

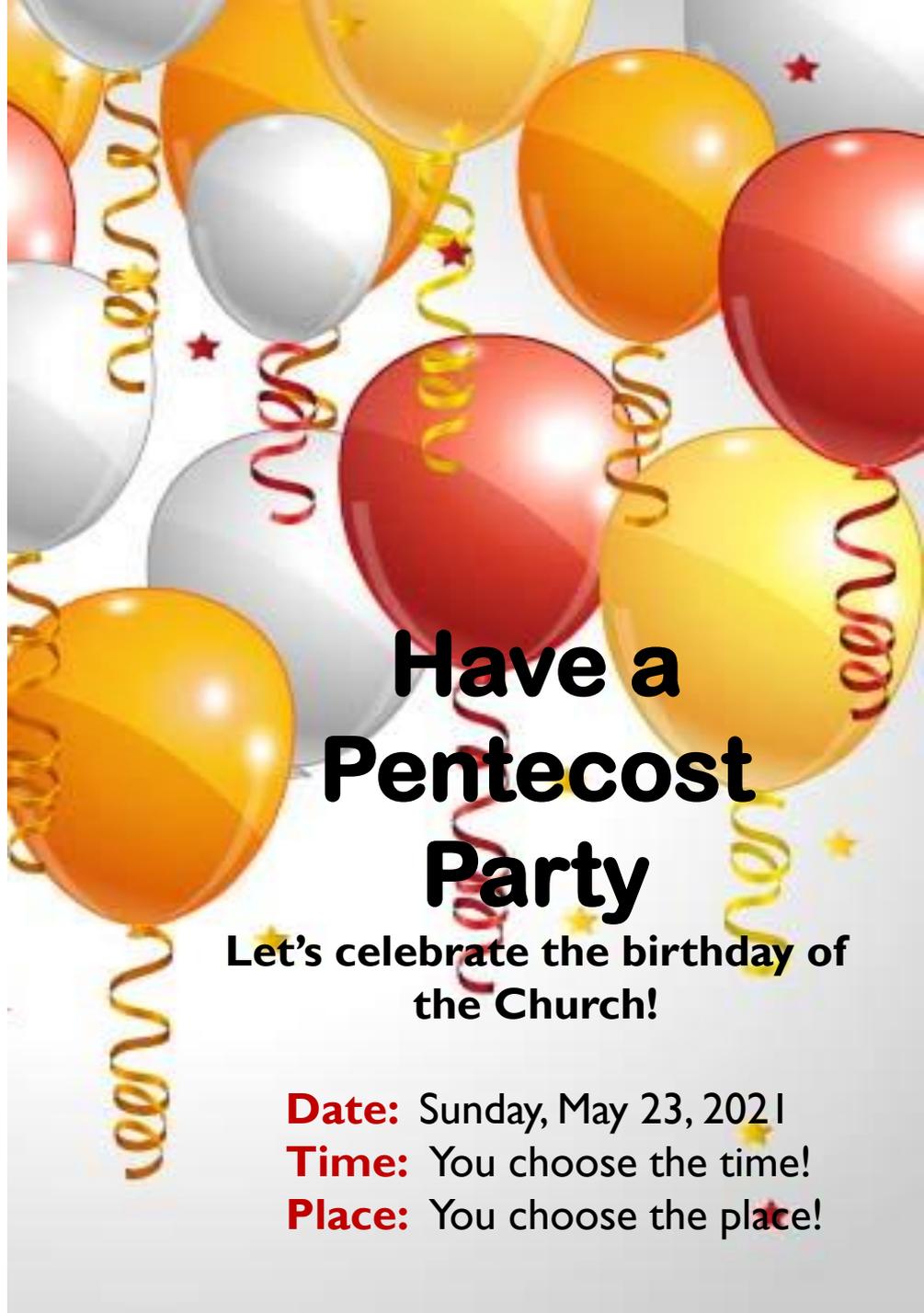


Birthday Party Favor

Cut out this circle and hang it somewhere in the house as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is always with you!



**"All of them
were filled with
the Holy Spirit."
Acts 2:4a**



Have a Pentecost Party

Let's celebrate the birthday of
the Church!

Date: Sunday, May 23, 2021

Time: You choose the time!

Place: You choose the place!

Let's celebrate Pentecost!

Pentecost is a Christian day that commemorates the descending of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church, also known as the birthday of the church. This story is found in Acts chapter 2. Christians celebrate this day on the 50th day after Easter. The color that symbolizes this day is red.

*Children love to celebrate birthdays,
so why not celebrate the birthday of the church, too!*

Invite everyone to wear red on Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 2021).
Decorate your home with the symbols of Pentecost: tongues of fire and doves. Hang red, yellow and orange balloons or streamers
Play party games
Serve red, yellow and orange foods
Family Devotional: Read from Acts 2:1-21. Invite family members to share what gifts/talents/skills God has given them and how they can use their gifts for ministry and sharing God's love.

We'd love to see the photos of your family celebrating Pentecost.

If you'd like to share your photos, please email your photos to lisastewart@foothillsumc.org, text them to Lisa at 619/456-7450 or post on our private Foothills Family Ministries Facebook group.

