

CONTACT:

[name, phone, email address]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **[date]**

[CHURCH NAME] Will Celebrate “Glitter+Fire” On Pentecost Sunday
National Event to Honor Diversity, Affirm Queer Lives on June 4, 2017

[YOUR CITY, STATE] – [CHURCH NAME] will participate in “Glitter+Fire,” a national event in which Christians will use glitter to express joy in a diverse, LGBTQ-affirming church in a symbolic recreation of the “tongues of fire” on Pentecost Sunday, it was announced today by **[name, title]**.

Quote from person named above -- brief statement that gets to the heart of why you are participating -- eg, “Our church is excited to participate in Glitter+Fire this year. We are eager to affirm our support for LGBTQ people in our community while witnessing to the power of the Spirit in our midst,” said [name].

Pentecost is widely considered the day when Christianity as a movement was born. As told in the Book of Acts, the story relates what happened to the disciples of Jesus who were gathered in the upper room following his execution, resurrection and ascension. The Holy Spirit appeared “as tongues of fire,” empowering the disciples to proclaim the gospel in the native languages of people “from every nation under heaven.”

Participants in Glitter+Fire will use glitter in the colors of fire – red, gold, and orange – to re-enact the tongues of fire landing on the disciples, drawing participants together in a community of joy, energy and common purpose. Glitter+Fire follows on the success of Glitter+Ash Wednesday, when Christians in churches across the country mixed ashes with glitter to “come out” as queer-positive Christians in solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

Glitter+Fire is being organized by Parity and Queer Virtue. Glitter+Fire follows on the heels of Glitter+Ash Wednesday, the provocative liturgical action that made headlines and inspired national dialogue in February and March of this year.

“On Pentecost, in an amazing pyrotechnic display, the Spirit demonstrated the queerness of Christianity,” said the Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen, executive director of Parity. “Glitter+Fire will demonstrate our conviction that human diversity is a source of strength. But even more, we will show the world that valuing diversity is a founding premise of our faith.”

“This year, Pentecost falls on the first Sunday of June, which is LGBTQ Pride Month,” said the Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman, founder of Queer Virtue. “At a time when the language of religious freedom is being abused to attack the basic rights and the very dignity of LGBTQ people, it matters that we witness to the truth: that what gave birth to the Christian movement was precisely its ability to speak in native tongues – the language of home – thus celebrating our deepest, most intimate knowledge of ourselves.”

[Include here a closing statement about what your church will do on Pentecost and how people can participate. Be sure to give time and location for your service(s) and/or street actions.]

More information about Glitter+Fire can be found at **[your church’s website and/or Facebook page.]**

queervirtue.com/glitter-fire, paritynyc.org/glitter-fire, and facebook.com/glitterpentecost

About [your church]

[include here, in italics, your church “boilerplate”: mission statement, or one or two sentences that describe your community]

About Parity

Parity is a faith-based LGBTQ-focused organization based in NYC that creates open and nurturing spaces physically and spiritually to support emerging LGBTQ pastors as they live into their callings, and empowers LGBTQ and allied young people to integrate their spiritual, gender and sexual identities through a range of programs.

About Queer Virtue

Queer Virtue aims to energize the experience, proclamation, and practical importance of Christian faith by exploring Christianity through the lens of queerness and by lifting up the moral witness of LGBTQ people and communities. www.queervirtue.com

#GlitterPentecost #GlitterFire #DivisionQueered

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