

One Shepherd's Thoughts...



In the past, Pentecost Sunday meant a shopping trip for the dreaded hunt for a red dress. The churches I previously served all seemed to love themes and unified colors. Year after year, I faithfully fulfilled the request that we wear red to celebrate the church's birthday.

Every aspect of the liturgy—from the Scripture reading to the announcements—is an invitation to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit. The entire worship experience is a festive delight that I have come to love. The congregation expects that the Spirit will fall in the midst of worship—that we will expe-

rience the Sprit's presence in much the same way that the apostles did. God forbid the service should fall flat—with the underlying feeling that we did not adequate-ly celebrate the awesome gift that is the birth of the church.

I've frequently wondered whether my traditional way of understanding Pentecost has left room for it to be experienced beyond church walls. And we are experiencing that this year—aren't we? If one is not a regularly worshipping follower of Jesus—how do you explain Pentecost to someone who stands outside an established worshipping community. How do we explain Pentecost to our neighbor(s),



to our friends—maybe even to your significant other—who thinks your church is too loud?

Is there a way to explain—or even experience—Pentecost apart from the spirited worship and celebration you and I have come to expect? (We are going to find out this year—aren't we?) Pentecost is a group of faithful disciples discovering they have power—the kind of power that allows them to speak different languages.

Pentecost is purposeful power, enabling each of these disciples to speak the language of the people they are called to serve. Pentecost is God using God's people to be a catalyst for transformation and to reach those who have been overlooked or considered beyond the bounds of ministry.



Pentecost is the equipping of everyday people to witness to the ends of the earth, or at least to places that seem like the ends of the earth.

Welcome to this new season of Pentecost! May we listen carefully to Spirit and follow faithfully as we go forward from this day—in this new time in the life of BCC—in this new way of being God's BCC.

God be with you, **Rev Day**



How is the Pentecost offering used?

In 2001, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced a bold vision: to start 1,000 new churches in 1,000 different ways by the year 2020.

Today, we have welcomed 1,034+ new places of worship into the Church. The Table around which we gather has grown in language, diversity, and life experience.

Courageous leaders have answered the call to grow the denomination through the new church movement. They have reached the underserved, welcomed new neighbors, and created communities of faith. And we, as Disciples, have committed to supporting them.

Support the 2020 Pentecost Offering. Each year, half of this offering stays in your <u>Region</u> to support and sustain new churches. The second half helps leaders across the United States and Canada through <u>New Church Ministry</u> programs.

Brandon Christian Church has made the Pentecost Special Offering available to donate to in GivePlus, or you can feel free to write in the memo line of your check that it is for the Pentecost Special Offering.