



PENTECOST  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

# BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.

— EPHESIANS 4:12, CEB

*Uniting Presbyterians  
in support of young people  
sharing their faith, ideas and gifts  
with the Church and the world.*

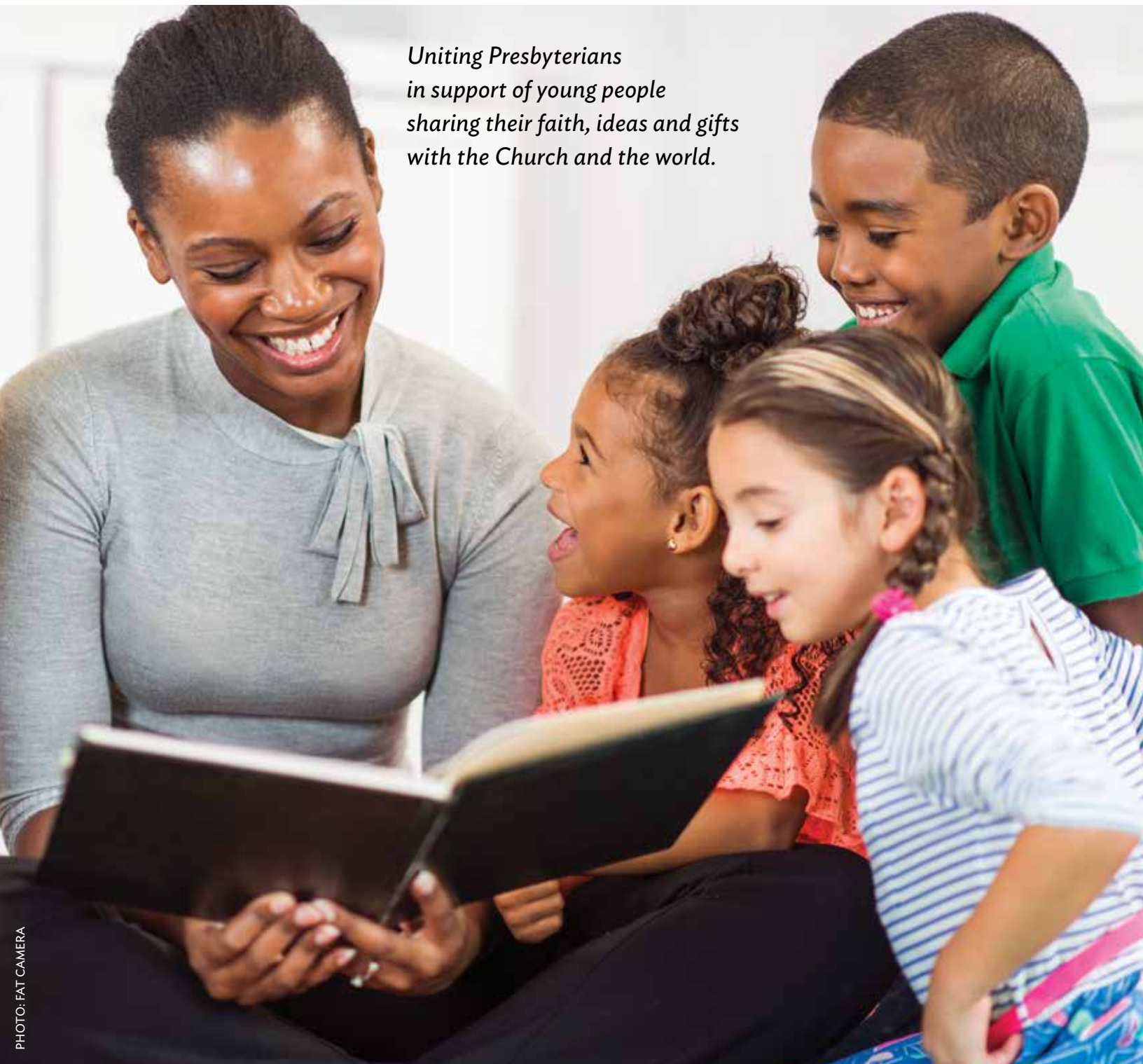


PHOTO: FAT CAMERA



2023

**LEADER'S GUIDE**  
APRIL 10–MAY 28



# 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  
special.offerings@pcusa.org  
pcusa.org/specialofferings

### Child Advocacy/Children at Risk

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

### Presbyterian Youth and Triennium

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

### Young Adult Volunteers

Destini Hodges  
800-728-7228, Ext. 5300  
destini.hodges@pcusa.org  
pcusa.org/yav  
@yavprogram

