



Circuit Rider for August 2018

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



Pastor's Ponderings

My experience during the first few weeks on the job as pastor of Sparks UMC has been amazing in so many ways; not the least of which have been the number and quality of the small group gatherings in which many of you have participated. I have found you to be both eager and engaging in the conversations we've had as well as enthusiastic about the future God is beginning to reveal to us.

You have made significant inroads in replacing my ignorance with your knowledge as you've helped me consider three questions: 1) What has/have been the major strength(s) exhibited by this congregation during the time of your participation? 2) As we take a sober look at our current reality, what are the major constraints or challenges we face as a congregation? 3) As we look toward the next five to ten years, what is God's dream for our congregation?

On Sunday, July 8, I was blown away by a performance of The Martins' **Doxology** in worship. As a member of the Gospel Music Association from the mid-'90s through the 2000s, I watched The Martins perform this song and many others they cut while Jo and I attended Gospel Music Week in Nashville in the spring, and GMA Week in the Rockies during late July/early August. One of my favorite songs they performed was written by Joel Lindsey, a well-known Christian songwriter who I came to know and who would later become a producer. The lyrics to **Dream Big** are in the adjacent column.

So if you've not participated in a small group gathering during this first round, sign up to participate in the second wave of small group gatherings being scheduled now for late July/early August. And prepare to **Dream Big!**

Blessings,
Pastor Lee

Dream Big

I believe that anything is possible if we understand who Jesus is.

I believe there's nothing that can stop us if we learn to dream like Jesus did.

So don't limit your ambition to what's commonly defined;

God has a special heart for those who walk outside the line.

Don't be afraid to spread your wings and fly.

It doesn't hurt to try; If you're gonna dream...

Dream big. It's the Lord's desire for you to

Dream big. In everything you say and do

You'll see your greatest dream come true

'Cause all of Heaven is dreaming big for you.

I believe that we can make a difference if we fall down on our knees and pray.

Long ago just twelve men turned this world around and we can do the same today.

*So let your imagination run as far as you can see
And dream along with God of everything that you can be.*

Don't be afraid to spread your wings and fly. It doesn't hurt to try if you're gonna dream...

O, I love the word impossible 'cause that's what God does best.

So just reach for the improbable and He will do the rest.

If you're gonna dream... Dream big

Heaven's dreaming big for you.

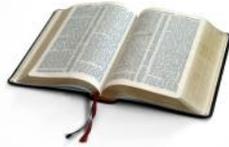
Your greatest dreams come true.

Worshiping Together

August 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, August 5 Holy Communion!

Sermon Series: Goin' Fishing

Sermon: *Multiplying the Fish and the Loaves*

Scriptures: Matt. 14:13-21

Sunday, August 12

Sermon Series: Goin' Fishing

Sermon: *One Final Fish Story*

Scriptures: John 21:1-13

Sunday, August 19

Sermon Series: Three Important Questions

Sermon: *Why Do People Need Jesus?*

Scriptures: John 10:10

Sunday, August 26

Sermon Series: Three Important Questions

Sermon: *Why Do People Need the Church?*

Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47



Members of our United Methodist Women's group celebrate Lois Zimmerman's birthday with her.

UMW: The Sacred Space of Rest and Self-Care

Happy Birthday love to Sherry B., Joanne M., Jane N., Martha B., Olivia P., and Lois Z. (photo below July 13).

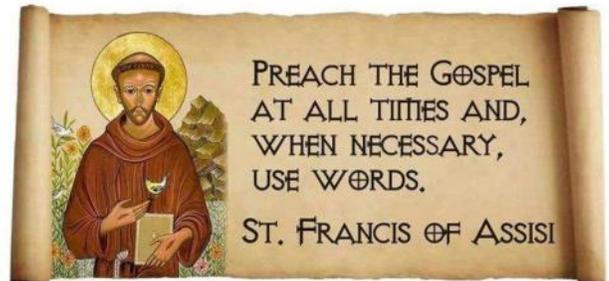


Coming soon, August love to Charlie H., Jacqueline D., and Lucille A.

A Thank You: "The scriptures talk about when someone is sick, the elders of the church are called to lay hands on that person. As I went through chemotherapy, I could feel all the hands that tied a knot into the beautiful prayer quilt I received from Sparks UMC. Thanks for showing God's love and care for me." ~ Anthony (Tony) Shelton

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...

