



300 N. Huntersville Road | Batesville, IN 47006 | 812-934-4144

From the Pastor



This month is Confirmation Sunday. It is one of my favorite days of the year. I love the feeling of celebration in the air. I adore the chance to have a Sanctuary that is extra packed. The pre-service reception, the pictures afterwards, and the chance to see some youth proud of two years of effort all give me great joy. Perhaps most of all, I love the chance to hear our Confirmands share about their faith. Their Statements of Faith, whether said out loud or written, are powerful testimonies to their faith journeys. Some are humorous, some are more serious. Sometimes they have been long; sometimes they are on the shorter side. But all of them are so clearly completed with care and effort. They inspire me. For all of these reasons, I invite you to come to our Confirmation Sunday on May 17.

I just listed some of my favorite parts of Confirmation Sunday. But there is one other aspect of that service that is worth focusing on. On that day, the Confirmands will commit themselves to being active members in our congregation. Indeed, as a part of their process, they will have met with representatives from our church leadership to dream and imagine and brainstorm how they might best become active participants in

our life together. Some of what you have seen from our youth over the last few years, including multiple liturgists, comes from this process. It got me wondering, what would it look like if we had such a conversation with all of our members on a regular basis? What would happen if all of us took the time to ask, "How can I right now best be an active member of St. John's?"

Don't get me wrong; this is not me trolling for volunteers. (Well, not completely; don't blame me if the nominating committee uses this article in their asking this fall.) It is not a hidden chide. Chiding is not necessary; we are a congregation that shows up well. But it is a sincere question. How often do any of us take the time to ponder and wonder how we might be of service to this congregation, to the Church, to the Kingdom of God? I know some do; some have even engaged in conversation with me. But I would suspect that most of us just keep plugging along. I would suspect that most of us, at least until we are invited by someone directly, don't stop to ponder what else we might be doing for the Church. This is pretty human. We are all busy people. And, frankly, it's not something I think we need to do all the time. But once in a while, I wonder what it would be like if we pondered in the same way we invite our Confirmands to do.

Would we come up with more and ever more creative mission endeavors? Would our nominating committee find themselves having to turn down volunteers for lack of slots instead of seeking the right amount of "yes" answers? Would our music ministries, already strong, find themselves even more empowered by our sharing of our talents? What would be the fellowship items that might develop? How might our mission as a congregation, our mission as the Church of Jesus Christ, be strengthened? I don't know. Maybe things would proceed mostly as normal. After all, I believe we are already a very good congregation at finding ways for our members to be involved. But I suspect some of what emerges might surprise us... and for the better.

So this month, I invite you to come to Confirmation Sunday. I invite you to watch as our young people affirm their faith, make promises to this congregation and the Church, and celebrate with them the end of one process and the beginning of another. Then, as they sign our membership book, as they join us as full members, I invite each of us to ponder, even if just for a bit, how we are called in this moment to be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ. Maybe the results of that pondering will surprise us.

Shalom,

Psalms from Messy Church

As a group, the people who attended Messy Church this past month wrote two Psalms. Here they are shared with you.

Acrostic Psalm (about God)

Amazing
Beloved God
Creative
Daddy
Everywhere
Forgives sins
Grace
Hosanna
Incredible
Just
Kindness
Loving
Memories
Nature sings your praise
Open to all creatures
Powerful
Queen of our world
Rhett
Save us
Trustful
Understand
Very strong
We will praise you
eXplain
You are a loving God to all!
Zippy

Mad Lib Psalm of Praise

I will praise you, O God. I will imagine because you are amazing. Every day I will walk and give comfort. Great is the Lord and worthy to be praised. Each generation shall tell of God's works, shall tell of God healing us when we were sick. They shall announce to the nations that you are almighty and loving. Each generation shall call you Mama and King. Marvelous are the works of your hands. Wonderful are the ways you save us and the rainbow. We will speak great things of your Kingdom, O God. For you are helpful. You help everyone. You sustain us. I will tell of God's work. I will love. Sing praise to the Lord. Let everyone who breathes run.

Get ready to join in a fun-filled adventure on the open road with Road Trip VBS based on Joshua 1:9 "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Kids will discover that God's presence is everywhere through fun bible stories, crafts, music, games, and so much more!