### Standing Orders

Presbyterian Customer Service  
800-533-4371  
customer\_service@presbypub.com

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## 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](https://pcusa.org/blogs/weekly_offerings)



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



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

## 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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## PENTECOST

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

## 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.

Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension — when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. These gifts of the Spirit are bestowed upon us to be used for the “building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12). Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God’s hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

### 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. Visit [presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org) for more information and new online resources.
- 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 \$16 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.



## 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 13 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 a new 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.
- 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](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/youthministry)
- Support the ministry of Presbyterian Youth!
- Support the many platforms offered as a part of the 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.
- Provide partnership funding for the daily digital devotion at [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org) as well as a new book of d365 devotions.

### *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 children by to joining in God’s ongoing transformation of the world by working and advocating to ensure equitable, accessible, quality public education so that all children, created in the image of God, may grow into the fullness of life.

## 2 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**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*

Supporting a child advocacy center where the focus is on the needs of child abuse and neglect victims, as well as their non-offending caregivers, as they go through investigative and legal processes.

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.

Supporting a collaborative project where multiple agencies with shared goals and values co-locate to provide programming for low income and homeless families and youth at the elementary school.

### *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 at-risk Children and 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*

Preventing youth suicide through awareness, upstream educational programs, and activities that support and empower youth, their families, and the community.

Supporting a program to increase awareness about personal and community issues, prevent and treat substance abuse, and to promote healthy families and a safe community.

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 PENTECOST: 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 (May 28) or other youth-focused Sundays such as College and Young Adult Sunday (August 6) or Youth in the Church and World (August 13), 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](mailto: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 the Pentecost Curriculum** with your Christian education and worship committees. Learn more at [pcusa.org/socurriculum](http://pcusa.org/socurriculum)
- **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 [pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.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 ([pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.org/pentecost)), so your members can learn more about the work supported by their gifts.
- **Use the Presbyterian Giving Catalog** to get people involved and to give examples of how the Mission Agency uses some of its funds. [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org)





## 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.*

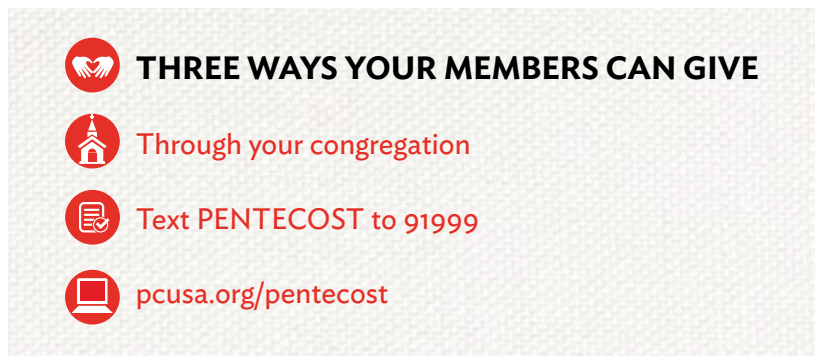







## 4 PROMOTING PENTECOST: DURING THE OFFERING

### 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 up the body of Christ* and *We are There* — 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 ([pcusa.org/pentecost](https://pcusa.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.)
- **Create a display** in the narthex. Visit [pcusa.org/pentecost-display](https://pcusa.org/pentecost-display)



**THREE WAYS YOUR MEMBERS CAN GIVE**

-  Through your congregation
-  Text PENTECOST to 91999
-  [pcusa.org/pentecost](https://pcusa.org/pentecost)

## 5 PROMOTING PENTECOST: 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!

PHOTO: YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS



We'd love to hear the unique ways you promoted the Pentecost Offering and also how your congregation used its portion of the offering.

Email [specialofferings@pcusa.org](mailto:specialofferings@pcusa.org) to share your story with the wider church.

