

# SPARK

A RETREAT FOR LOCAL  
CHILDRENS LEADERS

Florida | Southeast | MidSouth | Midwest  
Indiana | Great Lakes | South Central | Southwest  
Northern California | Pacific Northwest  
Northwest | Intermountain | Canada | Ohio  
Appalacia | Central | Online

ONE TEAM

# “We are one team

*from different cities and on different districts but all called*  
**to serve God, children and their families.”**



## **WELCOME**

Welcome to SPARK! We are so glad you are here. Wow! What a crazy past 2 years we have all been through! It's not uncommon for some people to have a crazy year. It's just not normal for it to happen to the whole world at once. But here we are. We have learned some things, changed some things, and gotten rid of some things. The fire of the past 2 years has made us strong. Are we at the strongest we will become? No, but we are being made stronger.

As Candice and I began to prepare for this wonderful time of being together, we sensed that while many of us are celebrating that we can be together, there are also those among us who are grieving loss from the past 2 years. Maybe it's grieving a way life, or things we did that are different, or a job, or perhaps it's the loss of a friend or family member. Maybe it's loss from COVID or maybe it's loss from something else. So, in the midst of our celebrating and fun, we are going to give space this weekend to grieve. Psalm 23 says:

1The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

2He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

4Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

5You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

6Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

While you're here, we pray that you will allow these words to wash over you and be rest, peace, strength, protection, comfort, anointing, blessing, goodness, and love for your Shepherd.

Serving together,



Trey Brooks,  
Equip to Engage Co-Director  
[trey@equiptoengage.org](mailto:trey@equiptoengage.org)



# Retreat Schedule

## Thursday

- 3:00** – Registration
- 6:00** – Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** – Tailgate Party (Fairbanks Center)
- 9:00** – Fellowship

## Friday

- 8:00** – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 9:00** – Worship Session 1 (Fairbanks Center)
- 10:30 – Breakout Session 1**
  - Option 1:** Cultivating a Culture of Servant Leadership in Children’s Ministry – Mara Castle
  - Option 2:** Bible Memory that Goes from the Head to the Heart – Mary Sims
- 12:00** – Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:00 – Breakout Session 2**
  - Option 1:** Serving Kids with Special Needs: A Layman’s Guide – Evan Offutt Boesiger
  - Option 2:** Making Children’s Church the Best Hour of the Week – Missy Sipes
- 2:30 – Breakout Session 3**
  - Option 1:** The Power of One Church – Britni Dooley
  - Option 2:** Leading into the Future – Beth Bidle Rush
- 4:00** – Free Time
- 6:00** – Dinner (Dining Hall)
- 7:00** – Team Building (Fairbanks Center)
- 9:00** – Fellowship



# Keynote Speaker



## Geoff Kunselman

Geoff has served as the DS of NWO since 2008. Prior to that he served as the pastor of three churches over twenty-five years. He is a graduate of Mount Vernon Nazarene University and

Eastern Nazarene College. He and his wife Mona have two daughters, and three grandchildren. When not enjoying the grands, hobbies include the outdoors, visiting National Parks, and some golf.

## Saturday

- 8:00** – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
- 8:45 – Breakout Session 4**
  - Option 1:** Prepared to Respond to Sexual & Gender Identity – Marianne McCord
  - Option 2:** Big Day/Big Win – Jessica Coulter
- 10:00 – Breakout Session 5**
  - Option 1:** Godly Play for Preschool Ministry – Susan Beggs
  - Option 2:** Ministry to Special Needs – Erica Stacy
- 11:30** – Worship Session 2 (Fairbanks Center)
- 1:00** – Lunch (Dining Hall)
- 1:30** – See you next year!

# Join us on Facebook Equip to Engage

# Breakout | Session

## Cultivating a Culture of Servant Leadership in Children's Ministry

Mara Castle

### Great Room

Are there places in your church where kids can serve and lead? Would you describe the kids in your church as spectators or participants? In this breakout session, we will discuss service as a crucial part of a child developing their faith, discovering their passions, and recognizing their place in the Body of Christ as they move into adulthood. We will collaborate to identify places that children can serve and lead in our church's ministries.

