





WANDERERS WELCOME

..... Come home to Summit Christian Church



FEELS LIKE HOME

Summit Christian Church welcomes all

by Brittany Wesely

You may have heard of the “Bible belt,” the region in the Southeast and Midwest United States where Christianity is widely practiced. But many people who live in the Reno area are unaware that our region is considered part of the “unchurched belt,” an area along the West Coast named for having the lowest church attendance in the country. When Stephen Bond discovered that there was a need for more pastors to minister to Nevada communities, he knew he was being called to serve Christ there. Without hesitation, Bond and his family moved out west.

“We came here primarily because there were a whole lot of people who didn’t have access to a vibrant church filled with love and we knew we could help,” Bond says. “At first it was mom, dad and the four kids doing pretty much everything. But we all pulled together and made great things happen.”

The family purchased some chairs from a casino auction and rented space from the YMCA on Sundays. The first service had 186 people, but the number of attendees grew quickly.

“The YMCA had terrible acoustics. It was cold in the winter and hot in the summer, and didn’t have a single amenity to bring anyone back. But they just kept coming,” Bond says.

Senior Pastor Stephen Bond says Summit Christian Church is a special place where the people have joy in their hearts and passion for loving one another.
PHOTO BY GIL FOLK

Today, 16 years later, the church congregation is more than 25 times its original size and already has plans to expand its lofty structure that towers prominently above Pyramid Highway. With a mighty sound system and multimedia experience, Summit Christian Church provides a lively worship service that is sure to get your heart pumping.

But more powerful than the modern atmosphere, the multitude of services or the number of guitars in the band, Bond says, is the keystone of Summit Christian Church — glorifying God with an honest love for people.

While the church sees more than 2,500 attendees at all of its Sunday services, you don’t feel lost in the crowd. When you first arrive, you’re greeted by a friendly face at every turn: In the parking lot, at the cafe and bookstore, in the multitude of people eager to hear the weekend message.

WE ARE A FAMILY HERE AND THE PEOPLE FEEL IT.

Stephen Bond
Senior Pastor

And although on the surface it may look like many other churches, behind the scenes of Summit Christian Church is a confluence of individuals from varying backgrounds who have an incredible level of integrity and a fiery joy in their hearts.

The people of Summit Christian Church don’t just attend Sunday services together — they’re highly connected to one another throughout the week. More than 70 percent of church attendees are involved in LIFE Groups, weekly gatherings of people who share similar life experiences and offer each other comfort and support.

“At Summit, people can find relationships that are meaningful and helpful,” Bond says. “We are a family here and the people feel it.”

If you’re looking for a church to call home and God-loving people to go through life with, Summit Christian Church is just the place for you. Read on to find out more about all this church has to offer.

A GRACE-FILLED COMMUNITY



With vibrant, contemporary weekend services and many small group sessions throughout the week, Summit Christian Church offers a variety of ways for you to encounter God in a deeply personal way. The church maintains a commitment to sharing Bible-based lessons in an honest and loving way, with the mission of spreading the joy and freedom that comes from having a relationship with Jesus Christ. In pursuit of this mission, Summit operates by the following core values:



LOVE GOD

We ignite a passion for worshiping God through a truthful and energy-filled weekend experience.
Matthew 22:37



LOVE PEOPLE

We develop and incorporate meaningful relationships with others.
John 13:35



SERVE OTHERS

We use our talents and time to glorify God by providing assistance to the church and the community.
Mark 10:45



REACH OTHERS

We share the good news of God’s forgiveness and grace.
Luke 19:10

ACCEPTING CHRIST

A new believer finds the joy and faith to carry him through

by Amanda Caraway

Eddie Wilson was once a self-proclaimed atheist. That changed when he found himself drawn to Summit Christian Church one night. PHOTO BY GIL FOLK

When Eddie Wilson first made his way to Summit Christian Church one Wednesday night three years ago, he was a self-proclaimed atheist who had never set foot in a church. But on this night, Wilson, a police officer, was patrolling the area and found himself inexplicably drawn to the church. He followed his impulse and pulled into the parking lot.

Summit wasn't completely unknown to him — he'd first heard about the church from his CrossFit trainer at the gym, a devoted Christian who often talked about Christ. Wilson became curious and borrowed the man's Bible. The more Wilson read, the more he wanted to know. And so he found himself unexpectedly idling in the church parking lot, unsure of what to do next.

