



Circuit Rider for April 2018

Sparks United Methodist Church
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775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org



Pastor's Ponderings

Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope this reaches you in time to encourage your worship attendance early and often throughout Holy Week – to appreciate anew the sacrificial love of Jesus for us, and to embrace the hope of new life we are entrusted to share with our wounded world.

As many of you already know, this will be my last Easter in Sparks as your pastor. As was announced in worship on March 4, I am being appointed to serve the Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Stockton, California, effective July 1. Sybella and I covet your prayers as we relocate and begin to serve in a new situation. I also commend to our prayers the Bishop and Superintendents who will discern and then recommend a new pastor to serve Sparks UMC.

Allow me to share some specifics about the appointment process – that is, how a church gets its pastor in the United Methodist system. Each fall, every church and every pastor is asked to submit a form expressing their desire: for the church to either retain or replace their pastor, for the pastor to either remain or request relocation. Those forms are submitted to the conference office for use in the appointment system. When the church and pastor agree about things staying as they are, usually there is a reappointment for another year... usually but not always. In keeping with our Wesleyan heritage, Bishop Carcaño is in the practice of moving pastors after 5 – 7 years of service in a church, unless something extraordinary is happening.

Given that reality, and expecting to serve another 4 – 6 years before retirement, I asked to be moved this year to allow me adequate time to minister in a new setting. I feel like I have done what I can here in Sparks; it's time for new leadership, new perspective, new energy.

We have gone through significant staff changes in the last year (as of July 1, 2018 only

Cindy Sabatini will remain of the staff that showed up to work in January 2017). I am confident that this overhaul of staff will prompt new awareness of where Sparks UMC stands, where it is equipped to go, and who can help move it forward.

In these months of transition, my invitation to you is to consider your current investment in the life of our congregation: the time you are committing to worship and service, the talents you are making available for the ministry of Christ, the treasures you are giving to fund our present and our future. For the sake of that future, take time to dream of ways the church – through its people – can encourage one another and have an impact outside our walls. Write those dreams down, and be prepared to share them with the new pastor.

Daring to dream, remaining open to a God-sized vision for its future, gives a congregation – any congregation – impetus to set aside fear and look forward with hope. Inheriting a congregation filled with expectation is the greatest gift I can imagine giving my successor!

Please know that you are dear to me, and I look forward to our remaining three months of service to our Lord – together.

Yours for the journey,

Coffee Hour Hosts

Each Sunday after worship one group from our congregation hosts this time of fellowship. If you or your group would like to be added to the rotation, please contact the church office.

- April 1 Mission Outreach
- April 8 Happy Days Board
- April 15 Music Ministry
- April 22 Stephen Ministry
- April 29 SPRC

Worshiping Together

April's MP3: Monthly Parish Prayer Priority

Let us pray that a spirit of resurrection and renewal will permeate each life in the congregation and overflow in creative ways of caring for our community.

April Worship Themes

Our first service begins at 9:00 AM and the second at 10:30 AM. Our Coffee Hours are at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM in the Social Hall.

Sunday School classes for children and adults run concurrent with the 10:30 AM service.



Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday
7:00 AM Sunrise Worship

Beginning in the Meditation Garden

Sermon: *Resolving the Suspension*

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Mark 16:1-8

9:00 & 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

Sermon: *Spreading like Wildfire*

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

Sunday, April 8 2ND Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *Set Free to See*

Rev. John Sublett, preaching

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35; John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 15 3RD Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *Plotting a Course for Pentecost –
Healing with Jesus*

Scriptures: Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 22 4TH Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *Plotting a Course for Pentecost –
Following the Shepherd's Lead*

Scriptures: Psalm 23; Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 29 5TH Sunday of Easter

Sermon: *The Lord is My Shepherd*

Scripture: Psalm 23

Jacqueline Dickman, preaching

Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Maundy Thursday (March 29)

Potluck Dinner and Worship beginning at 6:00 PM, Social Hall

Our evening will begin with a shared meal, then transition into a worship event featuring foot washing and/or hand washing and The Lord's Supper in an informal setting.

