



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

God, from my youth
you have taught me.

— PSALM 71:17

Building a Life of Faith

2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
APRIL 22-JUNE 9



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

Thank you!

... for your energy and support in promoting the Pentecost 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.

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

Child Advocacy/Children at Risk

Alonzo Johnson
800-728-7228, Ext. 5780
alonzo.johnson@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/children

Ministries with Youth

Gina Yeager-Buckley
800-728-7228, Ext. 5497
gina.yeager@pcusa.org
presbyterianmission.org/youthministry

Young Adult Volunteers

Blake Collins
800-728-7228, Ext. 5300
blake.collins@pcusa.org
youngadultvolunteers.org
@yavprogram


Standing Orders

Presbyterian Customer Service
800-533-4371
customer_service@presbypub.com

EASY WAYS TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON ALL THINGS SPECIAL OFFERINGS.

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/weekly_offerings

 **TWITTER** | twitter.com/pcusa_so

 **FACEBOOK** | facebook.com/specialofferings



2019

LEADER'S GUIDE
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WHAT'S IN A LEADER'S GUIDE?

This tool was created for you.

As one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

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 resources and help us share the important message of building a life of faith.

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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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



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.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

QUICK FACTS

- ❖ 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.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$15 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.

1998-2019

1 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK

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 6 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)** experience. Your gifts to the Offering have helped this ministry area to:

Train and equip volunteers to engage in mission at more than 20 sites in the U.S. and around the world.

Reduce barriers to serve by providing assistance with student loan debt, medical insurance, and a simple living stipend.

Provide additional funding to ensure all young adults have the opportunity to participate.

Provide funds for retreats, orientation events, and counseling to help YAVs discern God’s call.

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. Learn more at www.pywa.org

Sponsor a meeting of the governing board of the Presbyterian Youth Workers’ Association.

Create new **Quicksheets**—free, downloadable resources for youth ministry, covering a wide variety of relevant, insightful topics.

Fund the design and translation of Spanish Language Quicksheets presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youthministry

Support the planning of the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium!

Enable the **Office of Ministries with Youth** to serve the denomination by providing free, low cost/no cost, digital resources, consultation and connection.

Support Faith in 3D 2017. An event held over the MLK Observance weekend in January 2017 — that brought together over 2000 youth to explore faith, discipleship and justice.

Provide partnership funding for the daily digital devotion at www.d365.org

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.

2 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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.

Supporting a program that pairs children with disabilities such as autism with children who do not, where strengths are celebrated and differences are accepted.

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 summer camps.

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 program that builds the self-esteem of black, male, teens through education and service.

Providing guidance for teenage girls through a program that teaches health, exercise, nutrition, self-esteem and offers a safe place to discuss issues affecting young girls.

Contributing to a center for children of abused spouses.

Providing a weekly Wednesday night meal free of charge.

Offering funds to an anti-bullying program at the local elementary school.

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 programs that improve the lives of foster children with school supplies, toys, and a suitcase so they don't have to travel from home to home with their belongings in a trash bag.

3 PROMOTING THE OFFERING 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 9) or other youth-focused Sundays (such as Youth in the Church and World on August 18), 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 Customer Service** 800-533-4371 or customer_service@presbypub.com 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 16.
- ❖ **Share “Ways to Involve Children and Youth”** with your Christian education and worship committees. Learn more at presbyterianmission.org/pentecost
- ❖ **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 11-15, feel free to pair as you like). Minutes for Mission can also be downloaded at presbyterianmission.org/pentecost
- ❖ **Ask your pastor about sending a promotional email or letter** to each person in your congregation (there is a sample pastor letter online). Be sure to include the link to the Pentecost Offering website (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 funds. 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 16.



PHOTO: OLD BERGEN CHURCH

4 DURING THE OFFERING

PLAN

- ✦ **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 — *Building A Life of Faith* and *Changes for a Lifetime* — 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.
- ✦ **Use the worship resources** found on our website, including a set of customizable PowerPoint™ slides, 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.
- ✦ **Send a letter to your congregation from the pastor** (a customizable letter can be found online). 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), 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

5 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.