"I figured the church would be empty on a Wednesday, but the parking lot was packed," Wilson says. "Just as I got there people started streaming out."

Wilson remained parked until some church members approached. One was a retired police officer, who invited Wilson inside. After calling dispatch, Wilson went inside for a tour and met a pastor. The men talked for a while and the pastor invited Wilson to pray with him. Wilson accepted Christ that very night.

"I was so excited that I woke up my wife, Nicole, when I got home at midnight," Wilson says. She agreed to attend the service at Summit with him that weekend.

Wilson was nervous before that first Sunday service, but he felt deeply connected to the message. The pastor compared exercising faith to exercising at

the gym. Wilson took this as a sign, since his own faith journey began at his gym. One month later, Wilson and his wife were baptized.

"Once I accepted Christ, the change in my life was instant," he says. "I felt an overwhelming sense of joy and I no longer felt the need to engage in negativity and use foul language."

Wilson and his family became fully immersed in church life. They are now involved in serving others, both at home and abroad. Wilson also runs a weekly LIFE Group, where members gather for Bible study and fellowship. Wilson believes that finding a spiritual home is crucial for helping one deal with life's difficulties and for building relationships that help you learn and grow.

"In the secular world, people often cope with stress in unhealthy ways like alcohol," he says. "When you have faith, you know that God has your back. I know that I will learn from whatever trials may come, and that something good will eventually come out of it."

His wife, Nicole Wilson, agrees.

"When one of our daughters was in the ICU, we had such an amazing support system," she says. "Fellow members prayed with us at the hospital and brought meals to our home. I feel we were called to Summit three years ago so we could handle the trials to come."

The Wilsons are both thankful for the love and support they receive at Summit. Despite having faced difficult times, they say their family is truly joyful for the first time.

ONCE I ACCEPTED
CHRIST, THE
CHANGE IN MY LIFE
WAS INSTANT.

Eddie Wilson

FINDING HOPE AT PATHFINDERS

Pathfinders is a nonprofit Christian organization created to help children break the poverty cycle. Their threefold mission is to lead children to a personal relationship with Jesus, teach children that making good choices can lead to a better life and to show them that education is the key. Many at-risk children don't realize they are suffering because of poor choices made by others, and that they can choose a different path.

Pathfinders conducts outreach by hosting events for children grades K-12 every Friday and Saturday. The events include dinner, games, personal counsel, Bible study and fellowship. Volunteers from Summit Christian Church and other area churches take turns providing meals and participating in the activities. During the week, volunteers take children to buy clothes and enjoy activities like ice skating. Pathfinders seeks to make a difference by being there every weekend and providing consistent support for children in need.

Find more information at
www.pathfindersreno.org.

LOVE
PEOPLE

EVEN THOUGH
THEY ARE CALLED
'LIFE GROUPS,'
REALLY THEY ARE
MORE LIKE FAMILY.

Rachael Glancy
Preschool teacher at Summit Ridge Christian School

Rachael Glancy met
her best friend and
found a job she
loves through LIFE
Groups at Summit
Christian Church.
PHOTO BY GIL FOLK



LEAN ON
ME

LIFE Groups at Summit Christian Church are small gatherings — typically between 16 and 20 people — who come together to worship beyond the general Sunday service and study the word of God together. The groups are composed of adults of all ages with common life experiences, but participants are not limited to any single category or group. There are LIFE Groups for singles, married men and women, co-ed groups and college students. Brett Zunino, Executive Pastor of Ministries, says LIFE Groups are a great way for church members to bond with others who are at the same life stage.

"God created us to live in community with each other," Zunino says. "The understanding is when you find yourself in community, all your needs are met."

For more information on LIFE Groups, visit www.summitnv.org/ministries/life-groups.

FINDING COMMUNITY

Woman meets lifelong friends through LIFE Groups

by Mike Blount

When Rachael Glancy first moved to Sparks with her family in 2006, she didn't know anyone in the area. Her family decided to attend a regular weekend service at Summit Christian Church and Glancy immediately felt at home. She continued going on her own to other services where she learned about LIFE Groups, a small gathering of people with similar life experiences that meet together weekly to worship and support each other. Glancy decided to attend the college group.

"I liked the idea of LIFE Groups because it was a smaller atmosphere of people my age," Glancy

says. "It seemed like a great way to connect with people and find friends to go out and do things together. One of the girls I met at that group is one of my best friends today."

