Dear [Friend's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to sincerely apologize for not being able to attend your gathering on [date]. I was very much looking forward to celebrating with you and I am truly sorry for missing out on the wonderful time together.

Unfortunately, [brief explanation of the reason for your absence]. I did my best to make arrangements, but it just didn't work out this time.

Please know that it was not my intention to let you down, and I deeply regret not being there to support and celebrate with you. I value our friendship and hope to make it up to you soon.

Let's plan a get-together sometime in the near future! I would love to hear all about the gathering and catch up.

Once again, I am truly sorry for not being there. Thank you for your understanding.

Warm regards,

[Your Name]