MID COUNCILS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

CONGREGATIONS

*(through your normal receiving agency,
usually the presbytery)*
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.
Email specialofferings@pcusa.org to share your story with the wider church.

"We encourage congregations to participate in the Pentecost Offering to support Triennium, or similar local youth events. If a congregation has no youth in their membership, they can give their retained portion to the presbytery so we can provide the opportunity for other local youth to participate!"

— Rev. Dr. Debby Brincivalli, Executive Presbyter,
West Jersey Presbytery

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

THE PENTECOST OFFERING—BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH



Who was the first person to teach you about Jesus? Who was the first person to show you how to honor God with your life? Who helped you open the doors to new understandings of God and of faith? When did these things happen? For many of us, they happened during our childhood. They happened at home, at Sunday School, at church, at camp, or, perhaps through mission trips or experiences of service.

We probably don't need a study to tell us that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, the first third of life, helps ensure lifelong faith and service — but yet studies do show this to be true. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

That's why our congregation joins in support of the Pentecost Offering. This churchwide offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime. When we give, congregations join in shaping the education provided at public schools, through the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* national initiative. As Presbyterians, we believe that every child deserves access to high-quality education. When we give, young adults engage in a year of service

while discerning how best to love God and neighbor, through the Young Adult Volunteer program. As Presbyterians, we believe that serving others is more than just something good to do, it's something that teaches us about God and about ourselves.

When we give, more than 5,000 youth gather at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium to worship, learn, and serve together. As Presbyterians, we believe that the Holy Spirit moves among us when we gather together and draws us into meaningful relationships and powerful understandings of what God is doing in the world.

Forty percent of this Offering stays here for our own ministries with children, youth, and young adults. [Include a 'when we give, we...' that mentions the work your congregation intends to do or support.]

During Pentecost, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit has opened the doors to faith in Jesus Christ. Just as many of us were nurtured in faith during our youth, we give to support these ministries and offer ourselves in service to the faith formation of other youth and young adults. We join with the Spirit and the whole church, so that the generations to come will still proclaim God's wondrous deeds. Won't you join in your support? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

Transforming Spirit,

*as each of us were taught, help us to teach
our children, youth, and young adults
so that their words and lives will
proclaim your glory and your deeds
May these gifts we offer shape the future
of your Church.*

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

SURPRISED BY THE SPIRIT IN NEW ORLEANS



CHEROKEE ADAMS, YAV

Can there be any more inspirational words to hear from a young person these? “The Holy Spirit took me, and changed me in ways that I wasn’t expecting.”

During Pentecost, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit has opened the doors to faith in Jesus Christ. While serving as a Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer, or “YAVs” as you often hear us call them, Cherokee Adams was changed in ways she wasn’t expecting.

As a program assistant at Eden House in New Orleans, Cherokee encountered human trafficking survivors seeking a new start in life. Most struggled with a past that includes social ostracism, brushes with the law, and drug addiction. Yet her relationships with the women taught her that each person comes with a unique story. As Cherokee said, “They are someone’s mom; they are someone’s sister; they are someone’s cousin; they are someone’s grandma.”

And Cherokee came to see them as something ... else. Something ... more. She experienced them as vessels of grace.

“The women of Eden House spoke truth to me through love and the healing power of grace and humanity,” Cherokee says.

While a YAV, she sensed that the Holy Spirit was

shaping her. “It was kind of like the Pentecost story,” she explains. “The Holy Spirit took me and changed me in ways that I wasn’t expecting.” That’s so beautiful, isn’t it? And not altogether uncommon. Many YAVs tell us that they come away from the experience with a new realization of what their faith truly means.

Cherokee is grateful for the Presbyterians who provide financial support for the YAV program — a year-long program for people between 19 and 30. “Thanks to these gifts, young people like me can be shaped and changed into better, more socially aware individuals and be affected by the places we serve and the people we meet.”

