



## Circuit Rider for July 2018

Sparks United Methodist Church  
1231 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431  
775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org



### Pastor's Ponderings

I cannot fully express my excitement as the time has finally arrived to become your pastor. I've spent the past three months learning as much about you as I can from a distance. Pastor Gary and Office Administrator Charles have been so helpful in pointing me toward fruitful preparation. I've prayed over each of your names in the church directory for the past three months and am anticipating how those prayers will quickly become more specific as I come to know you.



As people ask me how I feel about going to a new appointment, I'm guessing that my response is similar to yours. I say I'm "frightfully excited!" My reaction comes from realizing that there is much joy on the horizon and, at the same time, much wonder about who we'll become together and where we'll go. On your part, I'm guessing that you also see much joy on the horizon and wonder if the new pastor's going to change everything? ... or if he's going to change nothing!

Be at peace. My first and foremost job as your pastor is to listen. In fact, several years ago, our Conference Board of Ordained Ministry endeavored to describe what is expected of elders in full connection under appointment in this annual conference. The phrase that emerged from much prayer and study was that of a "listening, learning spiritual leader."

So let me repeat, MY NUMBER ONE JOB IS TO LISTEN ... to you, to the culture which is in some ways unique to Sparks and to Nevada, and, most importantly, to God. To these ends, I invite you to:

- Take advantage of one of the ten "getting to know you" meetings established by our transition team throughout the month of July. Many of you have already registered for one of these. My hope is that all of you will. And, if we need more meetings, I'm sure we will add them through August and maybe into September. If we are to be successful at building a strong relationship built on trust, it is vital that I have multiple opportunities early on to hear about your longings and losses, your hopes and dreams.
- Notice and pray for your neighbors in the greater Reno-Sparks area. Discern what the needs are for the community. Listen for God's voice drawing you to be attentive to the culture that is uniquely your neighborhood and community. Pray for those who are your unchurched friends. Most importantly, pray for those who may not have anyone else praying for them.
- Listen for God's dream for you, for our church, and for our community. Be willing to share with me your results of listening to God. Sometimes, I find that God may speak to me with the help of others who are more able to listen to God's leanings in certain ways than I am.

As we listen to one another, and to God, during the span of my time with you, we'll discover what God is blessing. When that happens, there will be no question about the direction to which our faith calls us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lee

# Worshiping Together

## July's MP3: Monthly Parish Prayer Priority

Let us pray for the Lord to *continue* blessing the transition of pastors throughout our conference and the world. May the Holy Spirit fill everyone with peace for today and excitement for our future.

### July Worship Themes

We'll have a single service at 10:00 AM throughout the summer with the Coffee Hour at 11:00 AM in the Social Hall.

Sunday School classes will resume in September.



#### Sunday, July 1 Holy Communion!

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: *Baptism & Temptation*  
Scriptures: Mark 1:9-13

#### Sunday, July 8

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: *Why Do People Need Jesus, the Church, and Sparks UMC?*  
Scriptures: Acts 1:8

#### Sunday, July 15

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: *Cast our Nets into the Deep Water*  
Scriptures: Luke 5:11

#### Sunday, July 22

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: *Fishing for People*  
Scriptures: Matthew 4:12-13, 17-22

#### Sunday, July 29

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: *Parable of the Nets and Fish*  
Scriptures: Matthew 13:47-50

## UMW: The Sacred Space of Rest and Self-Care

Everyone needs rest. The story of creation in Genesis shows that God is setting an example for us. After all the



work was done, God rested. The day was blessed, consecrated, made holy by God.

In our lives, we experience times that are hectic and emotional and we may feel depressed, tired, overwhelmed, etc. This is natural and is often overcome with things as simple as rest, food, and time.

The summer months are often a time to slow down and take a vacation. This season can be a great time to pause from our usual schedule and ease off on our hectic routines.

Embrace the "lazy days of summer," and let us return in September well rested and ready to live out our pledge to know God as whole persons through Jesus Christ and create a sacred space for continued supportive fellowship among United Methodist Women members.

