Minute for Mission

‘I Am Coming to You’

In John 14:18 we hear the words Jesus shared with the disciples at the Last Supper: “I am coming to you.”

“I am coming to you” — words meant to inspire comfort, reassurance; for with these words, we know Jesus will always be at our side. This is the hope and inspiration that carries us forward and is fundamental to our faith.

Today I want to talk about the importance of instilling this faith, this understanding — this assurance — from an early age. The Pentecost Offering helps our young people begin life with a strong start, a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood that will last a lifetime.

Through our gifts, we are able to tell the story of our God, who is always there for us, coming to us.

The Offering supports partners like the *Educate a Child, Transform the World* initiative, which seeks to equip, connect and improve the quality of public education.

It also supports the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which gathers high school age young people for an event every three years focused on worship, disciple making, Christian compassion and justice, and biblical/theological education.

It enables young adults to share Christ’s light while living in solidarity with those on the margins of society and preparing themselves for a life of service through the Young Adult Volunteer program.

Forty percent of the funds we receive will remain right here with our congregation to support our (DESCRIBE YOUR PROGRAM/YOUTH MINISTRY). The remaining 60% will be used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Our gifts, large and small, make a difference.

Over the past few weeks, you may have heard stories from those who have come to know the inescapable loving presence of God through transformational experiences, made possible, in part, through the Pentecost Offering.

One story is that of Maggie Collins, a Young Adult Volunteer whose strong commitment to the church’s role in advocating for peace placed her at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations. She says, “When donors give generously to the Pentecost Offering, it proves that our church and its members really want to empower young people and bring them into the church. It goes beyond just words and sends a message to young people we would like them to be a part of it.”

Our gifts, when combined with those from other congregations, help instill in our young people a heartfelt understanding of the ways God comes to us every single day. Please give generously … for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

***Let us pray****~*

*O God, you knit us together in our mother’s womb. You walk with us as we grow and learn and mature. We pray that the things we do as individuals and as a Church work together to make a big impact in this world. In the name of Christ we pray,* **Amen**.