This churchwide offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime. It gives them a first-hand experience with the difference we can make when we walk through our doors to share Christ’s love. Congregations like ours keep forty percent of the Offering to make an impact of young people lives — not just YAV, but also children at risk who need us, children who are right here in our community. In the past, we have used the Pentecost Offering to support (PROGRAM/MINISTRY). Please give generously. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let Us Pray—

*Holy Spirit, change us
in ways that we do not expect,
through relationships with those in need,
and by the example we see
in our young adult volunteers.
Amen.*

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

MESSAGES OF FAITH, WRITTEN ON THE HEART



PHOTO: MICHAEL ERDELYI, PYT

In an age when fleeting social media messages saturate the lives of teens, Kylie Carlson treasures the lasting impact of some powerful words scrawled on tiny slips of paper.

For three years, she has kept the messages that were stashed in her “Compliment Bag” by at the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. They were put there by members of her small group, and the affirmations range from casual to positively transformational.

One member wrote to Kylie, “You are a good public speaker.” These simple words, shared just after the author had heard her speak, were particularly significant for her because Kylie, like many people, was fearful of public speaking.

“It stuck with me,” Kylie says. It helped her gain confidence, and today she considers herself more than proficient when she stands before audiences to speak.

While these affirmations written on paper were meaningful for Kylie, even more significant for her were the messages of faith that were written on her heart. Kylie had completed confirmation classes at her congregation, First Presbyterian Church in Britton, South Dakota, not long before her youth group attended Triennium. Both events were significant spiritual milestones, Kylie says.

“Before confirmation, it was like you went to church because your parents did, but now we have a more personal connection with faith,” she explained. “Then we went to Triennium, it became even more personal.

It was amazing to see all the people who were there sharing the same faith as I did and felt the same way about it as I did. We were really able to have more in-depth, personal conversations about our faith,” she says. Isn’t it wonderful for a person at such a young age to come to understand the meaning and value of being a connected church? This is something that she, and thousands of other youth who attend Triennium, will never forget.

(INSERT A STORY ABOUT YOUR CONGREGATION’S PARTICIPATION IN YT)

Thanks in part to gifts to the Pentecost Offering, another Triennium will be held this July. Across the United States, thousands of Presbyterians can attest to the spiritual significance that Triennium, a Presbyterian tradition since 1980, has had on their faith journey. Perhaps you are one of them? The Offering also helps ministries that serve children at and it supports the Young Adult Volunteer program.

By supporting the Pentecost Offering, we are helping to shape a positive future for young lives, for our church, and for our world. And forty percent of the Offering will stay right here to support our own youth (PROGRAM/S). Please give generously because as has always been the case, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

Holy Spirit, teach us well.

Write your words in our hearts

*so that we might speak them to others,
proclaiming them our whole lives long.*

Amen.

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

CALIFORNIA CONGREGATION'S AFTER-SCHOOL MINISTRY ENABLES STUDENTS TO TRANSCEND POVERTY



PHOTO: RISING TIDE

Christopher Hall's life was not always smooth sailing, but it could have turned out very different had he not been boosted by a Rising TIDE.

Rising TIDE, which stands for "Train Individuals to Develop and Excel," is an after-school ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Long Beach, California. Christopher, who was born into poverty in a depressed city neighborhood, is now a successful entrepreneur, a husband and a father of three.

But if not for Rising Tide, he says life might have been much different for him and many of his friends.

"Rising TIDE helps you become something better. We could easily have become gang members or been involved in alcohol, drugs or other negative things."

Rising TIDE serves children and youth from pre-school through high school with everything from tutoring and enrichment opportunities to sports and physical fitness activities to life skills training. However, Rising TIDE is about more than programming for the 100 students whom it serves. It's also about building relationships.

"Those who come from helpful and supportive families experience the Rising TIDE family as a supplementary family," says Rev. Rob Langworthy, who co-founded Rising TIDE with his wife, Rev. Adele Langworthy. "Others who don't have that kind of family at home find Rising TIDE as their source of support and inspiration and guidance and encouragement." Rob notes the program has its best success among

students who began the program in childhood and continue through adolescence. "Well over 90 percent of those who are involved in the program for several years go on to college or university," Rob says. "We have a lot of success stories of people who have achieved in life beyond what a lot of people might have expected."

