

Building a Life of Faith: Pentecost Offering 2021

What is the Pentecost Offering?

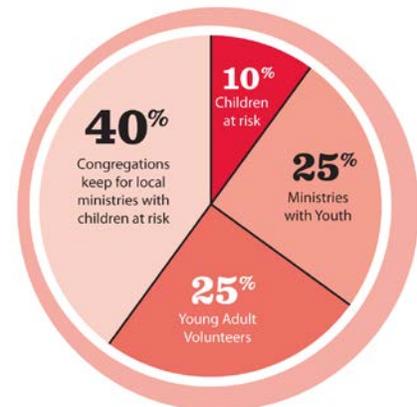
pcusa.org/pentecost

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world.

You will find on the Special Offering webpage:

“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 receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth and young adults.”

- ❖ How will the Pentecost Offering be divided and who will receive it?
- ❖ Your congregation will keep 40% to make an impact on young people in your community!
- ❖ Send the remaining 60% to the PC(USA) to support at-risk children, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Check out [Pentecost Offering 101](#) for more information!

Definitions and Links:

Children at risk: According to Wikipedia, “an **at-risk student** is a term used in the **United States** to describe a student who requires temporary or ongoing intervention in order to succeed academically.”

Ministries with Youth: Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school-age youth from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. Check out their video of highlights at the 2019 event “Here’s My Heart” and a way to text to give! The next Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be 2022. Talk with your presbytery about ways to involve the youth of your congregation!

Young Adult Volunteers: The Young Adult Volunteers program is a faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19-30) in sites across the U.S. and around the world. Watch [this video](#) about YAVs!

Meet the current YAVs! Contact one or two and ask for a video to share with your children OR schedule a video call with them!

Background Info on Psalm 71:17 “God, from my youth you have taught me.”

To fully understand this one verse, we must look at the whole Psalm. When we first read the Psalm, we begin to understand that it was written by an older person who is praying for help or lamenting and still trusts that God will be present with them even in the midst of not knowing what will happen.

The writers of *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary in Twelve Volumes* (Vol. IV, pg. 959) highlight the psalmist's understanding that God's presence rests on the foundation of God's righteousness. The word “righteous” in this passage involves justice and equitable treatment for the oppressed, so we may come to the conclusion that the psalmist endured such an oppressive situation and is affirming that God will set things right.

Though the psalmist laments suffering, he or she does not see this as punishment from God. Instead, throughout the Psalm, we see affirmations of trust and hope in God. Trust and hope in God is life-giving. No matter how old we get, we still need to trust in God. Verse 17 solidifies that trust and hope in God began in the early years. These early years were, and are, essential for laying a foundation to which faith can be built. The life of faith built on this foundation of trust and hope gives the psalmist, and us, courage to proclaim God's wondrous deeds.

Resource Suggestions:

- ❖ *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible* edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A Wehrheim
- ❖ *The Day When God Made the Church: A Child's First Book about Pentecost* by Rebekah McLeod Hutto
- ❖ Ask your church leaders for their favorite resources to explore Psalm 71!

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