Glancy says she appreciated being surrounded by people who were also interested in learning more about God and making faith a priority in their lives. She felt loved and accepted.

"I had never really experienced being surrounded by godly people in my circle of friends before," Glancy says. "It was great. I learned that you could still go out and have fun and have a good time while still living a pure life, and they were praying for me and looking out for me. It was encouraging to know that people cared."

The positive experience extended from Glancy's personal life to her professional one. One of the leaders of the women's group she was attending was also working at Summit Ridge Christian School. She told Glancy to apply for an opening the school had for a preschool teacher. Glancy was hired and continues to teach there today.

"Teaching has been such an amazing experience for me," Glancy says. "Being a part of children's lives and teaching them about God is such a great thing. I never knew that I would be teaching, but I've learned so much and grown so much in this job. To see why God had me come to Summit is amazing."

Glancy now leads a women's LIFE Group that meets once a week. There are eight women in the group, with ages ranging from 25 to 55. Glancy also attends a singles group. Glancy says all of the LIFE Groups she has been a part of have introduced her to important people in her life.

"We help each other through difficult times and support each other in learning about God and how he wants us to be," Glancy says. "People do things because they want to, not because they are seeking anything. Even though they are called 'LIFE Groups,' really they are more like family."



Rachael Glancy leads a
LIFE Group every week.
PHOTO BY GIL FOLK

Dave Misanik believes serving others is part of practicing his faith.
PHOTO BY GIL FOLK



SERVE
OTHERS

by Evan Tuckinsky

LIVING A LOVE FOR OTHERS

Church member called to start serving never wants to stop

Soon after Dave Misanik's family joined Summit Christian Church in early spring 2003, a Sunday service changed his life by calling him to service.

Misanik recalls the moment clearly. Senior Pastor Steve Bond asked everyone who had served the congregation and community to come forward. Accompanied by uplifting music played by the worship team, church members proceeded through an archway erected at the front of the worship center.

Moved by the ceremony, which symbolized the faithful entering heaven, Misanik suddenly realized that serving others was a part of practicing his faith that needed, well, more practice. He and his wife didn't number among those parishioners who had served.

Soon after, the couple joined the First Touch team, a group of greeters at services. Once they got started serving, they found it hard to stop.

"God has just opened up the doors for each of us to serve him," Misanik says. "We look at 'the church' not just as where the building is at, but wherever people are meeting, so he has us in service all over."

Misanik worked at NV Energy for 30 years, qualifying for early retirement in 2009. His severance package allows him to devote his life to volunteering.

"I was punching the time clock basically for myself, but right now the way I look at it is I'm punching God's time clock," he says. "I'm just working for the Lord and it's just been amazing this journey he's taken both myself and my wife on."

Raised in a Catholic household, Misanik attended church regularly as an adult. He, his wife, Rita, and their children — daughter, Candice, now 27, and son, Chris, 25 — belonged to another congregation in Sparks, but Misanik felt he was "missing a relationship with Jesus Christ" and decided to try Summit.

Once the family relocated, their children joined Summit Student Ministry. When Misanik brought them to the gathering, he often found himself interested in the group discussions.

The youth pastor quipped, "You keep on showing up, we're going to have to put you to work."

Misanik replied, "Well, that's fine with me!"

The Misaniks first worked with a group of fifth- and sixth-graders, then became drivers for two of the vans Summit uses in Student Ministry. The Misaniks now teach in Children's Ministry and they shuttle kids needing transportation. They became involved in Pathfinders, an outreach program that gathers between 120 and 150 inner-city children and teens on Friday nights at church for food and fellowship. Misanik also teaches a children's program on Monday nights.

"Within the last four years or so, [God] has gotten me and Rita on this path to help disciple some of the kids who either need to know about God or need to come into a relationship with him," Misanik says. "God has taken us out of our comfort zone, but he's been there every step of the way helping us and encouraging us."

HELPING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Serving others represents a core calling at Summit Christian Church. Members help fellow residents throughout the Reno-Sparks area through about two dozen programs that meet a wide range of needs.

"We have an 'at-risk' belief system," explains Linda Patterson, Summit's Local Outreach Director. "We're serving people in crisis — those are our 'anchor tenants' — and then we fill in with all of the other programs that we're doing."