Good Friday (March 30)

12:00 Noon, Sanctuary

We will share a quiet, thoughtful time as we consider *The Scriptural Way of the Cross*, blending Bible readings with brief meditations, silence, and singing.

7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Our revisiting of our Lord's Passion will come through the cantata *Light in the Darkness*, by Patrick M. Liebergen.



Wendy's Café



If you can help, we would appreciate your financial donations to the ministry as well as help with meal delivery and serving. Please hold this ministry in your prayers and help us keep this vital ministry going!

We'd love for you and your family to attend our café meals. Our hope is this meal is a chance for everyone and anyone to enjoy good home cooked food, friendship, fellowship and a time of prayer, music and a message to follow. The next Wendy's Café meal will be at 4:00 PM on...

Saturday, March 31

Saturday, April 28

Growing Our Faith Together



UMW: The Power of Bold

In 2019, the United Methodist Women will be 150 years old. This May we will gather in Columbus, OH to celebrate this great event at Assembly 2018. The theme “The Power of Bold”, invigorates our commitment to turning faith, hope and love into action.



Legacy Note: Bell Harris Bennett, born 1852 in Kentucky, was a 19TH century racial justice and women’s rights advocate. She opened the Scarritt Bible and Training School in 1892, to equip Christians for mission, in conjunction with the Women’s Foreign Missionary Society. She was passionate about anti-racism and full inclusion of women in the church. She was the first woman to address a General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1910. She spoke eloquently on behalf of the Women’s Missionary Society, urging the conference to give full laity rights to women. After several failed attempts, in 1922 she was elected to conference, but was too ill to attend, and later died that same year.

UMW would like to thank everyone who came out to support our rummage sale on what turned out to be a stormy weekend. Special thanks to all the ladies involved in setting-up, helped in sales and cleaning up the social hall. God also sent angels to help us out: Dale Sanderson, Gary Waldrop, Rick Anderson and the Boy Scouts.

The proceeds from the sale will help UMW continue to turn faith, hope and love into action around the world.

Patricia Wilson, President

Lay Servant Ministries Classes offered at Roseville First UMC

Roseville First UMC began Second Saturday Lay Servant Ministries classes every second Saturday of the month beginning in November 2017. The schedule and curriculum is designed to complete the requirements for Certified Lay Speaker by August 2018.

The next class’ topic is “Preaching.” This is the only class that meets twice: on Saturdays, April 14 and June 9, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM both days. This class is divided into two parts: classroom instruction and preaching practice. Participants must attend both classes for credit.

Advanced registration is required. Please register on the Conference website at www.cnumc.org/register. Cost of the course is \$20 and will include snacks and beverages. Lunch is at student’s expense. Payment should be made at time of registration.

Laity from any district may attend these classes. Your specific Lay Servant Ministries Director will be notified of course completion. Class begins at 8 a.m. and will end no later than 6 p.m. Students are responsible for obtaining and reading the text, completing the exercises, and bringing any written work required. Required textbook ordering information is listed on the registration page and should be ordered by students to be received in time for class day.

Roseville First UMC is located at 109 Washington Blvd, Roseville, approximately 2 miles west of I-80 when exiting at Douglas Blvd. For questions or additional information please contact Roseville First at 916-783-3464 or email at firstumc@surewest.net, attention Pastor Steve.



Musical Musings



Greetings from Music Ministries!

Special Music & Events – Thanks to those who were able to attend and help support our concert here earlier this month by the

Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra! They always love performing here and were especially pleased and surprised when I handed them \$400 in donations that afternoon. Thank you for your generosity.

Glorious Noise Children's Choir – will be leading the palms processional on Palm Sunday, March 25, and also presenting special music on Easter, April 1 at both the 9:00 and 10:30 AM worship services.