Across the United States and around the world, the Pentecost Offering helps young people achieve their God-given potential. Children at risk, ministries with youth and Young Adult Volunteers benefit from Pentecost Offering gifts. And forty percent of the offering stays right here with us, to support our own (PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES).

Through the Pentecost Offering, we make an impact on young people right here in our own church, our own community—as well in other churches and other communities whose children need our love. And perhaps most importantly, this churchwide offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime. Please give generously, because as has always been the case, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~

*Lift our eyes, O God, to see the potential
of every one of your children.*

*May we reach out and support those
who are at risk so that their futures
rise like the tides of your seas.*

Amen

6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL



CHEROKEE ADAMS, YAV

way.

I bet some of you remember that song from the 1980s. It is called “The Greatest Love of All.” And what greater love is there than God’s love for the children?

The chorus in that song goes “the greatest love of all is happening to me. I found the greatest love of all inside of me.”

While serving as a Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer, Cherokee Adams experienced the greatest love of all. She said that during her service, “the Holy Spirit took me and changed me in ways I wasn’t expecting.” Now Cherokee hopes to go to seminary and be a pastor. She wants to share the greatest love of all, God’s love, as it was shared with her, with as many people as she can touch.

It is so important that we support young people like Cherokee because a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The programs we support through the Pentecost Offering helps our youth — church of the future — to embrace the true meaning of God’s love in their own lives. Perhaps Kylie, a young woman from South Dakota, said it best when recalling her own experience at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

“Before confirmation, it was like you went to church because your parents did, but now we have a more personal connection with faith,” she explained. “Then we went to Triennium, it became even more personal. It was amazing to see all the people who were there

sharing the same faith as I did and felt the same way about it as I did.”

The Pentecost Offering is also dedicated to helping children at-risk. One such program is Rising TIDE, an after-school ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Long Beach, California.

“Those who come from helpful and supportive families experience the Rising TIDE family as a supplementary family,” says Rev. Rob Langworthy, who co-founded Rising TIDE with his wife, Rev. Adele Langworthy. “Others who don’t have that kind of family at home find Rising TIDE as their source of support and inspiration and guidance and encouragement.”

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering stays right here in our own church so we can provide support, inspiration, guidance and encouragement as well — whether it is with programs like our own (ADD YOUR OWN STORY) or by providing the means to support our youth’s participation in the upcoming Triennium.

Bottom line, through our gifts to the Pentecost Offering we are sharing the greatest love of all—God’s love. And what better gift could we possibly give our children than the gift of faith, and love, to last a lifetime?

Let us pray ~

*God of love, draw us together in
your Holy Spirit with all your children.*

*May we shape the next generation
even as we are shaped by them,
and transform each of us
through the power of your love.*

Amen.

7 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

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 for the following Pentecost materials:

- ❖ Downloadable bulletin inserts *Building A Life of Faith* and *Changes for a Lifetime*
- ❖ Downloadable poster
- ❖ A set of customizable PowerPoint™ slides
- ❖ Sample pastor's letter for reference when writing a letter to your members
- ❖ Facebook covers and posts 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 in larger type for easy reading
- ❖ Downloadable Presbyterian Giving Catalog
- ❖ Recommendations and tips to involve your children and youth in the Pentecost Offering