Members volunteer at organizations such as Hosanna Home, Teen Challenge, Crisis Pregnancy Center and Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The church itself sponsors programs such as Pathfinders, a weekly outreach to inner-city youth. Twice yearly — in the spring and autumn — Summit organizes events to rally the congregation for community service. The list goes on.

The instinct to help others in times of need is "part of the DNA of the Truckee Meadows," Patterson says, "but we've taken it to a higher level."

A retired Sparks city clerk who's attended Summit since 2007, she finds an internal benefit in this "externally focused" aspect of church life.

"You always get back more than you give when you're out there," Patterson says. "God has this wonderful way of blessing and repaying the effort and making it so worthwhile."

To learn more or to get involved, visit www.summitnv.org and click on "Outreach."

GOD HAS TAKEN US OUT OF OUR COMFORT
ZONE, BUT HE'S BEEN THERE EVERY STEP OF
THE WAY HELPING US AND ENCOURAGING US.

Dave Misanik

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Summit demonstrates
changed lives
through baptism

by Evan Tuchinsky

Ernest Lindberg has packed a lot of living into his 71 years. Before finishing high school in Chicago, he enlisted in the Navy and served seven years as a diver. After his service ended, Lindberg never really settled down, spending some time drifting though Southern California and traveling around the world. He worked in construction and as a snow-skiing judge. He spent a lot of nights “carousing” in clubs, but also a lot of Sundays praying in church. Lindberg moved frequently and, in fact, when he married for the first time at age 69, his wife found he had 57 prior addresses.

Lindberg has led, in his words, “a crazy kind of life.”

Last year one of his neighbors invited him to Summit Christian Church. Lindberg and his wife had been attending another church, but they were drawn to the new congregation.

Six months later, Lindberg attended a special service at Summit that culminated in a baptism event. During the service, there was a large tank in

the front of the church in which 30 people were baptized as the congregation sang.

“Part of following Jesus is declaring our faith, and baptism is the declaration of our faith,” says Senior Pastor Stephen Bond. “At Summit, it’s quite a celebration. It’s a lot of fun and a lot of joy.”

After the service, Bond offered an open invitation to others who wanted to be baptized. He remembers saying, “If you’re ready to make a decision about Jesus today, we’re ready for you. And we have another tub outside with towels and bathing suits waiting for you.”

Lindberg says he felt compelled to answer Bond’s call. He was one of the first at the outdoor tub. During the baptism, as Lindberg fell back into the water, he was determined to stay submerged as long as possible.

“I was down there going, ‘God, I think I’d better stay down here a little longer than everyone else — I’ve sinned a little more,’” Lindberg recalls with a laugh.

The crowd noticed. After a bit of time passed, the officiant

leaned down and touched Lindberg, who came up and threw his arms in the air, exclaiming, “This is awesome!”

The ceremony wasn’t merely a symbolic gesture for him. Since then, Lindberg has become more involved in the church, such as serving in the First Step program that helps welcome newcomers to Summit.

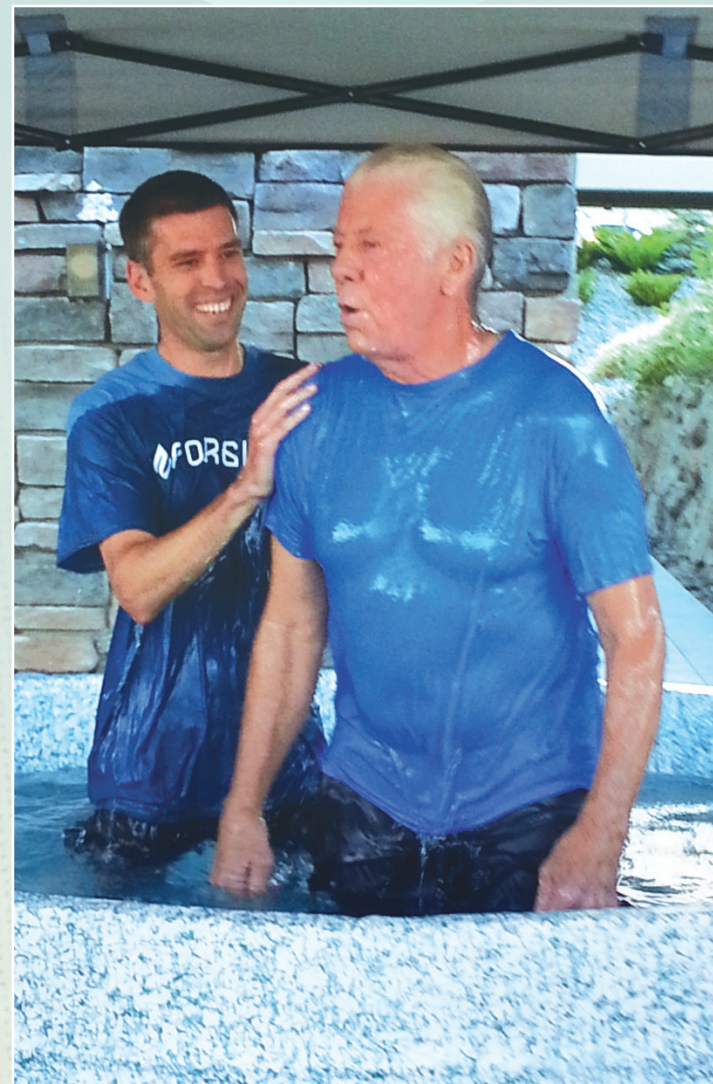
“I’m a servant to God now,” he says. “It’s why I’m doing this volunteering. It’s ‘I owe, I owe, it’s off to church I go.’ That’s how I feel.”