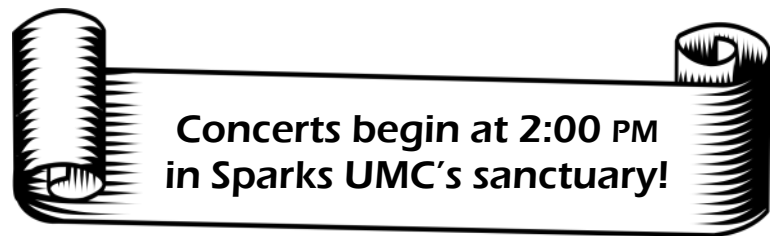
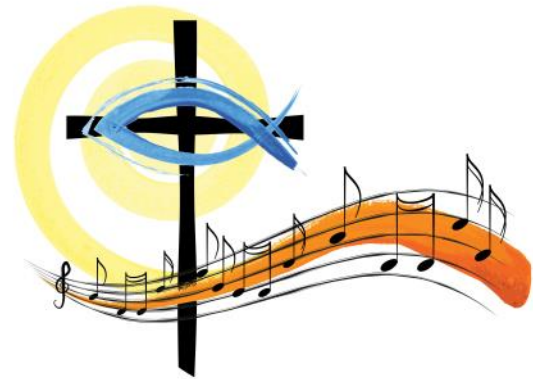
Sanctuary Choir – continues to lead worship at our 9:00 AM worship service, and is ready to present their Good Friday cantata "Light in the Darkness" at the evening Tenebrae worship service March 30. They will be joined by members of the Spanish Springs Presbyterian church choir, 2 narrators and 4 musicians.

Beatitudes Praise Band – just led worship services March 18 and will next be part of worship on April 22.

Joy-Filled Handbell Choir – is back and will present special music at the 9:00 and 10:30 AM worship services Easter morning April 1.

God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries ☺



Sierra NV Children's Choir April 29

The SNCC is for 1st – 12th graders with a talent and passion for singing. Their music ranges from modern to medieval. Students are divided into three magnificent choirs with top-tier directors who combine education and fun! Come and enjoy these young performers. Learn more at sierranvadachildrenschoir.org.



Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble May 20

Tintabulations educates diverse communities with terrific performances that go beyond standard handbell conventions. They entertain a broad, multi-generational audience with their interpretations of music from multiple genres and sources. Learn more at Tintabulations.com.



Celebrating Our Family



Verda Donathan	04/01	Kelle Morton	04/11
Gordon Steele	04/01	Jake Sr Young	04/11
Mike Wall	04/01	Christine Lund	04/12
Barb Schoonover	04/02	Daniel Sato	04/12
Peggy Thomas	04/02	Eugene Cushing	04/13
Nicole Dobrovlny	04/04	Lydia Cammarata	04/15
Bruce Hicks	04/06	Irving DuBois	04/16
Trent Ryan	04/06	Fran Oppio	04/18
Jeff Smith	04/06	Ken Thurston	04/18
Bobbi Boger	04/07	Chris Pritsos	04/19
Walt Gehlert	04/07	Jim Ferguson	04/20
Pattie Ridgeway	04/07	Tracey Thomas	04/20
Connor Semenko	04/07	Alexis Hill	04/22
Emily Hanson	04/09	Stephanie Gilbert	04/24
Nel Pisors	04/10	Julia Wallis	04/24
Carter Espinosa	04/11	Evelyn Johnston	04/30

Congratulations!

Ken & Bev Thurston	65
Richard & Ruth McClain	55
Hugh & Shirley Potter	55
Keneti & Kasanita Afuhaamango	37
Ted & Meg Sindlinger	35
Mike & Cindy Evans	31
Dan & Kim Waters	29
Robert & Barbara Cook	3

A Song of Victory

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that
the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:23-24

Supporting our Members

Our church is looking at the feasibility of starting a visitation program for members of the congregation who aren't able to attend church services. The ministry will consist of volunteers visiting the homes of past members who no longer are able to come to church due to age, disabilities or lack of transportation.

The goal of the visits is to maintain the relationship between the church and the members and to let them know they are not forgotten and keep them informed of what is happening in the church. Pending how many volunteers we get and how many members we would need to visit, the intent is for each volunteer to visit one or two people each month and spend an hour or so with them in their homes.



If this sounds interesting, please contact Wayne Holland at 740-542-0905. We will need both volunteers plus the creation of a list of names and contact numbers of the people we want to visit. Thank you.



This year's special Easter offering will support our church's numerous ministries to all ages within and beyond our church. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated.