Happy 4TH of July and have a safe summer!  
*Moving Forward,*  
Patricia Wilson, President

## 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...

**Wednesday, July 4th – Special Dinner at 6:00 PM**  
**Saturday, July 28 at 4:00 PM**

## Our Community Far and Near

### Annual Conference Update: Testify To Love

Cindy Evans and Donna McKibben will be giving a verbal report on last week's Annual Conference in church on an upcoming Sunday. Thank you all for sending us, allowing us to receive from the Lord and others, as much or more than we gave. We are excited and renewed to help all of us in our flock, you and us, move forward in getting our hands dirty in the Kingdom of God making disciples who will transform the world in Jesus' name. Here's a sneak preview from Donna.

After running into people you haven't seen for a whole year, causing road blocks in the corridors and aisles, we finally made it to our seats as the music began to signal the opening worship service and celebration of communion.

Each of us had received a "brick" (painted cardboard) when entering the hall, and at the time of offering we each brought our bricks forward along with our church's offering for Puerto Rico. As the bricks began piling up, a couple of "builders" walled two metal frames building an altar. That altar was used along with another wall during the conference. The Bishop served communion from it; it held the Bible and Cross during all the other sessions.



The atmosphere was alive and electric each morning, as our teacher for the conference, Marlon Hall from Houston, TX, taught us that we cannot effectively DO until we know and own the WHY. Each time he taught, he built on the *why* and deepened our understanding of the needs in God's world that we, as Christians and United Methodists have been called to help meet in every corner of the globe. (Ok, a globe is round without corners, but you get it, I'm sure.) We forget that God is in the business of turning junk into Jazz (example: the history of jazz music). Each of us

has a *why* in our life, and yet we have often forgotten our *why*. Why did God create you? What is your purpose, your calling for ministry? We need to concentrate on unearthing beauty from the brokenness of our world. As we each search for the our next step in God's ministries everywhere, we need to remember that "our *why* will inform our *what next*."

One comment he made really intrigued me: "Our capacity to create is directly related to our level of comfort." If we are comfortable, our creativity lacks the momentum to burst forth. We need to welcome the discomfort, the dirty, messy parts of life and thereby allow creativity to grow from the mud and griminess of life into the beauty that has brokenness as its foundation.

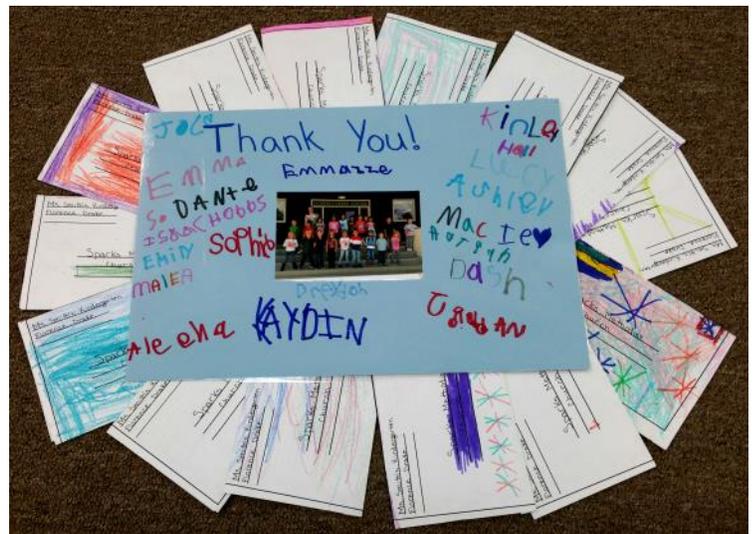
To be continued!

### Thank You!

Earlier this month, our Outreach Committee awarded \$500 each to Florence Drake Elementary and Greenbrae Elementary schools. These funds came from the Pumpkin Patch earning which were earmarked for helping our local schools.

In addition to letters and phone calls from surprised and grateful school administrators, one class spent their last day of school writing thank you letters – see photo at right.

Our community has numerous, ongoing needs and this is one way that we are having a direct, tangible impact. Keep up the great work!



