

A RETREAT FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

SPARK 2023



LORD, MAKE ME
AN INSTRUMENT

“ WE ARE ONE TEAM FROM DIFFERENT CITIES AND DIFFERENT DISTRICTS BUT ALL CALLED TO SERVE GOD, CHILDREN, AND THEIR FAMILIES. ”



We are so glad that you are at SPARK 2023! Wow...this has been a year of much change in the life of our family and of Equip to Engage! It seems that God often asks his people to step without knowing what they are stepping on, and then we get the details. This has been true for us each step of the journey. Candice and I are excited about these new days for Equip to Engage and we are happy you are part of it. We know you will enjoy being with and getting to know Beth, the new SPARK Director, and her husband, Jeff! You can learn a little about Beth below.

Our prayer for you this weekend is that you will find time to rest and relax and that you go home recharged and ready to do what God has called you to do. We truly do believe what the statement says above...we are one team from different cities and on different district, but all called to serve God, children, and their families! Our hope is that this weekend you are reminded of this, that you reconnect with friends, and that you make some new ones as we sow into one another!

Serving together,
Trey and Candice Brooks



Beth Bidle-Rush has almost three decades of experience ministering and discipling children and their families. Beth is passionate about sharing God's Word with children of all ages (0-109). She is an Ordained Elder, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and Nazarene Theological Seminary. She is working on a doctorate at Trevecca Nazarene University. Currently, she serves as the North/East Texas Children's Ministries District Director and as SPARK Director. Her career as a Children's Pastor extends from Michigan to Texas (and several states in between), directing Children's Camps, speaking at Children's Camps, and leading workshops. Beth is excited about her new position with Equip to Engage to encourage, equip, and support the local children's leadership. In her free moments, Beth enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeff, laughing and telling stories, playing board games, and is an ice cream connoisseur.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

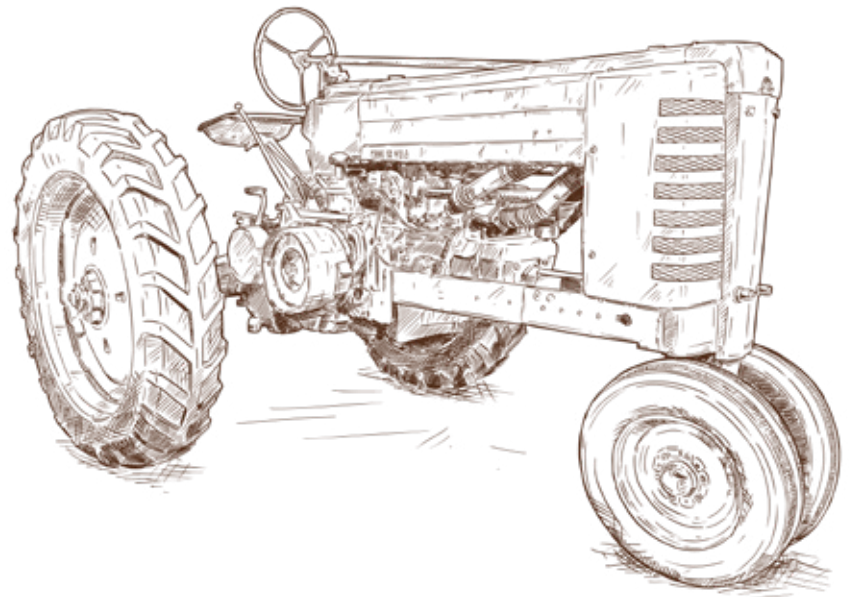
- 3:00** - Onsite Registration
- 6:00** - Dinner (Gibson Center)
- 7:00** - Down on the Farm Party (Gibson Center)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

FRIDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Gibson Center)
- 9:00** - Worship Session 1 (Gibson Center)
- 10:30** - Breakout Session 1
- Option 1:** Ready, Set, Go, Games 2.0
// Elizabeth Schleicher
- Option 2:** Thinking Differently // Kelli Fulks
- 12:00** - Lunch (Gibson Center)
- 1:00** - Breakout Session 2
- Option 1:** Leading into the Future
// Beth Bidle Rush
- Option 2:** Equipping Your Families
// Kelly Downs
- 2:30** - Breakout Session 3
- Option 1:** Fundraising in the Church
// Linda Loudermilk
- Option 2:** Making the Most of Your Limited Time // Lynn Simpson
- 4:00** - Free Time
- 6:00** - Dinner (Gibson Center)
- 7:00** - Team Building (Gibson Center)
- 9:00** - Fellowship

SATURDAY

- 8:00** - Breakfast (Gibson Center)
- 8:45** - Breakout Session 4
- Option 1:** High Energy Group Games
// Amber Carlson
- Option 2:** Making the Most of Your Time in Jr. Jr. Church // Wendy Eaton
- 10:15** - Breakout Session 5
- Option 1:** Let's Talk About Our VIVs
// Elizabeth Schleicher
- Option 2:** What's Your Sunday Morning Look Like? // Katelynn Haist
- 11:30** - Worship Session 2 (Gibson Center)
- 1:00** - Lunch (Gibson Center)
- 1:30** - See you next year!!



PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE
WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE;
WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON;
WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH;
WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE;
WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT;
AND WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.**

**O DIVINE MASTER,
GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK
TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE;
TO BE UNDERSTOOD, AS TO UNDERSTAND;
TO BE LOVED, AS TO LOVE;
FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE,
IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED,
AND IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN
TO ETERNAL LIFE.
AMEN.**



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@EQUIPTOENGAGE**

November 6-8, 2023

**Mustang Church of the
Nazarene**

Mustang, OK

**More Information, visit
equiptoengage.org/story**

Tell THE Story Training

Yancy Ministries
YancyMinistries.com

Save \$100
**ON UNLIMITED KIDS
MEDIA DOWNLOADS**
from **|twelve:thirty|KIDS**

Plus every purchase using
Promo Code **ETE** supports **EQUIP TO
ENGAGE**

The advertisement features a collage of colorful children's media covers. Visible titles include 'KIDS CAMP', 'PIZZA PARTY Come Grab a Slice!', 'WHO WILL WIN MONSTER TRUCK EDITION', 'SUMMER', 'BACK TO SCHOOL', 'SEE YOU AT THE P...', 'PROMOTION SUNDAY', 'NINE CHURCH', and 'PALM SUNDAY'.

READY, SET, GO, GAMES 2.0!

Elizabeth Schleicher - Gibson Center

Make your ministry fun and exciting anytime! Toddlers to seniors and everything in between, games are a great way to teach, have fun, and bring your group together!

THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY

Kelli Fulks - Conference Room

How do we make adjustments both for kids who are neurodivergent and think differently? We will learn some new tools to use, have group discussion about current struggles you may be having, and learn a little more about what neurodivergent really is.

LEADING INTO THE FUTURE

Beth Bidle Rush - Gibson 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.

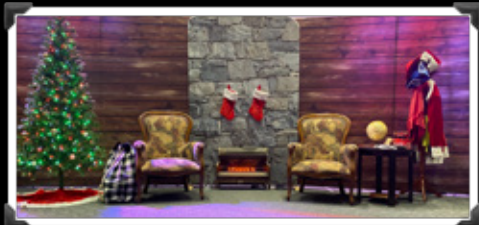
EQUIPPING YOUR FAMILIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP AT HOME

Kelly Downs - Conference Room

This session is for parents, children's leaders, and teachers who work with children and their families. We will help you encourage and equip your families to disciple within the home. Come and learn ways to help teach those within your ministry how to "win at home". Five practical ways in which we can be connecting with our children and how they equip families to feel successful and motivated.



THE JOURNEY FROM Saint TO Santa



Available
December 1 - 23, 2023

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.

Equip to Engage can help...

Gingerbread BASH

Celebrating the birth
of baby Jesus

...you host a Gingerbread Bash





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

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

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

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

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

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

East Central - Evan Offutt Boesiger
IN, MI, OH

Nazarene Kidmin Meet-Ups

Hosted by Equip to Engage



D6 Conference

April 10-12, 2023 | Orlando, FL
d6conference.com

Child Discipleship Forum

September 21-22, 2023 | Nashville, TN
childdiscipleshipforum.com

The KidzMatter Conference

September 12-14, 2023 | Nashville, TN
thekidzmatterconference.com

Children's Pastors Conference

January 9-11, 2024 | Orlando, FL
childrenspastorsconference.com

FUNDRAISING IN THE CHURCH

Linda Loudermilk - Gibson Center

Does your budget you've been given keep you from dreaming and vision casting? Do you find yourself trying to figure out how to make it possible to get your kids to camp or on a mission trip? Fundraising doesn't have to be a chore. Come and learn simple and crazy fun ways to raise \$ to make your dreams a reality!

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR LIMITED TIME

Lynn Simpson - Conference Center

Come and learn how to make the most of the limited time you have teaching kids and make sure you are teaching them the gospel, not just morals. Too many kids grow up and out of the church because they have missed the simple truth that the gospel brings them. Find out how you can stop this trend and help kids really connect to Jesus.

HIGH ENERGY GROUP GAMES

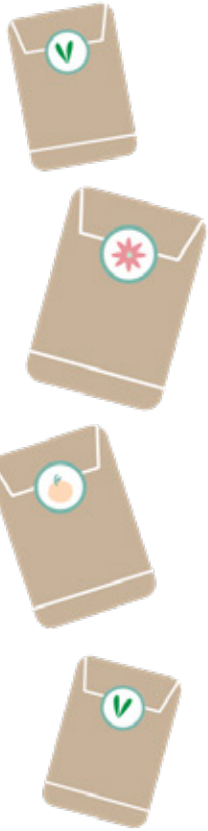
Amber Carlson - Gibson Center

Ever wonder what to do with the kids in your church as they wait for church to start or are waiting to go home? In this breakout you will discover lots of different high energy group games that you can use to keep the kids entertained and engaged while you are waiting during transitions, Or if you have extra time you need to fill during events.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME IN JR. JR. CHURCH

Wendy Eaton - Conference Room

Nursery and Preschool are not just childcare. Come to this session and learn new and exciting ways to minister to this age group.





