

Sample Pastor Letter

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

Pentecost is one of my favorite holy days of the church year. It’s one of few days where we get to wear red stoles in the life of the church. Pentecost is also commonly referred to as “the Birthday of the Church.” And who doesn’t like cake?

In Acts 1:8, just before Jesus ascends to the heavens, he commissions the eleven, “Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I think God is making a power theological point right here: Jesus leaves and the church is born. We are the visible body of Jesus Christ alive and at work in the world today.

The Apostle Paul underscores this important teaching. After talking about Christ’s Ascension, he wrote: “[God] gave [to the church] some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. [God’s] purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11–12, CEB). We are the church, TOGETHER!

The Pentecost Offering supports ministries with children, youth and young adults in our community, across the nation and around our world. As you give to this important Offering, remember that 40% of your gift remains in our church to support ministries with younger people in our community as we choose. **This year, we plan to use our 40% to [explain how you plan to use the retained portion here].** The remainder of your Offering is forwarded to the denomination so that young adults can form a foundation for their lives through a year of service in the Young Adult Volunteer Program; youth can be among the 5,000-plus having mountaintop experiences in worship, play and faith formation at events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium; and children can receive educational support through the Educate a Child, Transform the World initiative. **[Will your youth be participating in PYT Beyond? Have you commissioned a Young Adult Volunteer? Will you? Mention that here.]**

During this Pentecost season, as we celebrate God’s many gifts to the church, I invite you to join me in celebrating our part in building lives of faith among our children, youth and young adults. These younger members of the household of faith are not just the future of the church — they ARE the church — and they are God’s gift to us. Please give generously.

Yours in Christ,