May 2026

UMCG KIDS

A Birth Through Elementary Ministry



This Month's Big Story

God Meets Me Here:
Exploring Our Feelings with God
Matthew 11:28

This May, the children will be taking a gentle & honest look at big feelings & how God is present with us in all of them. Each week, we'll focus on different experiences many of us share: feeling overwhelmed, feeling sad, feeling worried, & feeling stuck. Through story, movement, creative activities, & simple spiritual practices, children will learn that they don't have to hide or fix their feelings—God meets us in our big feelings. We'll be grounding our time in Jesus' invitation from Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." While characters & stories from the Mr. Men Little Miss: Discover You books by Roger Hargreaves will join us along the way. These stories help children recognize & name their emotions in accessible, playful ways, while opening the door for deeper conversations about faith, care, & connection. Throughout the month, kids will practice skills like calming their bodies, expressing emotions through art, releasing worries, caring for others, & trying again when things feel hard. Our hope is that these practices not only support their emotional well-being, but also help them grow in trusting that God is always near—no matter what they're feeling. We look forward to learning and growing together!

Church Calendar Corner

Season: Eastertide → Pentecost → Ordinary Time **Colors:** White & Gold → Red → Green
We begin the month still in Eastertide, celebrating resurrection, joy, & new life. At Pentecost, we shift to red, the color of the Holy Spirit, celebrating that God's Spirit is alive & moving in us & through us. Then we enter Ordinary Time, marked by green, a season of growing. Just like plants stretching toward the sun, we keep growing in faith, love, & the ways we care for one another.

This Month:

- **May 3 – Confirmation Sunday:** We celebrate young people saying "yes" to their faith & continuing to grow as part of our church family.
- **May 4 – Star Wars Day:** A fun day ("May the Fourth be with you!") that reminds us stories can help us explore courage & hope.
- **May 5 – Cinco de Mayo:** A celebration of Mexican heritage & culture, inviting us to appreciate the richness of diverse traditions & communities.
- **May 10 – Mother's Day:** A day to give thanks for those who nurture, care for, & love us; families come in many forms, & we celebrate them all.
- **May 24 – Pentecost Sunday:** We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit—God's presence with us.
- **May 25 – Memorial Day:** A time to remember & give thanks for those who have given their lives in service to others.

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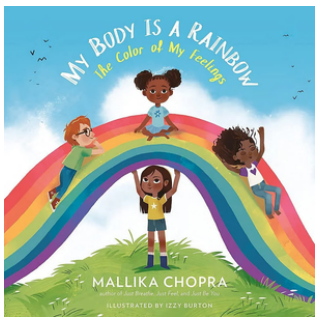
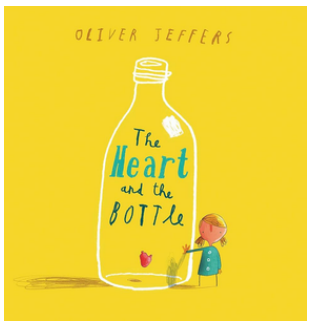
Book Nook

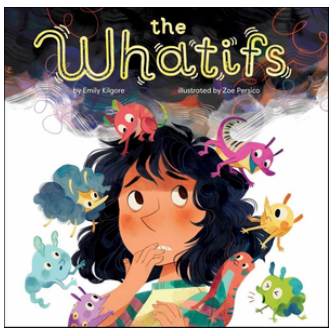
Check these out at your local library to continue the conversation about emotions.



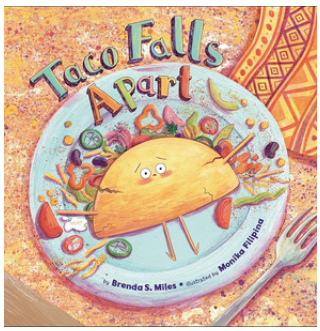
My Body is a Rainbow
by Mallika Chopra



The Heart and the Bottle
By Oliver Jeffers



the Whatifs
by Emily Kilgore



Taco Falls Apart
by Brenda S. Miles

2nd grade & under: coming this Summer during worship:



PLUS an all ages opportunity... be on the lookout!

Continuing to Practice Giving

As a part of our Sunday School rhythm, children are invited into a simple weekly practice of generosity. It's a great way to use the banks they might have made last month in Sunday School, but even if they didn't is a wonderful way to help them learn intrinsic motivation for sharing/giving. They may bring their offering to Sunday school, it will go toward the 1874 Project. We will continue to offer the opportunity to also place a marble in the offering basket as a symbol of prayers, kindness, or something they are offering to God. This practice helps children live into the church's promise of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness—learning that they already have something meaningful to give and share in God's abundant love.



SAVE THE DATES!

Saturdays, July 25 & August 22, 2026
9:30 am to 12 Noon

A VBS Experience in partnership with Batavia UMC and our friends at The Neighbor Project
Location: The Neighbor Project,
32 S. Broadway, Aurora, IL

United Methodist Church of Geneva · Batavia UMC · The Neighbor Project · UMCG KIDS