Some of the great ministries of our church include: Christmas in July, Christmas Giving Tree, Human Needs, Music Camp, Choral Festival, Wendy's Café, Church Has Left The Building, Walk to Emmaus as well as many others.

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy Easter! 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy	2 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM World Religions	3 6:00 PM Stephen Leaders 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	4	5 10:00 AM Senior Chorus Rehearsal	6 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	7 8:00 AM UM Men's B'fast 9:00 AM 1st Sat. Cleanup 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class 11:30 AM UM Women Call to Prayer
8 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy 3:00 PM Spanish Class	9 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM World Religions	10 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43 7:00 PM Outreach Comm.	11 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 4:00 PM Glorious Noise Reh. 5:00 PM HD Board Meeting 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:00 PM Youth Group	12 12:30 PM Crafters Corner 3:00 PM Spanish Class	13 8:30 AM T. M. Quilters 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	14 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class
15 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy 3:00 PM Spanish Class	16 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM World Religions	17 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	18 4:00 PM Glorious Noise Reh. 6:00 PM Big Band Reh. 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Bd. of Trustees	19 12:01 PM Gold & Silver 3:00 PM Spanish Class	20 "CR" Deadline 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	21 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class
22 Beatitudes Sunday 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy 3:00 PM Spanish Class	23 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM World Religions	24 6:30 PM Cub Pack #43	25 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 4:00 PM Glorious Noise Reh. 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Church Council	26 12:30 PM Crafters Corner 3:00 PM Spanish Class 5:00 PM Nominations Com	27 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	28 9:00 AM Disciple 4 Class 10:00 AM Build Boxx Lunches 4:00 PM Wendy's Caf� 4:45 PM Worship
29 9:00 AM Traditions Svc 10:30 AM Open Hearts Svc NOON Lord of Mercy 2:00 PM Sierra Nevada Children's Choir 3:00 PM Spanish Class	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM World Religions	<p><i>Please visit the calendar on our website www.SparksUMC.org for updated events.</i></p>				

Comings and Goings

Sparks UMC Human Needs Fund

This fund was established to respond to the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community, and to the needs of anyone in our congregation facing difficult times or circumstances.

We asked that the congregation help by letting us know if you, or someone you know, is in need. We will be glad to do what we can to help.

There are a lot of requests for food from the pantry. We use some of the human needs funds to help keep the pantry well-stocked. All donations to the food pantry are greatly welcomed, especially canned meat items such as spam, tuna, chile and Vienna sausage. Peanut butter and fruit are also very welcome.

When donations to the human needs fund exceed the needs being brought to our attention, we share some of the surplus with Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and the Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission.

As always, those of us who serve in the Human Needs ministry maintain confidentiality for those who come to us. Please pray for us as we strive on your behalf to be God's open hands!


Crafter's Corner

Attention congregation! There is still time to submit recepies for the cookbook we are working on. A box will be in the Fireside Room until Sunday, April 22.

Crafters: We will have two Thursday meetings this month: April 12 and 26 – both at 12:30 pm. For more information, contact Adele Grube at 425-9110 or Charlotte Elbe at 359-6718. See you there!



Spread the news – call your friends. Youth Group is going strong! Join us each Wednesday in the Social Hall at 6:00 PM. We will be serving dinner, after which the youth will meet. Join the fun! For more information, contact Adele Grube at 425-9110.



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org

Visit our website at www.SparksUMC.org

Pastor Gary Pope-Sears
 Dir. of Music Ministries Cindy Sabatini
 Church Administrator Charles White
 Webmaster Cheri Vocelka

Happy Days Preschool 775-331-6699

Director: Yvana Majalca

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Nursery care is provided at all services.

Church Council Meeting Wednesday, April 25

Church Council will meet at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall.

Everyone is invited to attend Church Council meetings and participate in discussions.

Only members of the Church Council can vote.



Circuit Rider articles are due by the 20th each month.

Contact Office@SparksUMC.org
 Printer Church Office
 Reporters All of You!

Circulation: Grace Anderson, Jean Cleveland, Diana Greer, Donna McKibben, Carol Rogers, Jewel Sertic, Sally Snow, Wanda Vogel



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