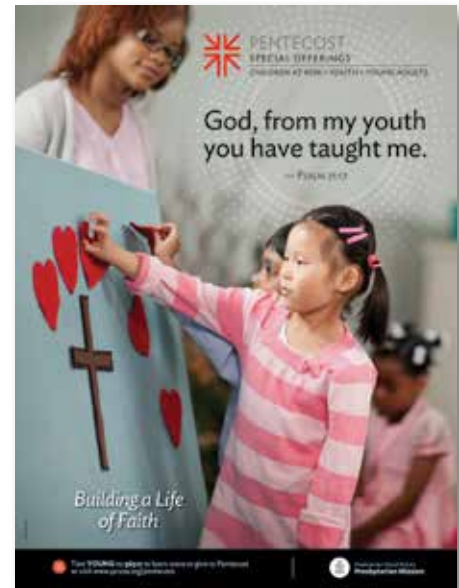
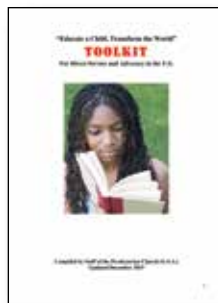


PHOTO: RISING TIDE

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION

Educate A Child: Toolkit For Congregations



The 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched a church-wide initiative calling on Presbyterians to work with partners in the US 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.

To aid Presbyterians who seek to be engaged in this important work, the **Educate a Child Toolkit** 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 and other helpful resources, visit: presbyterianmission.org/ministries/child/toolkit

Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program

Please share this opportunity with young adults you know as we hope to place as many young people into a formational year of service and accompaniment as possible.

The Young Adult Volunteer program (youngadultvolunteers.org) is a faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19–30, in sites across the United States and all around the world. **Volunteers** accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in intentional community. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to August.

Program benefits during the YAV year include a regular stipend, housing, all transportation-costs covered and student-loan assistance throughout the duration of the service year.

Follow @yavprogram for program updates and **learn more online** at youngadultvolunteers.org.

Interested candidates can apply online at: youngadultvolunteers.org/apply



PHOTO: BLAKE COLLINS

IMPORTANT YAV DATES!

March 1, 2019

Most sites available, final date to apply to international sites

June 1, 2019

National sites only, limited spots available, final date to apply

PLAN NOW FOR THE 2019 YOUTH TRIENNIUM



PHOTOS: MICHAEL ERDELYI, PYT

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, July 16-20th. Mission resources for youth and adults who are interested in attending the Triennium will be available in late Winter 2019 at

<https://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 adult leaders of youth whether part-time staff, volunteers, retired pastors, college students, camp staff — all who are called to work among youth. To learn more, visit 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

2019 PENTECOST ORDER FORM

If you find you need additional copies of resources...

- ✦ Contact Presbyterian Customer Service at **800-533-4371** between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST; email customer_service@presbypub.com
- ✦ Fax this order form to **800-541-5113**
- ✦ Copy or clip and mail this order form to **PC(USA) Store, Customer Service, 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202.**
- ✦ Download copies online at presbyterianmission.org/pentecost



Building a Life of Faith insert



Changes for a Lifetime insert

ALL MATERIALS ARE FREE TO HELP YOU PROMOTE THE PENTECOST OFFERING.



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QTY.	PDS#	UOM	ITEM
ENGLISH RESOURCES:			
	12144-19-032	Limit 2	Poster
	12144-19-033	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Building a Life of Faith</i>
	12144-19-034	P25	Bulletin Insert— <i>Changes for a Lifetime</i>
	12144-19-036	Each	Leader's Guide
	12144-19-075	P25	Offering Envelope
	12144-11-037	25	Children's Coin Box
SPANISH RESOURCES (other available online):			
	12144-17-055	P25	Offering Envelope

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If you are only ordering Pentecost materials, then no sales tax or billing details are required. However, if this is part of a larger order, or you are adding non-Pentecost resources, sales tax and billing info are needed for your other items. Please add appropriate sales tax for orders being shipped to CA, DC, KY, NY, and PA.

Note: Orders will be shipped by UPS unless otherwise requested. Please include a street address. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

Bill me (shipping and handling will be included). Will bill to listed shipping address unless told differently.

Check or money order enclosed (include 10 percent of the order total for priced items: \$5.25 minimum, \$65 maximum).



*The Holy Spirit remains with us, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future.
Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering.*

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at **502-569-5047** or email **specialofferings@pcusa.org**

PC(USA) Office of Special Offerings
100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Pentecost Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering — play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other and in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns; and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.