144-17-055	P25	Offering Envelope
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### SHIP TO

Please use a street address—FedEx cannot deliver to a PO box.

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Attention: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (FedEx cannot ship to PO boxes): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN/Customer I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date materials needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: All orders will be shipped by Federal Express or similar service unless otherwise requested. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

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Postage Required.  
Post Office will not  
deliver without  
proper postage.

Presbyterian Distribution Service  
3904 Produce Lane, Suite 104  
Louisville, KY, 40218-6014



2017 PENTECOST  
**ORDER FORM**



# RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

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This guide serves as a basic introduction to the Pentecost Offering, but there are many other ways to learn more about the Offering and stay in touch with the Special Offerings. Your standing order contains the foundational materials you'll need to promote the Offering, and our website has even more.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ONLINE

Visit [specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost](https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost) for the following Pentecost materials:

- » Downloadable bulletin inserts *Christ at work in our youth* and *Why we give*
- » Downloadable poster
- » Sample pastor's letter for reference when writing a letter to your members
- » Facebook cover photo specially designed to use on your church's Facebook page
- » Blog post or newsletter content that can be shared with your congregation
- » Minutes for Mission
- » Downloadable Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- » Recommendations and tips to involve your children and youth in the Pentecost Offering

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION

### Educate A Child: Toolkit For Congregations

The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched a churchwide initiative calling on Presbyterians to work with partners in the U.S. and worldwide to improve the quality of education for one million children by 2020. This initiative builds on our strong Reformed heritage and Presbyterian history of both educational mission, and advocacy and support for access to public education.

On the national level, this initiative will focus on two main things: strengthening early childhood education and reducing the dropout rate of adolescents. To aid in this initiative, the Educate a Child Toolkit for congregations provides practical tools and starting points for congregations working or seeking involvement with direct service and advocacy for education.

Want to start an education-oriented ministry in your congregation but don't know where to begin? Already have an education program but want to be more effective? Involved in direct service but looking for a way to participate in local education advocacy? Have great ideas for a ministry but looking for funding sources?

To explore this toolkit, visit: [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit](https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit)



# RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION, CONT'D

### THE YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER (YAV) EXPERIENCE

**Please spread this opportunity to all the young adults you know and help us place as many young people into a transformational year of service as possible!**

The YAV experience is a year-long service opportunity for young adults, ages 19–30. YAVs live in intentional Christian community, deepening and developing their faith, while serving alongside partners in 21 sites across the United States and around the world, addressing root causes of poverty and reconciliation through a Gospel-centered lens. YAVs serve for one academic year, August–July, living and reflecting with other volunteers on the meaning and motivation of their Christian faith.

If you are a young adult looking for an opportunity to put your faith into action, grow as a leader, and discern God's call through service, visit [youngadultvolunteers.org](http://youngadultvolunteers.org) and follow [@yavprogram](https://twitter.com/yavprogram) on all major social media platforms for detailed site information, program updates, and application dates.

Read the reflections of current YAVs online and continue to keep this ministry in your prayers:

[presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/yav-new)

You can also watch and share the video on the YAV website to hear stories of how YAVs are changing themselves and the world. It's 3-minutes long, so it's perfect as a Minute for Mission or to post on your social media pages!

Interested youth can apply online today at:  
[youngadultvolunteers.org/apply](http://youngadultvolunteers.org/apply)

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR YAV APPLICANTS

Due dates to apply for early placement and international sites have already passed, but Round 3 and Round 4 application dates are still upcoming.

- » **Round 3:** April 1st, 2017  
(National sites only)
- » **Round 4:** June 1st, 2017  
(Final application date, national sites only)

### PLAN NOW FOR THE 2019 YOUTH TRIENNIUM

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that occurs every three years. The next Youth Triennium will occur in Summer 2019. Mission resources for youth and adults who attended the 2016 Triennium "GO" and more important event information can be found at [presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).

### GETTING TO WORK

The **Presbyterian Youth Worker's Association (PYWA)** is dedicated to connecting, upholding, and inspiring Presbyterian Youth Workers to faithfully serve the triune God among young people. PYWA is for everyone—part-time staff, volunteers, retired pastors, college students, camp staff, and anyone supporting the call to youth ministry. To learn more, visit [pywa.org](http://pywa.org).

### QUICKSHEETS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Quicksheets are free, downloadable resources offering a singularly focused youth ministry lesson, idea, or viewpoint. Transform how you accompany young people through our ever-changing world with the user-friendly ideas found in Quicksheets. Quicksheets are written by experienced youth workers, instructors, educators, and "in the trenches" volunteers.





# YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME TO CONTACT US

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Please feel welcome to get in touch if you have questions or need help!

» **Special Offerings**

800-728-7228, Ext. 5047  
specialofferings@pcusa.org  
[presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings](http://presbyterianmission.org/specialofferings)

» **Child Advocacy/Children at Risk**

Alonzo Johnson  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5780  
alonzo.johnson@pcusa.org  
[presbyterianmission.org/children](http://presbyterianmission.org/children)

» **Ministries with Youth**

Gina Yeager-Buckley  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5497  
gina.yeager@pcusa.org  
[presbyterianmission.org/youthministry](http://presbyterianmission.org/youthministry)

» **Young Adult Volunteers**

Blake Collins  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5300  
blake.collins@pcusa.org  
[@yavprogram](http://presbyterianmission.org/yav)

» **Standing Orders**

Presbyterian Distribution Service  
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## THANK YOU

for your energy and support in promoting this vital offering. Let us celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to us through the coming of the Holy Spirit by guiding our young people toward a brighter, faith-filled future.

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If you need help or have questions, contact us at [specialofferings@pcusa.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcusa.org).