

Dear Member and Friend of College United Methodist Church:

PENTECOST is the ultimate reminder that we are not walking life's road alone.

Think of this:

- Bethlehem was "*God with us.*"
- Calvary was "*God for us.*"
- Pentecost is "*God in us!*"

St. John Vianney put it this way: "*The Holy Spirit is a divine guest of our soul. He transforms us into his dwelling.*"

Pentecost is often thought of as the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit empowered the early church to reach out with the good news of Christ! The ongoing truth of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual birth. The Spirit offers to live in us fill our lives with:

- **PASSION!** The "tongues of fire" indicate how the Spirit inspires within us a holy passion to love God and one another and to serve our community with God's love.
- **PURPOSE AND EFFECTIVENESS.** When the Spirit came upon them, the early disciples were emboldened to speak the Gospel in ways everyone could understand. Likewise, the Spirit gives us the tools and gifts we need to connect with, understand, and build up the people around us.
- **PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS AND JOY.** We live in a noisy and chaotic world where people suffer and struggle with disillusionment and pain. The Spirit offers a calm assurance, and the delicious fruitfulness that helps us navigate tough days with peace, patience, kindness and a deep sense of joy.

Let's take a moment in this *season of Pentecost* to recognize and welcome the Holy Spirit's beautiful presence in the stillness of our souls. We can give thanks to God for the gift of this ultimate source of the vibrant spiritual life within us!

Lord, Thank You for filling us with your Holy Spirit!

With Love,

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