Saturday, August 25 at 4:00 pm

Our Community Far and Near

SUMC Firecrackers visit Rosewood Convalescent Center

June 30 found several of our Sunday School kids delivering candy to Rosewood Convalescent Center in honor of the 4th of July. Dressed in the patriotic spirit, our students brought smiles and some tears as they accompanied Arlene Pierce, Director of Activities, throughout the halls to visit the patients. Several patients were dressed in their own patriotic colors and shirts!

Delivering candy were Timmy, Tommy and Benji Schoech and Jasmine and Matteo Baglietto. Accompanying them were Freida Schoech and Sherry Beard. Candy was donated by the United Methodist Women, who are very faithful in providing the candy that we deliver on a periodic basis. Please know that these young ambassadors represent our congregation very well!

Our next delivery will be for Halloween (in costume of course) so let Sherry know if you would like to join us.



With trumpets...
make a
joyful noise
before the **King.**

PSALM 98:6

Monthly Meditation

A Prayer for Prayer
by Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman

O my God

My soul's compassion

My hearts precious friend

I turn to You.

I need to close out the noise

To rise above the noise

The noise that interrupts

The noise that separates

The noise that isolates.

I need to hear You again.

In the silence of my innermost being,

In the fragments of my yearned-for wholeness,

I hear whispers of Your presence

Echoes of the past when You were with me

When I felt Your nearness

When together we walked

When you held me close,

embraced me in Your Love,

Laughed with me in my joy.

I yearn to hear You again.

In Your oneness, I find healing.

In the promise of Your love, I am soothed.

In Your wholeness, I too can become whole again.

Please listen to my call

Help me find the words

Help me find the strength within

Help me shape my mouth, my voice, my heart

So that I can direct my spirit and find You in prayer

In words only my heart can speak

In songs only my soul can sing

Lifting my eyes and heart to You.

Adonai S'fatai Tiftach –

open my lips, precious God,

So that I can speak with You again.

Musical Musings



Greetings from Music Ministries!

Special Music & Events –
The Maytan Community Band started off our Summer Outdoor Concerts in the Park series with a

bang on June 24. I had a great time being part of both Artown concerts here in our Sanctuary July 11 and 25 as vocalist for the “Let’s Dance Big Band.” Linda Young and her band, “Backstage Pass” are tuning it up to be our next performers in the park this Sunday, July 29 at 6:00 pm. Thanks for attending these events, and for the donations you’ve provided. Both the performers and music ministries thank you for your generosity.

Thank you, Bob Estey, for providing special music at our outdoor worship service on the 15th. He and Linda Young will also be providing musical selections in worship August 5 featuring songs composed by Linda. By the way, you’ll have to ask them about the CD they’re recording! It’s a compilation of songs individually written by Bob and Linda, who are providing guitar accompaniment and vocals.

As part of my continuing education, I’ll be attending a church musician conference entitled “Tuning @ Tahoe” July 29-August 3 at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center. I look

Youth Ministry Update

Our teen youth group will meet in our park every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm through the summer! We’ll hang out, discuss everything from theology to current events, worship, serve our community, and learn about who we are and how God is working in our lives. Bring a friend – the more the merrier! For more info call Adele Grube @ 750-9119 or Glenn Sevens @ 527-3644.



Bring the family!

The Concert Starts at 6:00 PM

- ◆ August 26 – Sage Creek Bluegrass Band

forward to honing my skills, learning new ideas, experiencing worship, networking with other church musicians, and taking in God’s natural beauty at Lake Tahoe.

Glorious Noise Children’s Choir – is on summer vacation.

Sanctuary Choir – will be presenting a special anthem at John Schmidt’s memorial service coming up on August 4. John was such a dedicated part of the choir up until last year, when his 98-year-old hearing and eyesight just couldn’t handle it anymore. What a treasure he was for Sparks UMC – in so many ways!

Beatitudes Praise Band – led worship on the 22nd as we celebrated “Christmas in July”. Hope the musical selections cooled everyone off during this heat wave!

Senior Chorus – will start up again in September.

