

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



WE HAVE CHOSEN TO ACT ON THE BELIEF the Church is most like the Church when it is rooted in the gospel, remembering the worship in the sanctuary and present in the streets, the City Council chambers, the State House and the places of power witnessing to the message of Love and Justice. Your support of our ministry emboldens, empowers and allows us to step out in faith. We are grateful

beyond words—both for the money and for the faith and prayers the money represents, without which we would not be able to do our work. Thanks be to G-d!

— Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, Center for Sustainable Justice at Lyndale UCC

BELOVED OF GOD, GREETINGS!

Each Pentecost, we celebrate the church as we have known it, the church we are, and the church that we can be, together. We lean on the story of connecting across difference and listen to the languages of hope spoken in the name of God. We are so grateful to be connected with your church in covenant, each of us seeking to build a just world for all, leaning closer to the world that God imagines for our communities. One of the ways our covenant is lived out tangibly is through the Strengthen the Church offering!

Your past support of the Strengthen the Church offering is greatly appreciated. Through this offering, your congregation contributed to the continued expansion and revitalization of the United Church of Christ. As called for by the General Synod, 50 percent of your offering stays in your local conference, and 50 percent is sent to the national work of strengthening the church universal: through grants towards new church starts, inspiring youth and young adults into leadership, and equipping pastors for ministry in the 21st century.

Please join us in common mission, vision, and purpose by taking up the Strengthen the Church offering on June 9th, 2019! Your promotional materials are enclosed. Additional resources can be ordered through UCC Resources and found at www.ucc.org/stc. Also, on the back of this letter, we have printed a suggested timeline for sharing the offering with your members.

Thank you for your continued support of your local Conference, the national setting, and the body of Christ. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Owen, Development Strategist, at owenj@ucc.org or 216-736-2169.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Chris Davies
Team Leader
Faith Education, Innovation,
and Formation

Ms. Jacqueline Owen
Development Strategist
Office of Philanthropy, Technology,
Identity and Communication

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH PROMOTION CALENDAR

We traditionally celebrate the birth of the church on Pentecost Sunday, this year on June 9th, 2019, with this offering to Strengthen the Church. However, we encourage churches to choose a Sunday to receive the offering when you anticipate the greatest response. Churches may choose other Sundays: Mother’s Day (May 12), their church anniversary, the Sunday (June 23) before the UCC’s anniversary (June 25).

2019 Strengthen the Church Offering Materials include:

- ◆ Bulletin Insert
- ◆ Offering Envelope

To order additional materials, call United Church of Christ Resources at 800-537-3394 or visit www.uccresources.com.

Downloadable resources are available at www.ucc.org/stc.

- ◆ UCC Logo with STC Word Type
- ◆ STC Social Media Post
- ◆ STC Social Media Banner
- ◆ Template announcement letter

Here is a schedule of activities leading up to the offering.

5 Weeks Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Check your supply of offering materials. Order extra quantities from United Church of Christ Resources at 800-537-3394 ◆ Identify speakers/participants for Mission Moments or other Sunday worship promotion activities.
4 Weeks Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Place an announcement in the church newsletter.
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3 Weeks Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mail announcement letter, enclosing offering envelope (and bulletin insert if desired).
2 Weeks Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Place insert in today’s bulletin. ◆ Make sure offering envelopes are in pews. ◆ Create a post on your church’s social media page.
1 Week Ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Place insert in today’s bulletin (with offering envelope if desired). ◆ Make sure offering envelopes are in pews. ◆ Create a post on your church’s social media page.
Strengthen the Church Offering Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Shape your worship to celebrate the offering. ◆ Show the Strengthen the Church Video ◆ Place offering envelope in today’s bulletin.
1 Week After	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Announce your church’s total gifts to Strengthen the Church. ◆ Thank all who contributed, including special thanks to the promotion committee.

Please remit your offering receipts through your conference office.

If you have any questions, please call 800-846-6822.