This life-changing experience isn’t uniquely felt by Lindberg. Bond says one of his favorite things about performing baptisms is watching the transformation on the faces of the people who experience them.

“It feels amazing, because honestly for every single person who does this, it is a spiritually significant threshold in their life,” Bond says. “These are people who have had some pain and this is a genuine decision that, ‘You know, the life that I was doing before isn’t going so well. It’s time to make a change.’”

PART OF FOLLOWING JESUS IS DECLARING OUR FAITH, AND BAPTISM IS THE DECLARATION OF OUR FAITH. AT SUMMIT, IT’S QUITE A CELEBRATION.

Stephen Bond
Senior Pastor



SPREADING GOD’S LOVE

Summit Christian Church aims to reach others and serve people in need, both near and far. Along with volunteering, members reach out helping hands to Africa, Asia and South America.

In February, the Global Outreach Team conducted a ministry for men in Cambodia, where another mission trip is planned for August. The 2015 travel itinerary also includes Bolivia. Summit has a mission established in Kenya, as well, and another taking root in Indonesia.

“All of our programs have a gospel component and a humanitarian component,” explains Jim McMorran, Global Outreach Director. “We feel really

strongly that these things don’t work unless we do both.”

In Cambodia, Summit works with organizations that combat sex trafficking and assist refugees who have been returned to their own country. Partners in Bolivia built a church and educate children; associates in Kenya aid poverty-stricken residents of the slums in Nairobi.

“We don’t just send checks,” McMorran says. “If we invest money somewhere, we go check it out. We are very active.”

**For more information,
visit www.summitnv.org.**



Last September, at age 71, Ernest Lindberg (right) was baptized at Summit Christian Church. He says the decision made him a new man.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Top: Rachel Wilding has gone on multiple mission trips with Summit Christian Church.
PHOTO BY GIL FOLK

Bottom: Summit Christian Church offers support to people around the world through mission trips.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

IT'S KIND OF HARD NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN MISSION WORK WHEN YOU SEE THE WAY PEOPLE ARE LIVING FIRSTHAND.

Rachel Wilding
Registered nurse and mission volunteer



HEARING THE CALL

Woman inspired to help people around the globe on mission trips : by Mike Blount

As a registered nurse, Rachel Wilding dedicates her life to making people better. She listens to patients' needs, provides education and emotional support, and coordinates their care until they are back in good health. But at Summit Christian Church, Wilding can also provide her expertise to help people all over the world on mission trips.

Under the direction of the Global Outreach (GO) Team, Summit offers several missions and ministries locally and throughout the world. By partnering with other organizations, volunteers with Summit are able to reach people in foreign countries and attend to their spiritual and physical needs. Wilding has gone on several mission trips with the church, including two trips to Cambodia as part of a medical team. Wilding's team was able to perform medical screenings on up to 150 parents and kids each day.

"There are such limited resources there, so we went there to help support their clinics and build them up with tools," Wilding says. "It's kind of hard not to be involved in mission work when you see the way people are living firsthand. There is such a need to address poverty worldwide."