June 1st-5th : 12:30-4pm
Preschool - 6th Grade
Free, fun, and open to the entire community

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

<https://forms.gle/PrSjmYtMwW4B9LrL7>

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is May 17, 2026. Along with a powerful worship service, the congregation is invited to a reception in honor of the Confirmands before worship at 8:00am. Come to the reception and certainly do not miss worship as these youth dedicate themselves to walking with Christ.

Youth Mission Opportunity

The Indiana Kentucky Conference is pleased to announce a mission opportunity this summer. There will be a group of youth leading a VBS for people on the spectrum. We will be leading and staying at Friedens UCC in Indianapolis on June 30- July 2. This is a camp-like event, so there will be youth from all across the Conference at this event. This should be a fun trip. And the best part? Our youth account will pay the full cost for youth from St. John's. Pastor Joey needs to know roughly by May 10 in order to reserve our spots, so check your calendars and come be a part of this fun mission trip.

Memorial Sunday

Join us after worship on May 24 for our Annual Memorial Sunday service. Our speakers this year are our own Mike and Rob, who will be reflecting about their time in the service. We will meet in the cemetery at about 10:15 as usual, so come and join us for this always moving moment of remembrance.

Volunteer Drivers

If you are interested in being added to our list of Volunteer Drivers, please contact the Church Office. Currently, only two people are listed and it would be nice to have a few more options for those in need of some driving assistance.



Spotlight On...Jerry McKinney

5 QUESTIONS & 1 PHOTO TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER A BIT MORE!

1. What is your favorite bible verse?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believed in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

2. What is your favorite piece of advice?

Help somebody today.

3. What is your favorite outdoor activity?

That would be gardening and yard work. I enjoy seeing plants grow and having the fresh vegetables during the season.

4. Are you early bird or night owl?

Most people would know me as an early riser. I love to see the beautiful sunrises and I get more done in the early part of the day. I am reminded of Lamentations 3:22-23. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

5. What was your first job?

My first job was a clerk in our local grocery store during my high school years (\$0.65 per hour). This activity was usually a couple nights per week after school and Saturdays. You had no stores open on Sunday.



Spotlight On... Bev McKinney

5 QUESTIONS & 1 PHOTO TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER A BIT MORE!

1. What is your favorite bible verse?

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This became a very important verse for me when I was sick. I quoted it every day.

2. What is an interesting fact about you?

At the age of 50 I returned to school and obtained my LPN licence and certification.

3. What is a favorite trip you've taken?

I went with a friend to Charleston, South Carolina.

4. What was your first job?

Planting melons. I lived on a farm and although my Dad didn't grow melons, several of his friends did, so I would be called upon to help.

5. What is your favorite church hymn?

I have several but the first to come to mind is "I'll Fly Away." Also ""Beulah Land."

Summer Camp!

As you know Merom Conference and Retreat Center is not hosting Indiana Kentucky Conference Summer Camps this year. However, Faith Journeys (one of the weeklong camps from the conference) is planning on having a mini-camp at Camp Bedford this summer. Here are the details:

June 8th (8am check-in) to June 10th (8pm checkout)

Cost: Early Bird (before May 1) \$275

Normal Registration (before June 1) \$300

Register TODAY

This is the camp that Gwen Dobson and Sammy Frye went to last year. Gwen is planning on going! The Sunday School board will help pay for some of the costs of campership for members! See one of them for more information.

Faith Journeys believes that we are a people, not a place —and that all ground is holy ground. The Spirit goes with us wherever we are; we are still Faith Journeys.

Have questions see me!

Sarah Dobson



Fun Facts About Our Upcoming Church Picnic – July 25, 2026

Mark your calendars for this date – we will need your help!

St. John's is known for the yummy roast beef sandwiches we serve. We roast around 300 pounds of beef. It is roasted the Wednesday before picnic by 3 or 4 ladies. We start at 7:30 in the morning and are finished by 4 PM that day. Art Meyer has been our "beef runner" for several years. He gets it from the Village Store and brings it to church and then takes it back again for it to be sliced. Then he gets it again from the Village Store on Saturday morning. We have some great "beef trimmers" that look at each piece and cut off any unwanted fatty parts and then we put it into roasters and layer it with gravy. It cooks all day and smells so delicious! Are your taste buds watering yet?

