

Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

Trusting Our God of Abundance even in Difficult Times

As a team, we've been prayerfully preparing for this year's Region offering. This year, we're reflecting on our tagline, "Together on God's Abundant Journey." But how do we know the path we're on is one of abundance?

When I reflect on the term "abundance," my mind jumps to Bible passages like Jesus feeding the 5,000. While we often think of the awesome miracle that Jesus works, we can miss the point. Likely, we are called to be like the boy offering his lunch.

This boy showed us what true sacrifice is. He came prepared with a simple lunch, but he believed Jesus could do something greater. He trusted the faithfulness of our Lord. How often are we called to sacrifice something (big or small) but hesitate because we hold too tightly to our plans?

God turned the obedience of a child into enough to meet the needs of the crowd. The crowd ate, and they were satisfied. And there were leftovers. Isn't that just like our God, to not only meet needs, but exceed them? I wonder what would happen if we approached our lives and ministries the same way. When God calls us to do something but the budget says it's not possible, what is our first instinct? I hope it is similar to that of the little boy, and we offer up what we have, regardless of how small it may be. May we be prepared to sacrifice, and may our eyes be open so we don't miss the everyday miracles happening around us.

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

John 6:5-13





Back to School

This article is for kids:

Are you ready to go back to school? Did you miss it? I just finished college, and I am kind of glad I don't have to go to school again this fall. School sometimes made me feel butterflies in my tummy. I was always excited and a little scared. I would wonder who I would sit with, who my teacher was, and sometimes where my locker would be.

I want to tell you a secret, though: Jesus is with you no matter what. When school is really fun, Jesus is there. When school is really hard, Jesus is there, too. I hope you know that wherever you go, Jesus is there with you.

Maybe this school year, you sit next to someone who seems not so nice, but I bet they need a reminder that Jesus is with them. Maybe someone at lunch is sitting by themselves; they need to be reminded Jesus is with them, too.

I want you to know that no matter what happens this school year, Jesus is with us. Maybe the teacher will ask, "What is the best thing you learned this summer?" Friend, knowing Jesus is with you is the best thing you could ever learn!

There is this really cool story in the Bible where a man named Peter walks on water. He actually takes a few steps before he falls in. Do you know why he fell in? He forgot that Jesus was with him.

As you go to school, sometimes Jesus might ask you to do something that sounds as crazy as walking on water. If you remember that Jesus is with you, then it won't seem so crazy.

Maybe Jesus asks us to sit with that friend I told you about, who is sitting all alone.

Maybe Jesus asks us to share our lunch with someone who is hungry.

Maybe Jesus asks us to play at recess with someone new.

Maybe Jesus asks us to write someone a nice note.

Wherever Jesus takes us, and whatever He may ask us to do, He is with us. This means it isn't scary and we can try it without feeling those butterflies in our tummy.

Let's try something together. Go a few more pages into this newsletter and find the coloring page. Color it and then write on the back this phrase, "Jesus is with me." Fold it up and put it in your backpack. Use it to remind you of this promise, and maybe show it to a friend who needs reminding, too.

RENEW Transformational Strategies

Throughout August and September, there will be three events happening around the ABC-IN/KY Region. Each event will be the same, but it is so important that everyone has an opportunity to attend. See the chart below for the event nearest to you.

These events will happen in Petersburg, Madison, and Warren, Indiana. Each event is free of charge, open to pastors and church members alike, and lunch will be provided. We hope you come and spend the day; however, if you can only stay for part of the day, we would love that, too!

These events will be led by a group of consultants from West Virginia, called RENEW Transformational Strategies. This group helps churches assess their health and coaches them toward a renewed vision. How amazing would it be if every church within Indiana and Kentucky were able to determine how healthy they are? What if that led to partnerships that allowed us to engage our communities more? Imagine how great an impact it would have.

We are excited to see the impact this will have for our churches, communities, and Region! The Region Staff trust that you will have a great experience, because we are spending time working through this process as well!

As already mentioned, these events are free, thanks to a grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. Please register at least a week before whichever event you plan to attend, so that we can have plenty of food and enough seats/tables for everyone. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Wendy Shuler at wendyshuler@abc-indiana.org or 317.635.3552.

Dates	Times	Locations
Saturday, August 30, 2025	9:00 AM EST	First Baptist Church of Warren
Saturday, September 6, 2025	9:00 AM EST	First Baptist Church of Madison
Saturday, September 27, 2025	9:00 AM EST	Petersburg First Baptist Church

Creativity in Preaching Lab

In August, many people from around the Region will be headed to Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin to attend a unique learning opportunity. This upcoming event is called, "Creativity in Preaching," and it is designed more like a learning lab than a conference.