GA Kids

An intentional ministry for kids and families...includes age-specific services for early childhood and elementary, an intergenerational service, and engaging opportunities for the entire family to connect with the Global Nazarene Family.

June 9-11, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN

Register your family at ga2023.nazarene.org

There are many volunteer opportunities available.
For more information, email trey@equiptoengage.org.



BREAKOUT SESSION 5

LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR VIVS (VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS!)

Elizabeth Schleicher - Gibson Center

How to recruit, retain and recognize, CHEERFUL, PREPARED, FAITH-FILLED Volunteers.

WHAT'S YOUR SUNDAY MORNING LOOK LIKE?

Katelynn Haist - Conference Room

As a Sunday morning leader, Katelynn is excited to share with you what our Sunday Morning Service looks like. Come and see from start to finish how we share Jesus with kids!



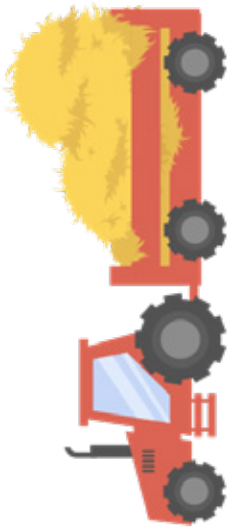
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Mike Kitsko
District Superintendent
Eastern Michigan District

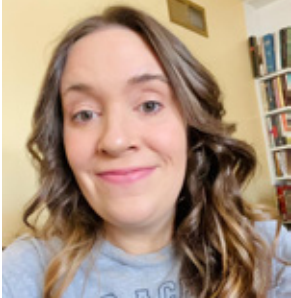
Dr. Kitsko is a graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University, Nazarene Theological Seminary, and Michigan State University.

He has served as a pastor at two California churches, Norwalk Church of the Nazarene and La Mirada Praise Pavilion. He left to serve on staff at Flint Central Church of the Nazarene, where he served for 11 years until his appointment as assistant district superintendent.

Mike and his wife, Julie, currently reside in Davidson, Michigan.



BREAKOUT SPEAKERS



**AMBER
CARLSON**



**LINDA
LOUDERMILK**



**KELLY
DOWNS**



**BETH
BIDLE RUSH**



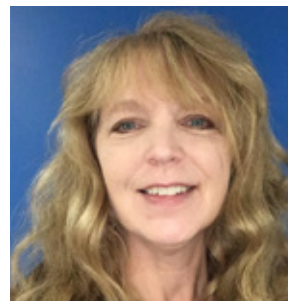
**WENDY
EATON**



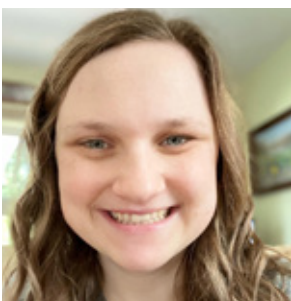
**ELIZABETH
SCHLEICHER**



**KELLI
FULKS**



**LYNN
SIMPSON**



**KATELYNN
HAIST**

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Arizona
Toni Henry
Canada West
Sheri Lynne Martin
Eastern Michigan
Linda Loudermilk
Florida
Missy Segota
Georgia
Mike Smith
Indianapolis
Jill Farmer
Intermountain
Connie Blastock
Louisiana
David Craig
Michigan
Kelly Downs
MidSouth
Shaun Stevenson
North Arkansas
Elizabeth Karlowski
North/East Texas
Beth Bidle Rush
Northeast Indiana
Cortney Coombs
Northwest
Cindy Reynolds
Northwest Indiana
Shane Guldi
Northwest Ohio
Britni Dooley
Northwest Oklahoma
Dorothy Whipp
Oregon Pacific
Becca Notbohm
Pittsburg
Tonya Hockenberry
Sacramento
Cathy Scharf
South Texas
Tracey Gosnell
Southern Florida
Robin Campbell
Southwest Oklahoma
Kym Drabenstot
West Texas
Jennifer Sommers

DISTRICT PARTNERS

Arizona
Canada West
Eastern Michigan
Florida
Georgia
Indianapolis
Intermountain
Louisiana
Michigan
MidSouth
North Arkansas
North/East Texas
Northeast Indiana
Northwest
Northwest Indiana
Northwest Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon Pacific
Pittsburg
Sacramento
South Texas
Southern Florida
Southwest Oklahoma
West Texas

SPECIAL THANKS

1230Kids
Adrian Camp
Arrowhead Camp
Bible Story Maps
Easy Risers
D6 Family
David C. Cook
Doorpost Songs
FourFiveSix
Go! Curriculum
GoodKind
High Voltage Kids Ministry
Kellogg Springs Camp
Kidmin Creatives
Lake Placid Camp
Lexham Press
Pinerock Camp
Scripture Union
Shiloh Park Retreat Center
StorySticks
Yancy Ministries
Wesley Seminary

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