Don't let those taste buds stray too far because we have lots of other tasty treats at the picnic. How about our famous mock turtle soup? For the picnic, we make 75 gallons of it starting on Friday before picnic. 50 gallons are made that morning and then the "turtle soup team" comes back Saturday morning to make an even fresher 25 gallons which we serve that afternoon. Did you know that for all that soup it takes 23 dozen of hard-boiled eggs (yes, each one is peeled by the team), 75 pounds of ground beef, 115 cans of tomato juice plus all the other veggies that go in it? The secret ingredient is the brown flour. Nope, you cannot buy it in the store but Sheryl Voss browns it at her home and it is very time consuming to do. The soup making takes about 10 people to make it. When the sign-up sheets are out for workers, sign up and see how the "soup" people work their magic!

A Page From the Hymnal

THE DAY THOU GAVEST, LORD, IS ENDED

This beautiful hymn, unfortunately not included in our hymnal, celebrates the worldwide fellowship of the church and its continual offering of prayer and praise to God. The words were written, in 1870, by John Ellerton, a man of deep faith and deep pastoral experience, who was born in London, England on December 16, 1826. He was educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Ordained in the Church of England in 1851, he served as vicar of several parishes, and is best known as an editor, translator, hymnologist and hymn writer, authoring approximately 80 hymns. Ellerton died on June 15, 1893 in Torquay, Devonshire, England. This hymn was sung at the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, in 1897, and at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, on September 19, 2022.



The tune, ST. CLEMENT was composed in 1874 for this text by Clement Cotterill Scholefield, who was born on June 22, 1839 in Edgbaston, near Birmingham, England. He studied at St. John's College, Cambridge, and was ordained, in 1867, in the Church of England. Scholefield was chaplain at Eton College, was vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Knightsbridge, and was composer of many songs and hymns. He died in Surrey, England, on September 10, 1904. This tune is used in our hymnal for the hymn, "O Light Whose Splendor Thrills" (#109).

*The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at thy behest;
To thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.*

*The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.*

*We thank thee that thy Church unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.*

*So be it, Lord, thy throne shall never,
Like Earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.*

-David W. Hanson, Organist/Choir Director

*As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.*



Thank You!

I want to thank everyone that send food, made visits, sent cards and prayers. It is appreciated more than you know. You are truly God's hands.

Martha



St. John's UCC Members,

Thank you for the use of a scooter when I broke my ankle in February. It was my only way to get around safely for 2 months.

God Bless you for sharing.

Sincerely,

Nicki Wuestefeld

To the Ecumenical Choir -

Thank you once again for starting our Easter celebration so beautifully. We have enjoyed it for many years.

Thank you, again,

Mary Jo & Eric Heppner



Thank you church family for all the love, prayers and cards you sent Aly when she was in the hospital.

We appreciate everyone who reached out and asked about her. She is certainly a loved girl and we are so thankful she is feeling better each day! Thank you also Pastor Joey for coming to the hospital twice to read to her and offer prayers. The books you chose put a smile on her face.

Love, Kyle, Amber and Aly

**MONDAY MORNINGS
WITH PASTOR JOEY**

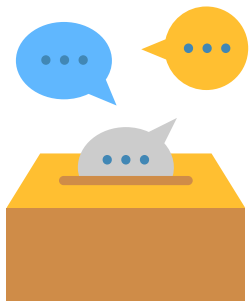
Stop in for a drink & a chat upstairs
at Amack's Well. He'll be there a
little after 9:00am until noon.





Liturgist Schedule:

May 3 - Lori Mauer
May 10 - John Kuhlman
May 17 - Joan Westerfeld
May 24 - RD Kitchell
May 31 - Dan Hall
June 7 - Jane Link



Comments or Suggestions?

Talk to one of our PRC
members:
Mike Schumacher,
Rachel Davis,
Jena Gerritsen,
Kimberly Hill
or Sarah Dobson!



