

2015 Youth Activities



1. ***Create an Art Gallery***
Invite children and youth to create pictures on the subject of “God dreams about . . .” or “My vision for the children of the world is . . .” Frame the pictures with red, orange or yellow construction paper. Create an art gallery in the fellowship hall, narthex or hallway.
2. ***Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!***
Teach children and youth “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!” (Hymn # 430, *The Presbyterian Hymnal*). Encourage them to create gestures to accompany the hymn. Have them lead the congregation during worship on Pentecost Sunday.
3. ***Wet Watercolor Cards***
Soak a piece of drawing paper in water. Hold it up to drip for a few seconds and then place it on newspaper. Paint right away on the wet paper with watercolors using reds, oranges, yellows, pinks and purples. The colors will blend and blur as you paint. When dry, fold the paper to make a card. Print a Pentecost message on the painted outside using a dark pen or marker, and a note from each child on the inside. Send cards to church members who are homebound or in nursing homes or hospitals.
4. ***Happy Birthday, Church***
Pentecost is the church’s birthday. Play birthday games with a Pentecost twist. Play “Pin the Flame on the Head” using an outline of a person taped to a wall and construction paper flames. Decorate a Pentecost birthday cake for the church and invite the congregation to the party.
5. ***Your Church’s Banner***
Design a banner for your church to use on Pentecost. Choose symbols that are meaningful to the congregation’s history, traditions and people. Use paper or fabric to create your banner. Alternative: each child or youth makes a small banner.
6. ***Dream Tree***
By the time of Pentecost, the school year is ending for most children. Reading books through the summer is a way for children to dream dreams. Have children create a “Dream Tree” for Pentecost (similar to an “Angel Tree” or “Mitten Tree” at

Christmas). Encourage the congregation to donate gently used books to give to local shelters, day care facilities and so forth.

7. *Litany of Dreams and Visions*

Encourage children and youth to talk about dreams for God's creation, this world and God's people, and what they can do to begin to make those dreams reality. Use their answers in the following litany:

Children and Youth: We are your sons and daughters and we have been entrusted by God to proclaim God's message.

All: Open our ears that we might hear.

Children and Youth: God dreams of a world in which . . .

All: Let it be so.

Children and Youth: One way we can begin to make this dream a reality is by . . .

All: Gracious God, give us [strength, patience, understanding, compassion, courage and so forth—a different word for each dream].

[Repeat lines 3–6 as many times as necessary.

Then close with:]

All: Our sons and our daughters proclaim God's message.

As God's people let the dream be ours as well.

8. *Vision Cookies*

Turn fortune cookies into "vision cookies." Have children and youth print on small strips of paper a short Bible verse that shares God's hope for the world. (Possible verses include Acts 2:17, Isa. 11:8, Jer. 29:11, Rom. 8:28 and Matt. 5:16.). Insert the paper into the cookies. Recipe for cookies: 4 egg whites, 1 cup sugar, 1/2 cup melted butter, 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 2 tbs. water. Preheat oven to 375°. Melt butter and cool. Mix sugar into egg whites and blend until fluffy. Add flour, salt, vanilla, water and butter to mixture. Beat until batter is smooth. Generously grease a cookie sheet. Spoon batter to form 3"-diameter circles. Bake for about 8 minutes. (Yield: 4 dozen cookies.) Place message strip on each circle, fold in thirds, and bend gently in center. If cookies become stiff to bend, place back in oven for a minute to soften.

9. *Pentecost Puppetry*

Have older children or youth make puppets and use them to tell the story of Pentecost to younger children or the congregation. Try these ideas or invent your own puppets: paper bags, wooden spoons, craft sticks, hands, fingers, paper

plates on sticks, fruits and vegetables, mittens or socks, tin cans, dish soap bottles and butter tubs, and clothes pins.

10. *Sculpting the Story*

Invite youth to sculpt the story of the first Pentecost (Acts 2) by using themselves as the sculptures. Divide into small groups. Give each group some or all of these words or phrases: believers, noise from the sky, strong wind blowing, filled the whole house, tongues of fire, amazement and wonder, amazed and confused, pour out my Spirit, sons and daughters will proclaim my message, young will see visions, old will have dreams. Instruct youth to use their bodies, not their voices, to portray the words or phrases. They can use any number of people necessary. Read the Pentecost story and sculpt the words or phrases as they happen in the story.