## Bible Memory that Goes from the Head to the Heart

Mary Sims

### Fairbanks Center

Help kids hide God's Word in their hearts—for more than a few minutes. Discover how repetition, movement, and visual connections (experiences) can help kids remember Bible verses AND understand why those ancient words matter in their everyday lives.





# Yancy Ministries

*Yancy Ministries.com*



## ROOTED BOOK BOX

[rootedbookbox.com](http://rootedbookbox.com)

A Christian worldview subscription book box aimed at preteen readers. Our goal is to surround, support and encourage preteens and parents in their faith journey.



# Breakout<sup>2</sup> Session

## Serving Kids with Special Needs: A Layman's Guide

Evan Offutt Boesiger

### Great Room

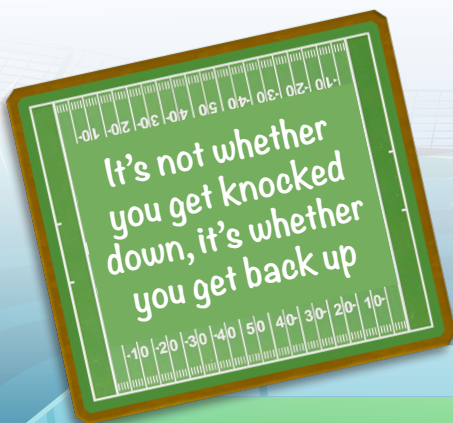
Most churches don't have a full on special-needs ministry but we can make a space for kids of all abilities and bless their families in the process! Expand your understanding of and language for special needs along with learning some classroom management tips and tools.

## Making Children's Church the Best Hour of the Week

Missy Sipes

### Fairbanks Center

With limited time each week it's important to make the most of your time with kids. How should you fill this time? What works best for your church? Come hear and share ideas of what you can do to help kids learn about Jesus.



## The Power of One Church

Britni Dooley

### Great Room

Does every church in their community do “their own thing” when it comes to ministry and events? What if we were to begin breaking down denominational and territorial barriers for the purpose of rallying together around one mission? The church in Acts was unified in their belief in God and mission to tell others about Him. Let’s begin praying and sharing how God can use us to rally together with other churches in our communities to be a united front in carrying out His mission for children and families in your city.

## Leading into the Future

Beth Bidle Rush

### Fairbanks Center

In a post-Christian world, how do we effectively reach kids and their families to impact today and prepare them for the future? In this session, we will explore how we can make a difference in the lives of children, their families, and their community through discipleship to build a solid foundation for the future.







# EQUIP TO ENGAGE

EQUIPTOENGAGE.ORG



- Regional Gathering
- Leadership Development
- Connect With Others
- Learn Together



## SYNERGY

- National Gathering
- District Leaders
- Ministry Collaboration
- Focused Discussion

## Tell THE Story

- Simple, Interactive Method
- Listeners Engage
- Group Discovers
- Spiritual Conversation



- Children's Camps & Retreats
- All Church Revivals
- Leadership Retreats
- StrengthsFinder

Quality, Affordable, Local Equipping for Children's Leaders



# Second SPARK Day

On the **Second Day** of camp...wear your favorite **SPARK** shirt!  
Take a picture and tag it on social media as #seconddaySPARKday!



### NazaZoom

January, March, September,  
November

### Coaching for Children's Leaders

January, October

### Equipping Conversation

February, April, August, October

### District Children's Director

January, March, May, September,  
November

NazaZoom, Equipping Conversations, & District Children's Director - FREE



### Equip to Engage Regional Connectors

**Southeast - Shaun Stevenson**  
AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

**South Central - Diane Solberg**  
AR, LA, OK, TX

**West - Beth Rush**  
AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT,  
NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY

**East Central - Evan Offutt Boesiger**  
IN, MI, OH

**North Central - Mary Sims**  
IA, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, NE, SD, WI

**Northeast - Nathan McCarthy**  
CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH,  
NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV

**North - Sheri Lynne Martin**  
AB, BC, MB, NB, NS, NL,  
ON, PE, QC, SK, YT

### Nazarene Kidmin Meet-Ups

Hosted by Equip to Engage

*Northwest Ministry Conference*  
March 18-19, 2022 | Bellevue, WA  
nwmincon.com

*D6 Conference*  
April 20-22, 2022 | Orlando, FL  
d6conference.com

*Child Discipleship Forum*  
September 22-23, 2022 | Nashville, TN  
childdiscipleshipforum.com

*Children's Pastors Conference*  
January 10-12, 2023 | Orlando, FL  
childrenspastorsconference.com



# Breakout<sup>4</sup>Session

## Prepared to Respond to Sexual & Gender Identity

Marianne McCord

### Great Room

There has never been a more urgent time than now in preparing leaders to respond with love and compassion to those who struggle with sexual or gender identity. And like never before have children and youth faced such a pervasive culture of questioning their identity. How will the church respond that will lead to hope, trust, and identity in Jesus Christ without sacrificing biblical theology? Marianne hopes to inspire leaders and teachers in the church to respond well by sharing insights, resources, and practical ideas.

## Big Day/Big Win

Jessica Coulter

### Fairbanks Center

Whether you're dealing with limited space, money, or manpower, struggle with large scale events, or are looking for alternatives to large scale events, "More Big Days, Less Big Events" might be your answer. We will address the strategy behind Big Days, how to plan a year of big days, how to promote big days, 25+ big day ideas, and more.





## Godly Play for Preschool Ministry

Susan Beggs

### Great Room

This style of teaching leads young children into a worship experience with God using a sensorimotor style of storytelling with wooden figures, props, the desert box, parable boxes and other manipulatives. After hearing the story, children have the opportunity to work with the story figures and art materials themselves as they retell and internalize the Biblical stories. Come experience the worship and wonder of Godly Play.

## Ministry to Special Needs

Erica Stacy

### Fairbanks Center

In this session, we will learn more about autism is and the various ways it can look and affect a child. We will also discuss how to interact with and incorporate children with unique needs into your lesson, including how to teach and engage with them. Many families are impacted by this challenge and would be so excited that your church is praying about the possibilities.



# Breakout Session Presenters



**Susan Beggs**  
Preschool Director  
*Findlay First Nazarene*  
sbeggs@findlayfirstnaz.org



**Marianne McCord**  
Children's Pastor  
*Defiance Nazarene*  
mtmccord1@frontier.com



**Evan Offutt Boesiger**  
Regional Connector  
*Equip to Engage*  
pastorevan2020@gmail.com



**Beth Bidle Rush**  
SPARK Director (January 2023)  
*Equip to Engage*  
beth@equiptoengage.org



**Mara Castle**  
Children's Director  
*Marysville Nazarene*  
castle.mara3@gmail.com



**Mary Sims**  
Ambassador  
*Group Publishing*  
mary2sims@gmail.com



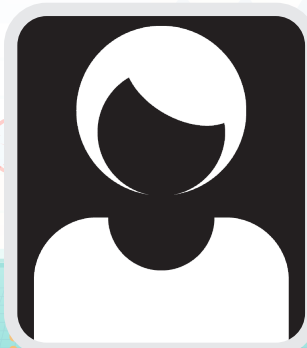
**Jessica Coulter**  
Children's Pastor  
*The Valley Troy Campus*  
jessica.coulter@thevalley.church



**Missy Sipes**  
Children's Pastor  
*Springfield First Nazarene*  
missysipes@gmail.com



**Britni Dooley**  
Children's Pastor  
*Kenton Nazarene*  
britni54@gmail.com



**Erica Stacy**  
Children's Director  
*Findlay First Nazarene*  
dancefirefly@gmail.com

# THE JOURNEY FROM Saint TO Santa



Available November 29 –  
December 23, 2022

A journey of the historical Saint Nicholas as he transforms through centuries of legend and folklore into today's Santa Claus. An interactive event for all ages that shares about Saint Nicholas' dedication to God, generosity, and love for others, and that we can be inspired to do the same.