# Musical Musings



## Greetings from Music Ministries!

**Special Music & Events** – I think it only fitting that I thank Pastor Gary and Sybella for their 6 years of dedicated service in music

ministries here in Sparks. Their gifts of music blessed us in so many ways... both of them singing in the Sanctuary Choir, Gary playing/singing in the Beatitudes Praise Band, Sybella ringing (and sometimes leading) the Joy-Filled Handbell Choir, Gary using his drama gifts playing Judas in both Godspell and Cotton Patch Gospel, Sybella helping with hair/makeup/props on those shows, Sybella being a tremendous help as rhythm teacher at our music camps the past 3 summers, and, of course, filling in for me at the piano or conducting the choir on Sundays I was not able to be here. They will be missed, but I'm sure will be sharing their gifts with their new congregation in Stockton starting this Sunday!

**Glorious Noise Children's Choir** – is on summer vacation.

**Sanctuary Choir** – is officially on a summer break, but luckily many of them come each Sunday to be part of our "drop-in Choir"!

**Beatitudes Praise Band** – led worship on the 17th as we played our last worship service together with Pastor Gary as a member of the band. Thanks, Gary!

**Senior Chorus** – is on summer vacation.

**Drop-in Choir** – is always looking for more folks to participate in their weekly anthems. Join me at 9:30 AM as we learn a new song each week to present in worship.

God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries ☺

## Mark Your Calendars

- July 11 – 7:00 PM  
Let's Dance Band Concert in the Sanctuary (as part of Artown)
- July 25 – 7:00 PM  
Let's Dance Band Octet Concert in the Sanctuary (as part of Artown)
- July 29 – 6:00 PM  
Backstage Pass Band Concert in our Celebration of Life Park
- August 26 – 6:00 PM  
Sage Creek Bluegrass Band Concert in our Celebration of Life Park



**Bring the family!**

**All Concerts Start at 6:00 PM**

- ♦ July 29 – Backstage Pass Eclectic Band (featuring Linda Young)
- ♦ August 26 – Sage Creek Bluegrass Band



**Artown Concerts in our Sanctuary!**

**All Concerts**

**Start at 7:00 PM**

- ♦ July 11 – Let's Dance 17-piece Big Band (featuring Cindy Sabatini)
- ♦ July 25 – Let's Dance Octet Jazz Ensemble (featuring Cindy Sabatini)

# Celebrating Our Family



Dennis Daggett	07/02	Lois Zimmerman	07/13
Sherry Beard	07/03	Cindi Mitchell	07/15
Kristi Dorf	07/04	David Rahn	07/15
Dan Hilton	07/07	Olivia Foxworth	07/16
Marie Hopkins	07/07	Matthew Lund	07/16
Bre Baker	07/08	Pam Warfe	07/17
Joanne Morine	07/08	Jane Novak	07/19
Jason Hanson	07/09	Rex Loesby	07/21
Ruth McClain	07/09	Martha Brown	07/22
Jerry Squire	07/09	Barbara Bowman	07/23
Darrell Bennett	07/10	Kelly Dobrovolny	07/23
Mildred Baber	07/11	Candace Loesby	07/26
John Mitchell	07/11	Olivia Payne	07/27
Billie Walker	07/11	Joseph Norris	07/28
Carole McCurdy	07/12	Kean Altura	07/29
Cindy Sabatini	07/12	James Baker	07/31
Jaevyn Ewool	07/13		

## Congratulations!

Edward & Mary Lynn	64
Dale & Linda Sanderson	47
Marshall & Carole McCurdy	45
Scott & Yann Ling-Barnes	11
Chris & Alicia Cobb	Joy!

*The Lord bless and keep you  
The Lord make His face to shine  
upon you and be gracious unto you  
The Lord lift up His countenance  
upon you and give you  
Peace*



For his last service, we blessed Gary and Sybella with laying hands and prayer. Photo by Mike Evans.