*"If we all had the opportunity to have experiences like the YAV program offers, I believe that we would all be more empathetic, more just and more supportive of one other. We need to continue giving young people more opportunities — not only young people from the United States but also from other parts of the world so that learning is mutual and equal. I invite potential donors to walk hand in hand with us through their support of Young Adult Volunteers. Their prayers and donations transform lives not just for a year but for a lifetime."*

— Jenny Valles, mission co-worker and  
Peru YAV site coordinator



## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

“... building up the Body of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12

How many times have we seen a modern building, an historic landmark, a great cathedral or a monument and thought, “How did they do that?” Regardless of when it was built, the skill and craftsmanship needed to not only imagine it, but to make it sturdy enough to safely and securely withstand the test of time, boggles the mind.

But what of people? We watch, listen and read as sports legends, great orators, talented musicians of every style of performance and brilliant writers astound us with their skills. And even though we know that the raw talent that leads to great skill is honed through years of practice, patience and persistence, we still look with awe at these accomplishments and say, “How did/do they do that?”

They did it because someone saw a spark. A spark that with the right teaching, coaching, leadership and practice could lead to great things.

Someone working with Good Success Academies in New Jersey recognized Tariq’s academic potential and helped him pursue his dream of studying computer

science. A Young Adult Volunteer named Yuriko, which means “lily girl” in Japanese, blossomed in Peru, while a shy teenager named Grace boldly connected with her peers at a statewide youth conference.

How did they do that? They were lifted up, they were mentored and they were encouraged to grow into the person God was calling them to be. Fanning that spark, the raw talents and abilities within young people throughout the church and beyond builds strong and gifted leaders that God can use.

Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering assure that these young people of God have opportunities to participate in programs as varied as the Young Adult Volunteer Program, Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other ministries with youth, and the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. Each leads to interacting with educators, mentors and leaders committed to building these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for participating in building up the body of Christ.

PHOTO: GOOD SUCCESS ACADEMIES



### *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 and  
build up the body of Christ.  
Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### PENTECOST OFFERING CONNECTS YOUTH IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Fifteen-year-old Grace Reck usually can't wait to try new things, but when given the chance last year to attend her first churchwide youth conference at Montreat, she dragged her feet — for a minute.

“For both Grace and her twin sister, Emma, the Montreat Youth Conference was a pivotal experience in their faith journey,” said the Rev. Tara N. Reck, pastor of Anchorage Presbyterian Church in Anchorage, Kentucky.

That's why a 2022 tri-presbytery event held by the presbyteries of Mid-Kentucky, Transylvania and Western Kentucky called “Belonging Together” attracted Grace and brought together a diverse group of sixth to 12th graders across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The presbyteries' collective vision was to gather Kentucky Presbyterians annually for fellowship, learning and worship, with pastors/elders and youth meeting to build relationships.

“All our events build up the body of Christ in our worship, keynote, small groups and table fellowship,” said Leslee Kirkconnell, a certified educator and ruling elder in the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. “This event with its theme of ‘Belonging Together’ emphasized the very real bonds we have as humans, as Christians, as Presbyterians. We learned these bonds must be nurtured and encouraged — that relationships are so important.”

Creating opportunities for youth to grow, thrive and take part in building up the body of Christ is what the Pentecost Offering — one of the PC(USA)'s four Special Offerings — is all about. Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering support the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium, but the offering also helps to fund the Young Adult Volunteer Program and the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering is retained by congregations just like ours for local ministries in our communities, while the remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, and youth and young adults through ministries of the Mission Agency. In past years, we have used our 40% of our offering to (PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR MINISTRY).

Gina Yeager-Buckley, associate for the Presbyterian Youth and Triennium office, said, “The Pentecost Offering enables young people to be included in some beautiful formation adventures that allow them to shine as well as helps them lead us as a church. It also is a way for us to fulfill our baptismal vows because this offering directly funds those who are developing and forming their faith in Jesus Christ.”

Although the Pentecost Offering may be taken anytime, most congregations receive it on Pentecost Sunday, which this year is May 28. Please give what you can. Your generosity makes a difference — for as we always say, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray —*

*God of the shy,  
God of the outgoing,  
help us to encourage  
all of your children  
to connect with us,  
one another and you,  
that they may grow, thrive  
and take part in building up  
the body of Christ.  
Amen.*



## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### PENTECOST OFFERING SETS AT-RISK YOUTH ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Everywhere he looked, the Rev. Allen Shelton saw tremendous gaps — gaps keeping high school-aged young people of color from succeeding in life.

