



## Theme interpretation: Serving in the Spirit



*for the 2026 Pentecost Offering*

*“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.” ~ Acts 2:4, NIV*

Powerful things happen when we gather together. Unlike anything else we experience, when we are inspired and strengthened by God, nothing seems impossible. As the Holy Spirit moves, there are always new opportunities to serve.

As the believers were gathered together in one place in Jerusalem on Pentecost, they received the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. This was made clear to them as each was able to speak another language—a tongue that was not native to them and was meant for the hearing of someone else. The power of God filled the room, and without any resistance to its expansion, it spilled out into the community. Empowered by the Spirit, the believers went out to share the gospel of Jesus and to serve in his name.

Each year we remember this blessed occasion and consider anew what it means to let the Holy Spirit move in us and through us. Noticing the work of God among us allows us to let the Spirit lead us into new territory. Our efforts to serve our communities may not be as action-packed or fast-acting as that Pentecost 2,000 years ago, but we share the same desire to serve Christ and to tell of his transforming love. Every selfless action and every word of encouragement has the potential to change people’s lives, including our own.

Service is central to the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren. It plays out through how pastors and leaders care for their congregations, how congregations serve their communities in ordinary and extraordinary ways, and how the work of districts and the denomination as a whole continue to expand into the world. Together we let the Holy Spirit work through us for the glory of God and our neighbors’ good.

Through the Pentecost Offering, we celebrate the work of discipleship in the Church of the Brethren. Discipleship and Leadership Formation equips ministers and members to grow in faith, make disciples, form leaders, and transform neighborhoods. It includes Intercultural Ministries, the Ministry Office, and Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and hosts events like the L.E.A.D. Conference, National Older Adult Conference, National Youth Conference, Young Adult Conference, and many more. Your gifts to the Pentecost Offering support Core Ministries of the Church of the Brethren that inspire us all to grow as courageous disciples and to serve others.

As the Holy Spirit continues to be poured out in our churches, our communities, and the world, may we offer our hands and our mouths to continue the work of Jesus. Gathered together and empowered by God, may we all be blessed as we serve in the Spirit.

*Learn more and find worship resources for the Pentecost Offering (suggested date: May 24) at [www.brethren.org/pentecost](http://www.brethren.org/pentecost). Give an offering today at [www.brethren.org/giveoffering](http://www.brethren.org/giveoffering).*