Drop-in Choir – continues to provide special music each week at worship during the summer. Join me at 9:30 am each Sunday as we learn a new song to present in worship. ALL ages are welcome!

God bless you!

Cindy Sabatini, Director of Music Ministries ☺

Celebrating Our Family



Raymond Aiazzi	08/02	Bob Pisors	08/18
Bernard Lund	08/02	Jeff Curtis	08/19
Mary Oppio	08/02	Jackie Credit	08/20
Rick Anderson	08/04	Mary Lynn	08/20
Nancy Baker	08/04	David Morton	08/20
Keneti Afuhaamango	08/07	Scott Barnes	08/21
Barbara Smith	08/08	Glenda Stevenson	08/21
Edna Pelfrey	08/09	Jacqueline Dickman	08/22
Andrew Eidson	08/10	Edwina Pfeiffer	08/22
Charlie Harwell	08/10	Meg Sindlinger	08/22
Christina Young	08/11	Lucille Adin	08/23
Caitlin Costello	08/12	Zachary Mason	08/24
Joe Sr Beard	08/13	Emily Smith	08/26
Nicholas Bibby	08/17	Mona Sargent	08/29
Marshall McCurdy	08/17	Cheri Vocelka	08/29
Carol Rogers	08/17	Brandon Hutt	08/31
Edward Lynn	08/18		

Congratulations!

Joe Sr & Sherry Beard	51
Hank & Jo Vanderbeek	50
Glenn & Meg Sevrens	38
Clint & Nancy Baker	37
Chris & Karen Pritsos	36
Terrie & Dave Schulte	27
Jeff & Kristin Curtis	25
Andrew & Amanda Eidson	11



New Bible Study: Women at the Well

Old Testament Oracles with New Testament Meaning

How much do we know about the stories about the women in Scripture? What did they do? What kind of relationships did they have, not only with some of the most noteworthy men in their time and world, but with God? What can we learn from them now? What are we supposed to know about that recurring presence always happening at a well?

Two years ago, 42 people completed this study. Dr. Butler is available to lead the study in existing Bible study groups in the homes of hosts, or at scheduled times at our church or others. Persons who have already taken this short course may wish to lead or host such groups this fall. Sign up sheets will be available on Sundays in August. Each of these seven sessions will begin during the week of September 9 and will be completed by the end of October.

Consider these Biblical women:

- The first and last of these seven women were initially known only as “Woman.”
- The second is known today by a title that was not actually her name.
- The third young woman left her family to travel far and marry a man she had never met.
- The fourth fell in love with the first man who ever kissed her, only to find out her older sister would marry him first.
- The fifth girl convinced a princess to adopt her little brother in order to keep him alive.
- The sixth woman witnessed a life-and-death struggle between her husband and his God, resolving the conflict by circumcising her first born son.
- The seventh woman had had five husbands, and the one with her, when this story was told, was not her husband.



Every one of these women met God at a well. What do you suppose that means?

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please visit the calendar on our website www.SparksUMC.org for updated events.</p>						
						
5 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Spanish Class	6 6:30 PM Cub & Boy Scouts	7 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 6:00 PM Stephen Leaders 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers	8 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 5:00 PM HD Board Meeting 6:00 PM Big Band Reh. 6:00 PM Finance Comm. 6:30 PM Youth Group	9 12:30 PM Crafters Corner 3:00 PM Spanish Class	10 9:00 AM T. M. Quilters 9:30 AM Bible Study	11 Enjoy the summer day!
12 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Spanish Class	13 6:30 PM Cub & Boy Scouts	14 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 7:00 PM Outreach Comm.	15 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Board of Trustees	16 3:00 PM Spanish Class	17 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	18 Enjoy the summer day!
19 Beattitudes Sunday 10:00 AM Worship in the Park 3:00 PM Spanish Class	20 "CR" Deadline 6:30 PM Cub & Boy Scouts	21 8:00 AM Farmer's Market	22 9:00 AM "P & S" Quilting 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM SPRC 7:00 PM Church Council	23 3:00 PM Spanish Class 5:00 PM Nominations Com	24 9:30 AM Bible Study	25 10:00 AM Build Boxx Lunches 4:00 PM Wendy's Cafe 4:45 PM Worship
26 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Spanish Class 6:00 PM Concert in Park Sage Creek Bluegrass	27 6:30 PM Cub & Boy Scouts	28 8:00 AM Farmer's Market 8:30 AM Blood Drive 6:30 PM Coffee with the Pastor	29 6:30 PM Youth Group	30 Have a great day!	31 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	1 8:00 AM UIM Men's Breakfast

Helping Those in Need

Human Needs Fund Update

The Sparks UMC Human Needs 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 ask 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, chili and Vienna sausage. Peanut butter and canned fruit are also very welcome.