Contact Info

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Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sjucbatesville/

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@josephfeldmann1025



MAY
Birthdays


- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 Margaret Meyers | 19 Charlie Dieckmann, DeVota Weberding,
Gary Weberding |
| 5 Dennis Frische-Mouri | 20 Jeremy Borgman |
| 6 Pam Belter | 21 Robert Kitchell |
| 7 Carol Dial, Sarah Feldmann,
Kurt Oliver, Robert Reynolds | 22 Aubree Spurlock |
| 8 Bob "Tuba" Narwold | 23 Alex Davis |
| 9 Kara Shane, Janet Sagester | 24 Sandy Wittkamper |
| 11 Jessica Stephan | 25 Lawson Gutzwiller |
| 12 Emma Miller | 26 Andrew Johnston |
| 14 Margie Harmeyer | 28 Danny Narwold, Lauren Voss |
| 15 Nick Bailey, Carol Narwold,
Jeremy Miller | 29 John Gerritsen, Mac Miller |
| 16 Marian Koester, Jason Sarringhaus | 30 Dan Hall |
| 18 Justin Benoit, Jeanie Carter,
Linda Frische-Mouri,
Hattie Westerfeld, Gaige Wintz | 31 Candy Bessler, Brenda Mergenthal |



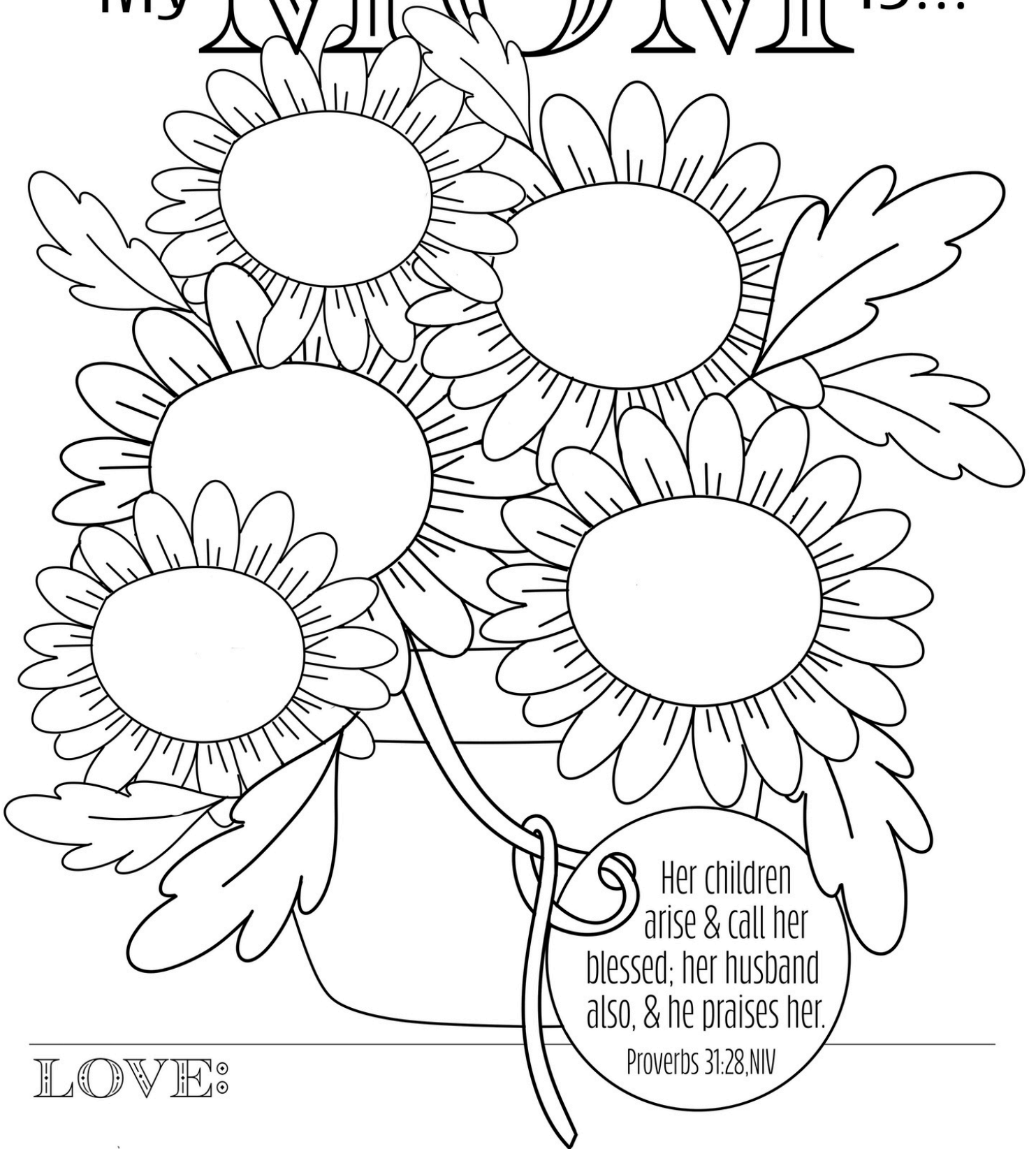
MAY
Anniversaries

- 5 Jim & B.J. Bauman
7 Andy & Sarah Jaisle
19 Kyle & Amber Wirth
20 Jill & Brian Haakinson
23 John & Joan Kuhlman
24 Jeremy & Charrel Raver
30 Rachel & James Spurlock
31 Linnie & Gary Fullenkamp