**Have fun celebrating Pentecost with
your family!**

Birthday Games

***Every birthday party needs a couple of games!
Here are two that you can use, or you can
come up with some of your own!***

Pin The Flame

Based on the game "pin the tail on the donkey," you'll need a blindfold and pieces of paper cut into the shape of flames, and a picture of a face drawn on a piece of paper. Tape the face to the wall. One at a time, put the blindfold on a family member. Give them one of the flames with a piece of tape on the back of the flame. Spin them three times and point them in the direction of the face and tell them to tape the flame to the top of the head. Do this with each person. The person who gets the closest to the top of the head wins a prize! The prize could be a day without chores, or one-on-one time with a parent, or anything you choose.

Holy, Holy Spirit

This game is played like Duck, Duck, Goose. The person who is "it" goes around the circle and taps the top of each person's head. They will say "Holy" each time they touch someone's head. When they are ready to run, have them tap the person's head and say "Spirit".

Family Devotional

Supplies Needed: Bible or Bible app, flying flames template (cut our – one for each family member – make more if you want to), paper, something to write with

What You Do: Read from **Acts 2:1-21***. Invite family members to write a gift/talent/skill God has given them on one of the flames. Talk about how they can use those gifts for ministry and sharing God's love. Tape the flames on your bedroom door or your refrigerator to remember that we are empowered to love and care for others, filled with the Holy Spirit to guide us.

***For younger children,** read this adaptation of the Acts 2:1-21 scripture from the SPARK Story Bible: *Jesus' disciples were celebrating a festival called Pentecost when suddenly a strong wind blew through the house. Everyone's hair lifted up and there was an amazing noise! They looked at each other. It looked like each disciple had a flame of fire over their heads, but no one was burned. The Holy Spirit had come, just as Jesus promised! The disciples began to speak in different languages! Languages they had never learned! Stranger yet, they could understand each other! Peter stood up. "I want to tell you about Jesus," he said. He reminded everyone what Jesus taught them. He told them how Jesus died and lives again. "It's time for us to begin a new life with God's Spirit guiding us," Peter said. The disciples were excited to live differently, guided by God's Spirit. That was the very beginning of the Christian church.*

Adaptation for adults and older kids: Print the letters of your name on the flames and use the letters of their name to form an acronym using their gifts/talents/characteristics:

Joyful
Ambitious
Modest
Empathetic
Sympathetic

Prayer for a Pentecost Tongue

Holy Spirit of life,
enflame me with passion
for the Good News.

Let my voice ring with
the hope and promise of
Christ.

Holy Spirit of love,
immerse me in
compassion and kindness.
May my words bring
comfort to those in need
of consolation and
assurance.

Holy Spirit of grace, enlighten
my mind and heart.

Fill my speech with expressions
of peace and understanding.

Amen

Birthday Craft

Wind Spirals

Even though wind and air are invisible, we can see that the wind exists because we see flags blow in the wind or leaves rustle in the trees – we see the movement caused by the wind. Even though we cannot see God, we can see the ways in which God's Holy Spirit works to "move" us to do good in the world. With the Holy Spirit to guide us, we can use our gifts/talents/skills to show others what God's love looks like through our words and actions!

Here are two examples of a wind spiral you can make to remind you of the power of the Holy Spirit!



Supplies Needed:

paper, scissors, yarn or string

Preparation: Make a template of a spiral for each child by drawing a circle and spiraling inward. The spirals should be about 1 inch wide.

What to do:

Decorate the paper. You can draw or write on the spiral. Cut along the lines of the spiral. Tape a piece of string or yarn (4 inches) to the innermost part of the spiral. Show your family members how you can hold the dangling spiral and it will twist in as you gently blow on it. Talk about how the Holy Spirit is like the wind. It holds us up and fills us up. The Holy Spirit first came to the disciples like a rushing wind and we celebrate that event on Pentecost Sunday.

Celebration Foods!

Cake/cupcake decorating ideas: Cut mini marshmallows in half and roll in colored sugar; or use strawberries to resemble "flames". ***Using "trick candles," sing "Happy Birthday" and talk about how the Holy Spirit is like a flame in our hearts that won't go out.** It keeps us burning with love for Jesus! **Other fun celebratory food ideas:** fruit cups; cheese "flames" on crackers with a red pepper slice; red/orange/yellow peppers in ranch dip



Red Velvet Cake

1 ½ cup sugar	2 oz red food coloring	2 Tbsp. cocoa
2 cups oil	1 ½ cups flour	1 cup buttermilk
2 eggs, beaten	1 tsp. baking soda	1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. white vinegar	1 tsp. salt	"trick" candles*

Cream together the sugar and oil in a large bowl. Add eggs to the mixture and beat. Add white vinegar and food coloring to the mixture and beat. Sift together the flour, soda, salt and cocoa. Add this to the creamed mixture, alternating with the buttermilk. Add vanilla to the mixture and beat. Pour into 2 greased and floured 9" cake pans (or a Bundt pan or cupcake liners). Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Frosting

1 stick butter	1 tsp. vanilla
1 pkg cream cheese (8oz)	1 pound box powdered sugar

Cream together the butter and cream cheese until well blended. Add vanilla. Sift the powdered sugar and add to the mixture gradually. After the cake is completely cooled, spread on the frosting.