Allen, a veteran educator, community advocate and pastor in New Jersey, was determined not to watch promising youth fall through the cracks of an increasingly broken educational system. He wanted to ensure the future success of primarily urban, adolescent young people, so in 2010 he founded Good Success Academies.

Good Success Academies has become a tremendously successful program, outgrowing the church and expanding beyond its original goal of serving Montclair-area youth. In the 12 years since its founding, the once-local initiative — in partnership with Montclair State University and Rutgers University — now impacts youth in surrounding communities, readying them for college, work and the world.

Tariq Mayo, for one, is grateful for his Good Success experience.

“I got into Good Success because our high school principal was handing out flyers,” he recalled. “It helped me to get a job. Previously I didn’t know what to wear or what to say at an interview. Good Success helped me figure it out, including what type of suits to wear.”

Tariq also credits Good Success with helping him to write the application essays that earned him acceptance into Montclair State University, where he is now studying computer science.

Helping youth achieve their God-given potential is what the Pentecost Offering — one of the PC(USA)’s four Special Offerings — is all about. Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering benefit at-risk children and youth through the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative, but the Offering also encourages, develops and supports the church’s young

people through the Young Adult Volunteer program and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

Forty percent of the Pentecost Offering is retained by individual congregations just like ours for local ministries that support young people, while the remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Here at (CHURCH) we use our portion of the Offering to (PLEASE DESCRIBE).

“If someone wanted to know why they should give to the Pentecost Offering,” says Tariq, “I would explain that programs like Good Success Academies allow young people to get a better understanding of how to get a job and how to be a leader.”

Your gift, your generosity makes a difference — for as we always say, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

#### *Let us pray —*

*Gracious God,  
we pray that all children will be able  
to reach the potential you gave them.*

*We are grateful for those  
who work alongside children at risk  
and give them hope.*

*Give all of us the faith and courage  
to stand up for children  
and help build a brighter future  
for them.*

*Amen.*

## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE CHALLENGE THE WORLD'S INJUSTICES

Yuriko Beltran wants to change the world — which is exactly why the 23-year-old entered the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program.

"I like the fact that I actively contribute to change, which is what the YAV program mainly seeks to accomplish," she said.

The YAV program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service in sites across the U.S. and around the world that has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for nearly three decades. The YAV experience emphasizes living in intentional Christian community, spiritual formation and vocational discernment. Yuriko is currently serving at the Peru YAV site, managed by mission co-worker and site coordinator Jenny Valles.

"This is a program where young people can experience dramatic transformation in their lives through their experiences serving alongside our global partners," said Jenny. "To be able to accompany the young adults in a personal way through these experiences is such a privilege and makes this ministry both fun and meaningful."

Jenny shares, "The focus of the YAV program in Peru has always been addressing systemic poverty and racism. Many of our partners have been working on these issues for years at the local, national and international levels. Our volunteers have an orientation and retreats to further address these issues along with others specific to the context of Peru such as rights and challenges of the LGBTQ+ community, Machismo in Peru, political context and economy of Peru, climate change, personal self-care and intercultural challenges."

Yuriko states, "I believe that being able to hear firsthand the testimonies of people who face a certain problem, and the goals they set to generate positive changes, makes me identify and empathize with people and their needs," said Yuriko. "This motivates me."

Gifts to the Pentecost Offering support the YAV program, and also the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium and the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative. Forty percent of the Offering is retained by congregations just like ours for our own ministries like (DESCRIBE HOW YOU USE, OR WILL USE, YOUR 40%). The remaining 60% is used at the Presbyterian Mission Agency level.

"If we all had the opportunity to have experiences like the YAV program offers, I believe that we would all be more empathetic, more just and more supportive of one other," says Jenny. "I invite potential donors to walk hand in hand with us through their support of Young Adult Volunteers. Their prayers and donations transform lives not just for a year but for a lifetime."