This is an opportunity for participants to think innovatively about sharing the gospel. Aside from discovering various preaching styles, opportunities to practice and engage with these preaching styles will be included. We want pastors to have as many tools in their toolbelt as possible!

For those who have never attended an event at Green Lake Conference Center, please note there are several options for 'ReCreation.' This includes opportunities to walk in nature, sit by the lake, rent a boat, play golf, paint pottery, climb to the top of Judson Tower, and many other exciting experiences. There is plenty for everyone to do, and the atmosphere truly brings you closer to Jesus.

This conference is very affordable, as pricing options start as low as \$50, and this price includes the cost of meals and a room. Please note, as stated below, that the \$50 option allows you to sleep in something like a dorm room, and the \$200 option allows you to stay in a hotel.

To register for the event or ask any question you may have, please visit:
<https://www.glccpreaching.org/register>.

The following is from the website of Green Lake Conference Center about the event:

Description: By creating space for pastors to safely explore alternative approaches to preaching, this gathering will create a unique opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and learn from other preachers. In addition, the team of facilitators will lead discussions on preaching and offer insights to emerging methods.

Unique Aspects: Each participant will have an opportunity to experiment with an alternative approach to preaching and receive guided feedback from peers.

Tentative Schedule: We will begin with dinner on August 11 and end with breakfast on August 15. August 12, 13, and 14 will include 1) worship, 2) facilitated discussions on preaching, 3) time for recreation, and 4) opportunities for participants to experiment with alternative approaches to preaching in a safe place.

Cost: The price per person is based on your preferred accommodations. If you'd like to stay in a hotel room, it will be \$200 per person. However, if a space that is more like a dorm room works for you, then the price will be \$50 per person. In either case, the price includes all food and lodging.

2025

August

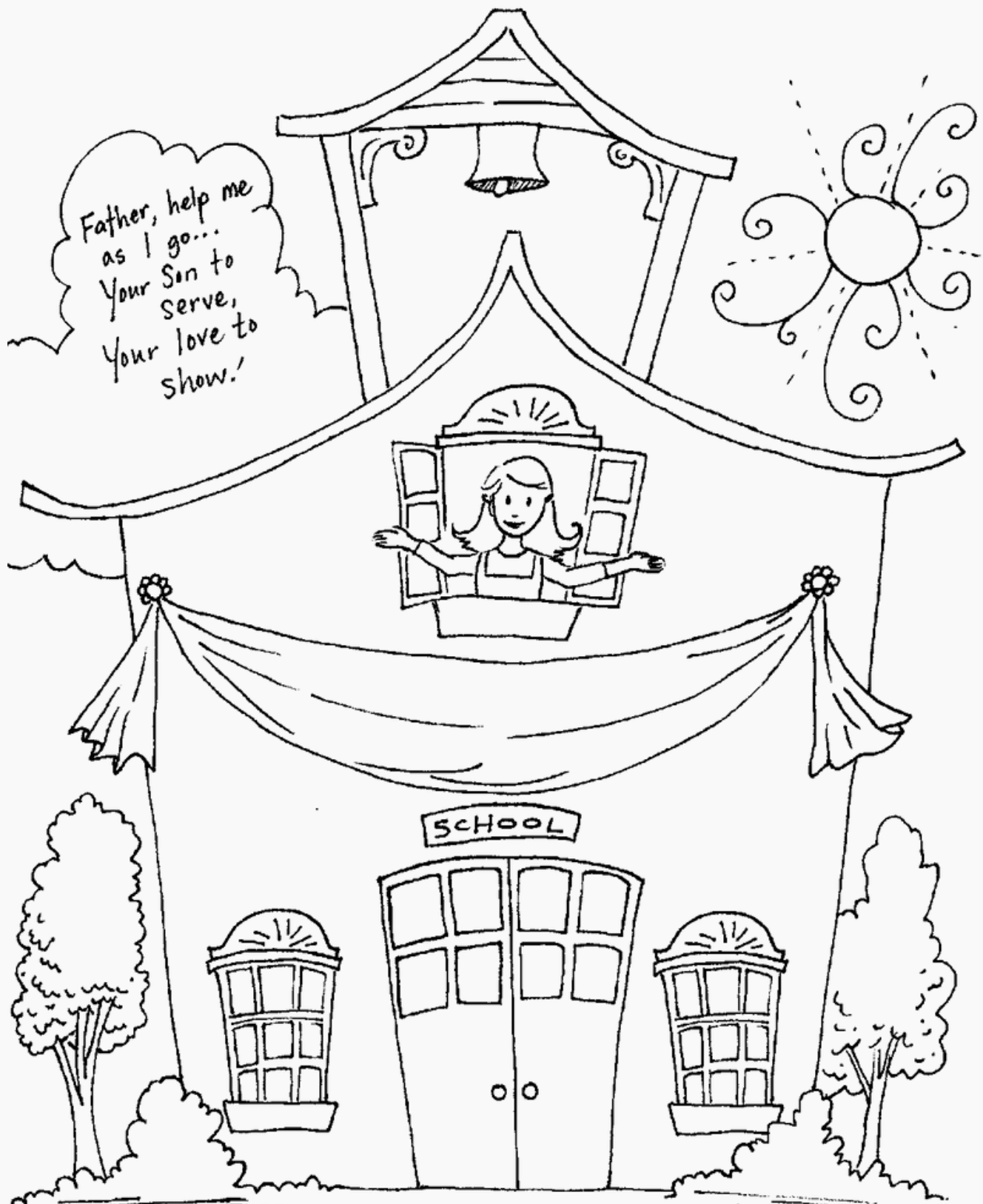
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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31						