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

If you have any questions about the Human Needs Fund, feel free to ask the church office or contact Charlie Harwell, Tom Butler, or Jewel Sertic.

Rita Jeffres Memorial CROP Hunger Walk

Please save Sunday, October 21 for our 27th annual Reno-Sparks CROP Hunger Walk. We will once again be honoring Rita, a faithful supporter every single year; not only did she participate, she often raised more funds than any other walker.

25% of the funds raised stay right here in the Truckee Meadows; the remainder is distributed by Church World Service where the need to combat hunger is greatest. Sometimes this is for immediate relief; sometimes it comes as a form of support following a natural disaster.



More information will be coming in the September newsletter, but please plan NOW to take part in this event. Our church has proudly participated every year since the Walks were reinstated in 1992, often soliciting more donations than any other congregation. Watch for updates on bulletin boards, in bulletins and Circuit Riders for ways that you can participate. Please contact Sherry Beard at beard-fe@nvcbell.net if you have any questions.

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 Lee Neish
Dir. of Music Ministries Cindy Sabatini
Church Business 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.

Church Council Meets August 22

Our Church Council will meet at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings and participate in discussions. Only members of the Church Council can vote.



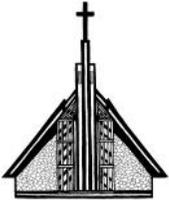
Circuit Rider articles are due by the 20th each month.

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

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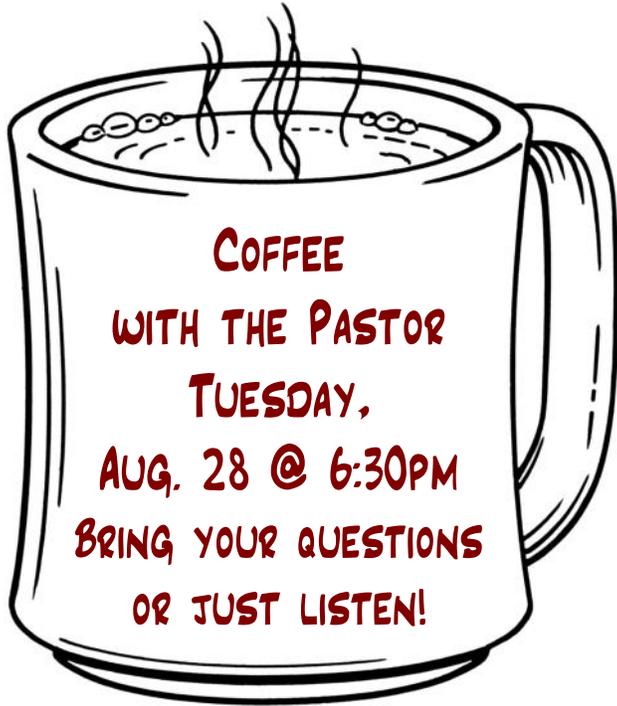


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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Coffee with the Pastor – The Last Tuesday of Each Month

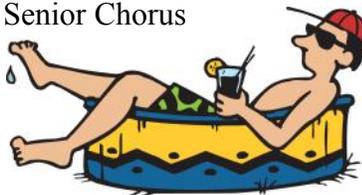
Whether you’ve been visiting for a few weeks or have been a member for decades, everyone has questions. Join us for an informal coffee with Pastor Lee in his office the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Bring your questions about anything! Each month’s conversation will be as unique as the people attending, so you’re invited to join us even if you simply want to listen and learn more about our history, beliefs, vision, and... who knows!

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
- 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.



- August 5 Worship Comm.
- August 12 ... Men & Women’s Emmaus Groups
- August 19..... Finance Comm.
- August 26 Helping Hands

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