Many churches receive the Offering on Pentecost Sunday, which this year falls on May 28. Please give generously — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray —*

*Faithful God,  
we give thanks for the YAV program  
and for other opportunities  
that offer renewal and hope  
and that guide young people  
in Christian formation.  
Thank you for communities  
that transform us  
and our world.  
Amen.*



## 6 MINUTE FOR MISSION

### WE ARE ALL BUILDERS

You may never have thought of yourself as a builder, but you are — we all are. Some people you know actually do build solid things like houses and bridges or maybe roads and highways. But we all build things that support our future.

Perhaps you build a garden each spring or a menu plan for the week. At work, maybe you build a project plan that helps your team get to their goal or a budget that sustains not just your work, but the employment that many count on. We build relationships with our neighbors and friendships that may last a lifetime. Teachers are tremendous builders; among the best of all.

Take a look around you ... everyone you see is a builder of some sort. And let's not forget we stand on the shoulders of those who built this church — and I am not just talking about the walls or the pews. I am talking about building the commitment, relationships, sustainability, and constant affirmation of the faith and the purpose that we share.

Look around you ... we are all builders.

Building a foundation of faith in the young people who will sustain the future of the church is an important part of our ministry — our shared opportunity. Remember Whitney Houston's song that contained the lyrics "I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way"? That song could actually be the theme for what I am here to ask you to really think about — the reason that we receive the Pentecost Offering.

The Pentecost Offering, one of four Special Offerings of the PC(USA), builds up the body of Christ by investing in children from their earliest years to young adulthood. The Offering supports formative and inspiring opportunities for youth here in our nation and in communities around the world. Young people like Gina, Yuriko and Tariq, who have had their lives

changed by Presbyterian Mission-funded programs, including the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national initiative, our Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other camps and gatherings, and the Young Adult Volunteer Program. Sixty percent of the Offering supports projects like these, but 40% of our Offering stays right here. (DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR PORTION OF THE OFFERING)

With our gifts, we are building these youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become.

Please give generously. For as we always say — if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray —*

*Spirit of God,*

*work with and through us  
as we build up the body of Christ  
by cementing a strong foundation  
of faith with children, youth  
and young adults.*

*May our efforts reflect the joy  
and delight that Jesus showed  
in welcoming children.*

*Amen.*

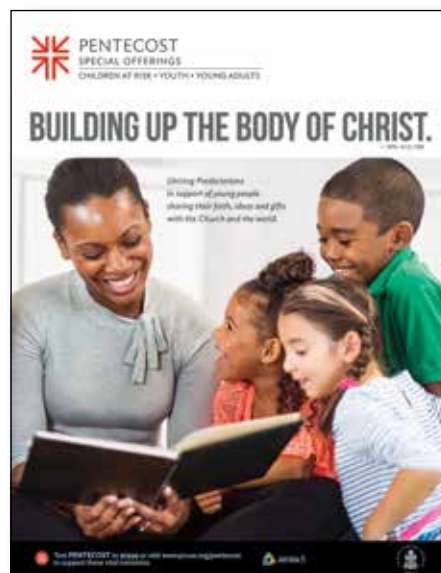
## 7 RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

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 [pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.org/pentecost) for the following Pentecost materials:

- Downloadable bulletin inserts  
*Building up the body of Christ and We are There*
- Downloadable poster
- Children's Curriculum
- 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



*Building up the body of Christ poster*



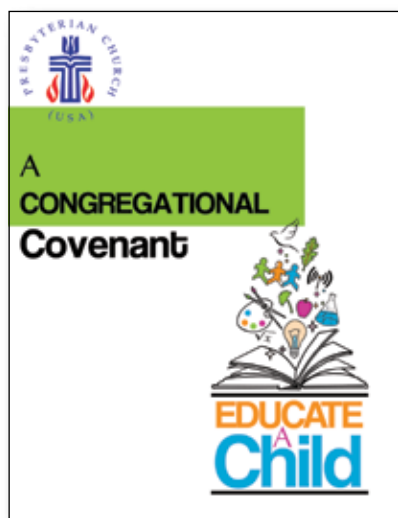
PHOTO: GOOD SUCCESS ACADEMIES





## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR INTERPRETATION

### *Educate A Child: Toolkit For Congregations and Education Covenant*



The three foci in Matthew 25 calls us as a church to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle systemic racism and promote congregational vitality. Public education is one of the many critical issues that embody the intersectional concerns of poverty and social inequity. These resources are designed to assist 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?

