Thanks to Kim Antosh, Jan Bihl, Sheila Campbell, Brenda Curtis, Deb Hopper, Catherine MacDonald, Marvin Mackie, Kathie Murphy, Andrew Richardson, Holly Schick, Terry Shillington, Ellinor Townend, Deb Walker, Lynn Watson, and Brenda Watt for these offering invitations and prayers.

# April 4: Easter Sunday

##### Invitation

In this economic climate, fear is the greatest obstacle to generosity: fear that there isn’t enough to go around; that if we give away what we have, we won’t be able to take care of our own needs. Fear is like a big stone standing between us and the experience of the resurrection miracle. So “who will roll away the stone?” We will, through the gifts we now give. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those given through PAR, acknowledging our fear but stretching beyond it to generosity. Amen.

## April 11: Second Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

During this season of Easter, we are deeply moved by the vision of believers living together in the utopian community described in Acts. Although lifestyles were very different when this passage was written, we still seek to live with each other in harmony and equality. So we offer our gifts, following the example of the earliest Christians, so that there will be no needy persons among us. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Dear God, we are thankful to have witnessed again the resurrection of your son, to have him with us every day, and to be able to share our gifts in Christ’s name. We wish to live out your vision for our lives. Please accept all our sacrificial gifts, those given now and those given through PAR, for ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service.

## April 18: Third Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

On this third Sunday of Easter, let us take a moment to think about what Easter means to us spiritually. Easter means regrowth—to become new in Christ. We look the same, but inside we are reborn: a small miracle in each of us. Our gifts also create new growth—to allow the miracle of new life to continue! Please make your gifts in Christ’s name for new life in the church. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Dear God, please accept these gifts and those given through PAR from those who have answered the call to be new life, who have seen the miracle of Christ risen, and have felt the renewing energy of your holy spirit. Use them to create new life in your church and the world. Amen.

## April 25: Fourth Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

The work of the church often seems foreign to those who don’t know God. Peter and John had to defend their actions when they healed a crippled man. When Peter begins to speak, he is filled with the Holy Spirit—and it gives him the courage to defend his faith. Every Christian is accountable to God for how they conduct themselves. It is for Christ’s sake that we work for those in need, it is in Christ’s name that we undertake ministry! Our financial gifts are but one of the many ways that we are asked to serve. Our generosity will be counted by God in heaven, not by people on earth. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Dear God, please fill each of us with your holy spirit. Give us the courage to go out into the world to do your work. Please accept our gifts and those given through PAR because we want to be like you and give. Amen.

## May 2: Fifth Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

Today’s passage from Acts tells of Philip meeting a foreigner, sharing the gospel and eventually baptising the man. The man went away overjoyed. Philip was told to do all this by the spirit. Wouldn’t it be nice if the spirit would tell us what to do like that? We live in a very loud world. Between our iPods, laptops, radios, TVs, and DVDs, it is a wonder we can still hear anything! The point isn’t that God spoke; the point is that Philip was listening and responded. When we put our offerings in the church’s plate, we are responding just like Philip did. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Holy God, we offer these gifts for your work. Please help us to hear your voice, to respond to your call. Please accept these gifts and those given through PAR, offered in Christ’s name, for ministries of this community of faith and those of our denomination; our broader Mission & Service. Amen.

## May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

Easter feels like it was so long ago. Yet it was just over a month ago that we celebrated Christ’s rising from the dead and walking among us. Our lives are so busy sometimes. The news distracts us, our activities keep us busy, and we forget that this is Easter. That we are honouring that time of physical communion with our saviour. How are we remembering? It is hard to feel the spirit with 100 emails in your inbox, a sink full of dirty dishes, yard work that needs doing, and a list of chores longer than you stand tall! And yet we are to work as though we are working for the Lord, and how we steward our time is key to living a full spiritual life. As we offer our gifts at this time, let us remember that supporting the church financially is just one of the ways we respond to Christ in our midst. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Holy God, we long to feel Jesus sitting beside us. We need him to be with us every day—in our business and in our quiet. We offer our gifts and those given through PAR for the work of the church both here, near, and far, to bring Christ’s presence into people’s lives. Amen.

## May 16: Seventh Sunday of Easter

##### Invitation

Immediately following the ascension of Christ, the eleven remaining apostles decided to replace Judas, who had died after betraying Christ to the Romans. Two able, noble men were identified: Barsabbas and Matthias. They prayed for God to show them which of the two God wished to have working for him in mission. We also pray for guidance, especially over big decisions. Praying for guidance in making decisions is the essence of Christian stewardship. Our offering is our response to God’s guidance in our lives. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Knower of our hearts and minds, please accept these gifts and those given through PAR, and use them for ministry in your world. We offer them freely for ministries of this church and those of our denomination through our Mission & Service. Amen.

## May 23: Pentecost Sunday

##### Invitation

Today we celebrate the start of the church, the day of Pentecost. This is the time when the spirit visited the believers with fire and wind. Our offerings are a response to that same Pentecostal fire—our work in the world, our mission as a people of God. We give to the mission of the church, so that the church can continue to bring the warmth of Christ’s fire to everyone. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Holy Spirit, help us to feel your warming fire every day. Please accept these gifts and those given through PAR as our way of sharing your power and grace with others. Amen.

## May 30: Trinity Sunday

##### Invitation

God calls to us, asking “Whom shall I send?” Our response to God is in our giving of ourselves, our gifts, and our abundance. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Gracious and giving God, we ask that your nature be poured out upon these gifts and those given through PAR. Glory! Strength! Splendor! Majesty! Peace! And may your glory be known through us. Amen.

## June 6: Second Sunday after Pentecost

##### Invitation

We are called to plant seeds of grace, hope, and justice; to wait for God’s mystery to work in the hearts and minds of others. The gifts we offer for local ministry and Mission & Service are seeds that reap a harvest beyond our imagining. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Bountiful God, accept these gifts and those given through PAR—our seeds of hope for the healing of the world. May the harvest be plentiful. Thank you, God, for this opportunity. Amen.

## June 13: Third Sunday after Pentecost

##### Invitation

God is good. Everything that God does is for good. It is natural that we, who benefit from all that God–given good, are grateful. We express our gratitude with our service, with our use of our time, and with our financial resources. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Lord, help us to feel thankful for everything that you’ve given us. We worship and praise you with our gifts. Our prayer this morning is that through us, the world will see Christ’s light and come to know your goodness. Please take our gifts, and those given through PAR, and use them to strengthen the United Church’s ministry, here at home and everywhere in the world. Amen.

## June 20: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

##### Invitation

We, as Christians, are compelled to comfort a hurting world; we are compelled to share with those who are in need; we are compelled to serve with our lives, because we know Christ’s love. At this time, you are invited to enjoy the compelling power of Christ’s love and make an offering. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

Compelling God, we thank you for the love and care you give us every day. Help us to know Christ’s love, which compels us to do good works and be responsible stewards. We pray that you will find these gifts, and those given through PAR, acceptable and use them to help continue sharing Christ’s love. Amen.

## June 27: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

##### Invitation

In the time of Goliath and the stormy waters, we give boldly. We live without fear. We invite you to make a financial gift now, by calling the church office, dropping off a cheque, or donating online at [insert your community of faith’s online donation page here].

##### Prayer

O God, we give in thanksgiving that this place is a calm in the storm. We give in thanks for the wider Church and for all those who tell the story boldly. Bless these gifts, and those given through PAR, that we may be a church that lives with courage and boldness. Amen.