## the KIDMIN CREATIVES

Inspiration for Children's Ministry

<https://thekidmincreatives.com>

Follow us on social media!

  @thekidmincreatives



### Decoder Devos Series:

Devotional Puzzle Books perfect for kids ages 6-11!  
Available now on Amazon.com!



podcast



ideas



resources



books



## SPARK Leadership

SPARK::Indiana  
Toni James

SPARK::South Central  
Beth Rush  
Jennifer Sommers

SPARK::Southeast  
Mike Smith

SPARK::Great Lakes  
Kelly Downs  
Linda Loudermilk

SPARK::MidSouth  
Jessica Byler  
Shaun Stevenson

SPARK::Pacific Northwest  
Becca Notbohm

SPARK::Midwest  
Holly Portwine

SPARK::Southwest  
Toni Henry  
Christy Williams

SPARK::Intermountain  
Connie Blastock

SPARK::Florida  
Sara Taber

SPARK::Canada West  
Leah Baker  
Sheri Lynne Martin

SPARK::Northwest  
Cindy Reynolds

SPARK::Northern California  
Darlene Franks  
Cathy Haskill

SPARK::Central  
Pat Garcia  
Dawn Vaught

SPARK::Appalacia  
Tonya Hockenberry

SPARK::Ohio  
Mike McClurg  
Britni Dooley

## Partnering Districts

Arizona

Canada West

Eastern Michigan

Florida

Georgia

Illinois

Indianapolis

Intermountian

Kentucky

Louisiana

Michigan

MidSouth

Missouri

North Arkansas

North/East Texas

Northeast Indiana

Northeast Oklahoma

Northwest

Northwest Indiana

Northwest Ohio

Oklahoma

Oregon Pacific

Pittsburg

Sacramento

South Arkansas

Southern Florida

Southwest Indiana

Southwest Ohio

Southwest Oklahoma

West Texas

## Special Thanks

Adrian Camp and Conference  
Center

Aaronhead Camp and Retreat  
Center

Because International  
Camp Harmattan

Church of the Nazarene

CoParenting International

D6 Family

Deeper Kidmin

Doorpost Songs

Easy Risers

FourFiveSix

Garner Creek Retreat Center

Go! Curriculum

Group Publishing

High Voltage Kids Ministry

Higher Ground Conference  
and Retreat Center

Indian Lake Nazarene Camp

Kellogg Springs Camp

and Conference Center

Lake Placid Camp and Conference  
Center

Lindley Creative Studios

Nampa College Church of the  
Nazarene

Nazarene Theological Seminary

Nerd Bird Creative

Pensions and Benefits USA

Pinerock Camp and Retreat Center

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Shiloh Park Retreat

and Conference Center

The Foundry Publishing

The Good Book Company

Trinity Pines Camp

and Conference Center

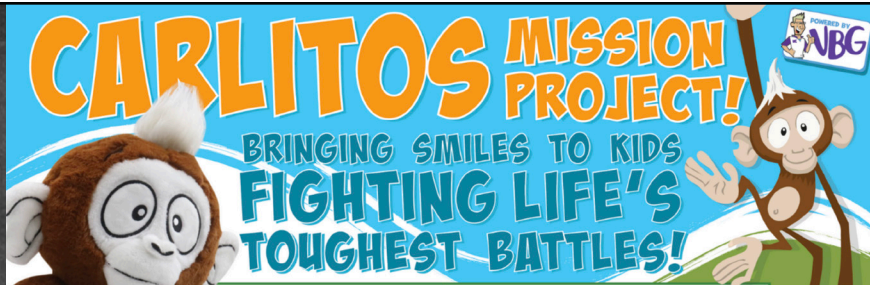
Twelve:Thirty Kids

Wesley Seminary

Yancy Ministries

# Mission Projects

carlitos4kids.org  
becauseinternational.org  
nazarene.org



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