The Educate a Child Covenant is an important theological resource that provides guidance of how churches can be faithful to living out Jesus' call to love, accept and advocate for all children. The EAC Covenant also provides useful and tactile practices that engage people of faith in the Spirit's transformative work of educating children and advocating for just and equitable systems that foster life-long learning and the opportunity to thrive.

[presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/EaC-Covenant.pdf](http://presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/EaC-Covenant.pdf)

## 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](http://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](http://youngadultvolunteers.org).**

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

### IMPORTANT YAV DATES!

**March 1, 2023**

Most sites available, final date to apply to international sites

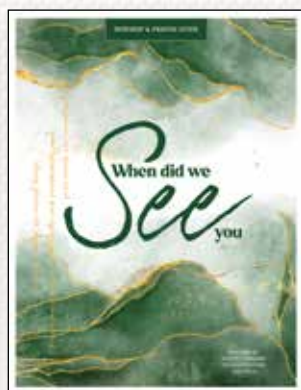
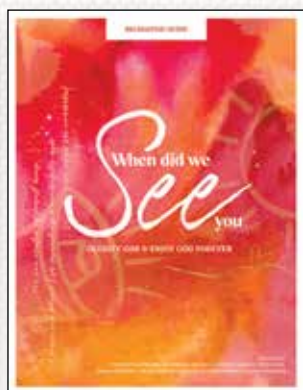
**June 1, 2023**

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

## MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH

### When did we see you?

Four new Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) Connect resources are available in English and Spanish based on the theme of “When Did We See You?” These can be used to create and host your own local or regional PYT theme experience and are FREE for you to use to launch this timely biblical theme into the hearts and minds of your youth, young adults, families and intergenerational groups. Each can be adjusted for a wide variety of events and settings, including a small church, presbytery gathering, weekend retreat, regional PYT experience or mid-week series. The resources include a Group Study Guide, a Recreation Guide, a Worship & Prayer Guide and an Event Planning Guide. The resources also include info on how to use each guide, supply lists, planning suggestions and more! Go to [presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).





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



*Building up the  
body of Christ  
insert*

*We are There insert*



*Offering Envelope*

**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](mailto: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 [pcusa.org/pentecost](http://pcusa.org/pentecost)

QTY.	PRICE	PDS#	UOM	ITEM
<b>ENGLISH RESOURCES</b>				
FREE		12144-23-032	limit 2	Poster
FREE		12144-23-033	P25	Bulletin Insert – <i>Building up the body of Christ</i>
FREE		12144-23-034	P25	Bulletin Insert – <i>We are There</i>
FREE		12144-23-036		Leader's Guide
FREE		12144-19-075	P25	Offering Envelope
FREE		12144-11-037	each	Coin Box
<b>SPANISH MATERIALS</b> (others available online)				
FREE		12144-23-062	limit 2	Poster
FREE		12144-23-063	P25	Bulletin Insert – <i>Edificar el cuerpo de Cristo</i>
FREE		12144-23-064	P25	Bulletin Insert – <i>Ahí estamos</i>
FREE		12144-17-055	P25	Offering Envelope
<b>KOREAN MATERIALS</b>				
FREE		12144-23-072	limit 2	Poster
FREE		12144-23-073	P25	Bulletin Insert – 함께 그리스도의 몸을 세웁니다
FREE		12144-23-074	P25	Bulletin Insert – 우리가 거기 있습니다
FREE		12144-20-056	P25	Offering Envelope

**SHIP TO:**

THIS IS A: ☐ CHURCH ADDRESS ☐ PERSONAL ADDRESS

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTENTION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN/CUSTOMER I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Permanent Identification Number. See General Assembly Statistics Book.

☐ 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: \$7.50 minimum, \$65 maximum).

**If you are only ordering**

**Pentecost Offering 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: All orders will be shipped by the most efficient method as determined by our distribution center. Any special handling charges will be billed to the recipient.

*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

**800-728-7228, ext. 5047**

or email [special.offerings@pcusa.org](mailto:special.offerings@pcusa.org)

PC(USA)

Office of Special Offerings

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202



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.

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