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 Communion Sunday 9a Men's Practice 8:15a; Sing at Service	4 SS Board 6:30pm	5	6 Confirmation 6:00p & 7:00p	7 National Day of Prayer 12p YMCA Chancel Practice 7:00pm	8	9
10 Chancel Slings 	11	12 Council Meeting 7p	13 Confirmation 6:00p & 7:00p	14 BAMA 1:30p	15	16
17 Chancel Slings Confirmation Sunday	18	19	20	21 Messenger Deadline	22	23
24 Memorial Sunday 10:15a	25 Office Closed 	26	27 Quiltmakers Here 9am	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

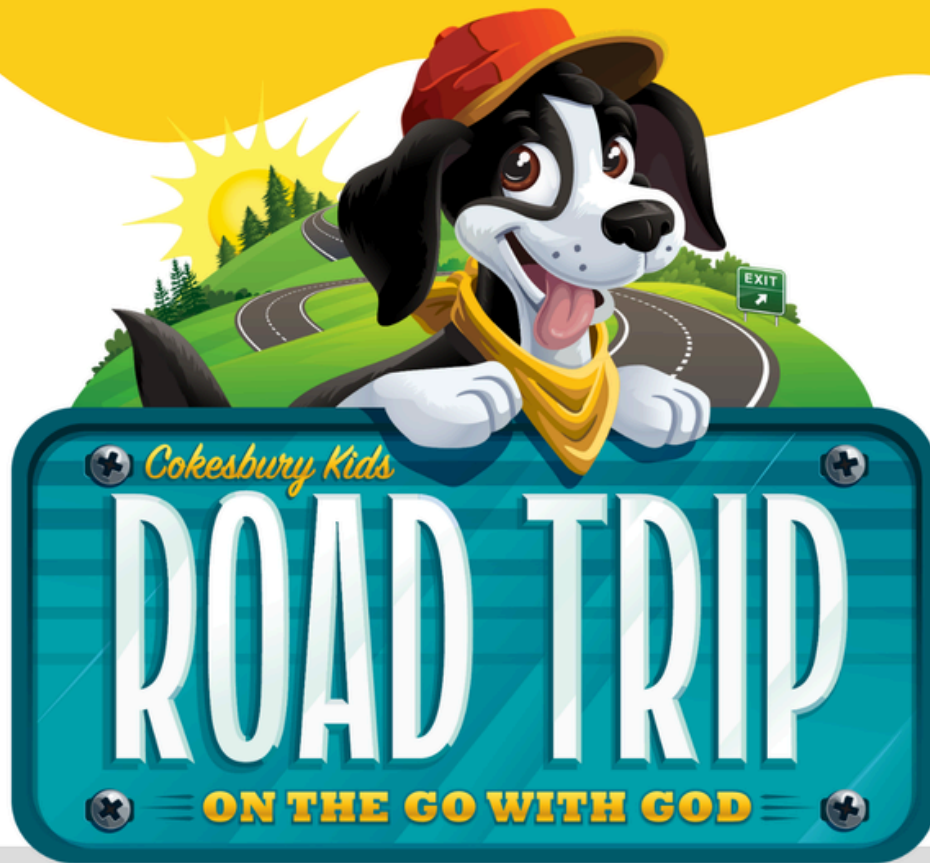
My MOM is...



Her children
arise & call her
blessed; her husband
also, & he praises her.

Proverbs 31:28, NIV

LOVE:



Get ready to join in a fun-filled adventure on the open road with Road Trip VBS based on Joshua 1:9 "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

[Register Online](#)

www.stjohnsuccbatesville.org

Kids will discover God's presence is everywhere through fun bible stories, crafts, music, games and so much more!

June 1-5 12:30-4:00pm

- ◆ Preschool - 6th Grade
- ◆ Free & open to the entire community - tell your friends!

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