RENEW

August 5 at 6:00 PM: Northeast Central Pastors Gathering: Spouses invited, too, at Culver's in Anderson
 August 6 at 9:00 AM: Sand Creek Association Pastors Gathering at Hopewell Baptist Church in Holton
 August 7 at 11:30 AM: Bethel Association Pastors Gathering at Mission BBQ in Clarksville
 August 11 - 15: Creativity in Preaching Lab at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin
 August 11 at 10:00 AM: Laughery Association Pastors Meeting at Versailles Baptist Church
 August 11 at 1:00 PM: Coffee Creek Association Pastors Gathering at Denny's in Scottsburg
 August 12 at 10:00 AM: Pastor and Region Staff Zoom Call with Dr. Jeff Woods: Developing Healthy Church Boards
 August 14 at 10:00 AM: Tri-County and Union Association Pastors Gathering at Lebanon Baptist Church in Linton
 August 14 at 12:00 PM: Judson Association Pastors Gathering at Olive Garden in Kokomo
 August 14 at 7:00 PM: Long Run Associations Pastors Gathering at Mo's Steakhouse in Vevay
 August 20 at 10:00 AM: ABC-IN/KY Region Staff Meeting via Zoom
 August 20 at 12:00 PM: Logansport Pastors Gathering at Streamliner Family Restaurant in Rochester
 August 26 at 10:00 AM: Monticello and Tippecanoe Pastors Gathering at Country Cafe in West Lafayette
 August 27 at 12:00 PM: North Pastors Lunch at Vinatelli's in Markle
 August 28 at 8:30 AM: Madison Association Pastors Gathering at Hinkle's Sandwich Shop
 August 28 at 2:30 PM: Martinsville Area Pastors Gathering at First Baptist Church of Martinsville
 August 30 at 9:00 AM: RENEW Transformational Strategies at Warren First Baptist Church

Generations



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

Thank You to Our Supporters

We are grateful to these sister churches who have given to the Region Offering in the month of June to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note that fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Avoca Missionary Baptist Church
Bear Creek Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church of Kokomo
Crooked Creek Baptist Church
Dabney Baptist Church
Deer Creek Baptist Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Anderson
First Baptist Church of Bedford
First Baptist Church of Bicknell
First Baptist Church of Columbus
First Baptist Church of Decatur
First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne
First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville
First Baptist Church of Madison
First Baptist Church of Monticello
First Baptist Church of Peru
First Baptist Church of Petersburg
First Baptist Church of Rochester

First Baptist Church of Terre Haute
First Baptist Church of Versailles
First Baptist Church of Warren
First Baptist Church of Westport
First Prairie Creek Baptist Church
Greencastle First Baptist Church
Hayden Baptist Church
Hope First Baptist Church
Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church
Lebanon Baptist Church
Muncie First Baptist Church
Mill Creek Baptist Church
New Liberty Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Oakdale Baptist Church
Poneto Baptist Church
Tea Creek Baptist Church
Tell City First Baptist
Vienna Baptist Church