# July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Welcome</b> <b>Pastor Lee Neish!</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:20 AM Charge Conf. 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>2</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 6:00 PM Stephen Leaders 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	<b>4 Happy 4th</b> Office CLOSED Happy Days CLOSED 6:00 PM Wendy's Café Special Dinner 9:00 PM Fireworks!	<b>5</b> 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	<b>7</b> Enjoy the summer day!
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Welcome Reception for Lee & JoAnne Neish 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 6:30 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Outreach Comm.	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 5:00 PM HD Board Meeting 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 7:00 PM Artown Concert Let's Dance Big Band	<b>12</b> 12:30 PM Crafters Corner 3:00 PM Spanish Class 7:00 PM Brd of Trustees	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM T. M. Quilters 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	<b>14</b> Enjoy the summer day!
<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Worship in the Park 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>20 "CR" Deadline</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	<b>21</b> Enjoy the summer day!
<b>22 Beatitudes Sunday</b> 10:00 AM Worship Christmas in July! 3:00 PM Spanish Class	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 6:30 PM Cub Scouts	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 6:30 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Artown Concert Jazz Octet	<b>26</b> 3:00 PM Spanish Class 5:00 PM Nominations Com	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Bible Study Class	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Build Boxx Lunches 4:00 PM Wendy's Café 4:45 PM Worship
<b>29</b> 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Spanish Class 6:00 PM Concert in Park "Backstage Pass" folk, bluegrass and oldies rock	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Please visit the calendar            on our website  <a href="http://www.SparksUMC.org">www.SparksUMC.org</a>            for updated events.</b></p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">Find us on:  <b>facebook®</b></p>		

## People to Meet



### Celebrating New Members

Please be sure to meet and welcome our newest members. Our faith community is growing and we look forward to their continued presence. Introduce yourself!

#### Alexis Renee Carrasco

We welcome into our membership Alexis Carrasco, daughter of Victor Carrasco and Jill Ellis. She will be a junior in TMCC's high school program.

Alexis is very sports-minded, playing both tennis and softball. She also has artistic inclinations evidenced by her piano playing and her work with the Reno Dance Company. Her desire is to become a pediatrician.

#### Jonathan Frederick Grube

Jonathan is the son of Larry and Adele Grube, and grandson of Joanne Morine. He will be a

sophomore at Spanish Springs High School where he recently appeared in their production of *Footloose*. Of course last year he was in our production of *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

Jonathan also enjoys singing – for several years now with Sierra Nevada Children's Choir. He is also very involved in scouting, having reached the rank of Star Scout, closing in on his Eagle.

#### Celeste Maia Cron

Celeste comes to us by way of transfer from Davis UMC near Sacramento. She and her husband live at Cascades of the Sierra.

She spent many years in the printing industry, including running the printing for publications of the State of California. In retirement she served with the United Methodist Foundation as executive director. She enjoys watching tennis and basketball, and likes to lead church study classes.



### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

775-358-0925 Office@SparksUMC.org

Visit our website at [www.SparksUMC.org](http://www.SparksUMC.org)

Pastor ..... Lee Neish  
Dir. of Music Ministries ..... Cindy Sabatini  
Church Administrator ..... Charles White  
Webmaster ..... Cheri Vocelka

**Happy Days Preschool** 775-331-6699

Director: Yvana Majalca

**Summer Sunday Worship Services**

10:00 AM

*Nursery care is provided.*

### Congratulations Jacqueline!

Marquis' Who's Who In America has chosen Jacqueline

Rosett Dickman as their "Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 2018." She wanted her church family to know and share with her in her surprise and humbleness of this delightful honor.



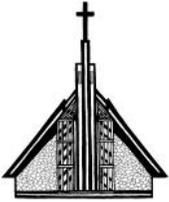
*Circuit Rider* articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> each month.

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



*Like us on Facebook, join the conversation, and share us with your friends!*



Sparks United Methodist Church  
 1231 Pyramid Way  
 Sparks, NV 89431  
 Phone: 775-358-0925  
 www.SparksUMC.org

NON PROFIT  
 ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 RENO, NV  
 Permit #9

**Join us July 8 at 11AM for  
 a welcome reception for  
 Rev. Lee & Jo Neish!**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**4th of July – 9:00 PM until... !?!**  
**Watch the Fireworks from our Parking Lot!**  
 This is the perfect time to invite a friend to visit our church & church family in a fun, casual setting.

**Taking July & August Off**

These groups are taking a break over the summer and will resume meeting in September.

- Disciple 4 Bible Study
- Music: Glorious Noise, Sanctuary Choir, Senior Chorus
- UM Women
- UM Men
- Youth Ministry



**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.



- July 1 ..... Mission / Outreach Comm.
- July 8 ..... Happy Days Board
- July 15..... Music Ministry
- July 22 ..... SPRC
- July 29 ..... Nominations Comm.

**Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ  
 for the transformation of the world.**