Wilding has also sponsored four children in Peru, Bolivia and Kenya from youth to young adult through the Compassion International

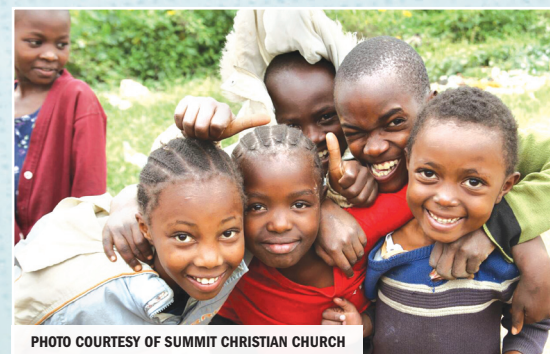


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

program. Through a monthly monetary gift, she provides for their medical, nutritional and educational needs until they graduate from school. Wilding communicates with them through letters. A group from Summit, including Wilding, will travel to Bolivia in March where she will meet up with the child she is sponsoring. In the future, Summit is hoping mission trips will connect more sponsors to their donor children.

The mission trips have also opened Wilding's eyes to the local needs as well.

"When I came back home after the first trip, I started to realize that trafficking and slavery is happening in Reno, too," Wilding says. "I've become an advocate in my local community. That's the other side of going on these mission trips: God opens your eyes to find your niche."

A FAITH-BASED EDUCATION

by Mike Blount

A faith-infused education can help give the littlest members of God's family a strong start, building character, values and academic readiness all at the same time. Summit Ridge Christian School is a preschool for children ages 2 to 5 that is an outreach of Summit Christian Church. The school offers a beautiful facility, a playground, a peanut and nut-free environment and a caring staff devoted to supporting each child's education and well-being. Children who are enrolled learn standard curriculum, including basic science, early literacy, numbers, colors and shapes, but also learn about God and faith. The Bible-based curriculum

offers students developmentally appropriate Bible stories and Christian values to learn from.

Director Patty Ogan says developing children's faith is an important step in shaping who they become as they grow up.

"Those little ones need to know about God and that he loves them and has a plan for them," Ogan says. "If we can support their faith early on, it becomes a part of who they are and influences their worldview."

For students who have started kindergarten, but have not started their freshman year of high school, Summit Ridge Christian School also offers a Christian day camp called

Anchor Point. The program has a strong sports component, field trips, crafts, guest speakers, social skill development, music, drama and science activities. Anchor Point is designed to meet the needs of families who require care for their children during the times they are not at school. Summit Ridge Christian School also provides transportation to and from three local elementary schools for students enrolled in Anchor Point.

"Our program is important because so many of our families are double-income families," Ogan says. "Children need to be taken care of and we can do that in a way that honors God and supports the families."

For more information on Summit Ridge Christian School, visit www.summitnv.org/kids-students/summit-ridge-christian-school.



Summit preschool teacher helps prepare kids to be reading-ready.
PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WE ARE FAMILY

When you first visit Summit Christian Church, you'll find the music uplifting, the message encouraging and the congregation thriving. As you return time and time again, you'll bear witness to something powerful — true hospitality and deep human connections. While the lively worship environment is certainly worth experiencing, what makes Summit Christian Church a remarkable place is the people.

At Summit Christian Church, no one goes through life alone. Together we celebrate the joys of life. Together we uplift one another as we face trials and tribulations. Together we are much more than a congregation. We are a family dedicated to one another and to our mission to glorify God.

JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!

SATURDAY

5 p.m. — Downstairs

5 p.m. — Upstairs, classic service

SUNDAY

8:15 a.m. — Downstairs

9 a.m. — Upstairs

9:45 a.m. — Downstairs

10:30 a.m. — Upstairs

11:15 a.m. — Downstairs

6 p.m. — Upstairs, Spanish service

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AVAILABLE AT ALL SERVICES.

TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

Middle School [6th – 8th grade] — Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

High School — Sunday at 11:15 a.m.

Young Adults [ages 18 to 30] — Thursday at 7 p.m.

SERVICES HELD AT THE STUDENT MINISTRY CENTER. TRANSPORTATION FROM THE MAIN CAMPUS IS AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY.



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Sparks, NV 89436
775-424-5683

Student Ministry Center
4878 Sparks Blvd. #102
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Vimeo: vimeo.com/user4821361

Listen to Sunday services on-the-go with the Summit Christian Church podcast, available to download for free on iTunes and at www.summitnv.org.

