

creekside

life

JUN/JUL/AUG 2019
ELK GROVE, CA

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

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CAMP! NOW WHAT?
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creekside
SUMMER FUN
in the sun



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DOWNLOAD THE CREEKSIDEEG APP AND READ CREEKSIDE LIFE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

Now available on all your favorite devices.

For more information, visit creeksideeg.com

- ▶ **MISSION:** We exist to bring glory to God by turning all people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ **PURPOSE:** Making Disciples—More Christians and better Christians.
- ▶ **DISCIPLE:** Someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.





WELCOME *to* CREEKSIDE LIFE

HEY CREEKSIDE! GUESS WHAT? IT'S SUMMER!

I love summer. Road trips, camping, family time, BBQ's, swimming in the pool. The following pages are filled with summer activity ideas for families. We have summer recipes, summer activities and of course all of the amazing summer fun here at Creekside.

One of the events I am most excited about is our brand new Family Unity Nights or F.U.N. for short. My family has literally moved our vacations around for this awesome event.

July 11-13 we are planning three amazing evenings of fun for the entire family. We are even renting out the entire Wackford Aquatic Center! My family can't wait and we hope to see you there. You can check out more information about F.U.N. on the back cover. It's like a super fun staycation.

Another amazing opportunity we have to grow this summer is Creekside University. I want to encourage you to check out the list of classes also on the back cover. There are so many opportunities here at Creekside we don't want you to miss anything.

We hope you enjoy reading through these articles and our hope is that you will be equipped as a family to have a great summer whether it is here with us at Creekside or while you are away on your summer vacations.

Enjoy,

Joel Neufeld, Communications and Worship Pastor

CREEKSIDE LIFE

creeksideeg.com/creekside-life

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PULSE



EASTER
AT CREEKSIDE



44 baptized at Good Friday
Baptism Celebration Service

844 went through
Private Communion

3,000 donuts served on
Easter Sunday

(thats **1.4 million** calories!)

432 people at Drama
& Worship Night

3,914 total attendees
Easter Services



Send us your story, testimony or feedback.



CreeksideEG



CreeksideCCeg



creeksidelife@creeksideeg.com

PULSE



Children's **EASTER** FESTIVAL

For families with children 12 and under

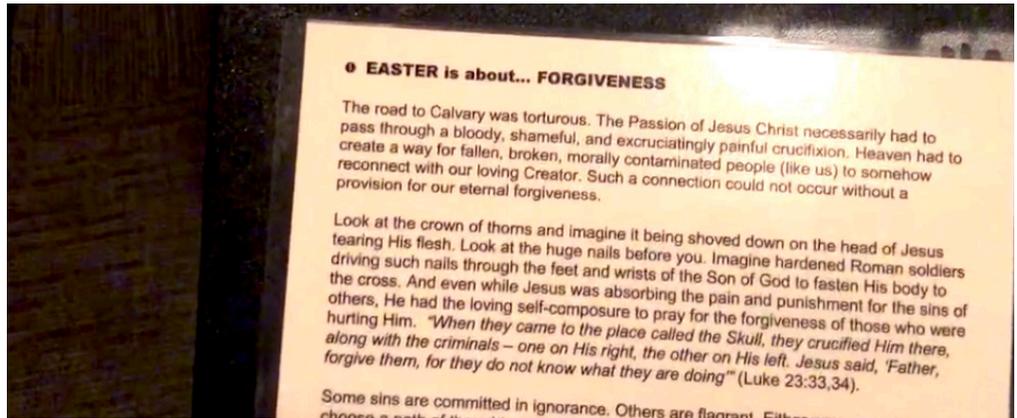


FOOD &



“ Private Communion was beyond my expectations! What a beautiful and powerful time to meditate on what Christ did for us all and the forgiveness and love He has for all of humanity. ”

- DEANNA GALLARDO





Next Steps

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE - REACH



Next Steps was developed for those seeking to move closer to Jesus.

Sign-up for one or more of Creekside's Next Steps and begin the pathway to becoming a disciple.

What is a disciple? It's simple... *a disciple is someone who continuously learns to live and love like Jesus and leads others to do the same.*

For more details about Next Steps at Creekside contact Jennifer Sandlin at jennifer@creeksideeg.com



SHAPE WORKSHOP

Sunday, August 4, 1:30-4:30pm | E-101

We are all uniquely shaped by God for His purpose. Come and discover your personal SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences) and your God-given hardwiring for serving Him.

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY WITH DAVE RAMSEY

Wednesdays starting August 28, 6:15-8pm | A-1

Go to <https://fpu.com/1090184> to register

Dave Ramsey's curriculum provides biblically based, common-sense education and empowerment which gives HOPE to everyone from the financially secure to the financially distressed. This is a 9 week course.

Sharon Sorrentino | sharon@creeksideeg.com



GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH THE BIBLE

Sundays, Sept 15, 22 & 29

11am-12:30pm | A-5

A three-week course for people who are new to the Bible. Topics include an overview of the Bible, why you can trust the Bible and Bible study basics.

Jennifer Sandlin | jennifer@creeksideeg.com



LIFEGROUPS

In home groups that meet weekly to connect, share, pray together and study God's Word. LifeGroups help us grow in relationship to God and others - developing Christ-centered friendships.

NEXT SESSION:

August 25-November 10, 2019

Aug 4, 11, 18, 25 Signups | Atrium

New Leader Training: Sunday, August 18, 12:30-3:15pm, Rm. A1
LifeGroup Leader, Host & Family Fall Recharge at Wackford: August 18

Future Session: Jan 26 – March 22, 2020

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com



CHILDREN CREEKSIDEEG.COM/CHILDREN

PROMOTION SUNDAY

Sunday, June 2 All Services

Children promoted to next grade level in Sunday school

5TH-6TH GRADE SUMMER CAMP

Sunday, June 30 - Saturday, July 6

Frontier Ranch - Missions Springs, CA
Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

FAMILY UNITY NIGHTS (F.U.N.)

Thursday, July 11 | FamBlitz Night 6pm

Creekside Main Building/Auditorium

Friday, July 12 | Family Camp-In 6pm

Creekside Campus

Saturday, July 13 | Family Swim Night 6pm

Wackford Aquatic Center

Details and registration online: creeksideeg.com

or on page xx of this Creekside Life

Sherry Ju | sherry@creeksideeg.com

AWANA REGISTRATION

Sunday, July 21 - Sunday, August 18

Mid-week kids Bible program starting September 2019

Shelby Ariagga | shelby@creeksideeg.com

YOUTH - JUNIOR HIGH

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/STUDENT-MINISTRIES/

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-108

A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

Upstairs with HS, we will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

MISSIONS TRIP TO INNER CITY SAN FRANCISCO (ICSF)

July 28 - August 4

Elk Grove Park near the volleyball courts

We are partnering with City Service Mission and will be doing prayer walks, interacting with homeless and serving at food banks.

Matt Rau | matt.r@creeksideeg.com

MEADOW RANCH

SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE

June 23-29 | Go online to register

www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries

\$620. Space is limited.



YOUTH - HIGH SCHOOL

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/STUDENT-MINISTRIES/

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sundays, 9:30am | E-205

A Christ-centered GROW experience, connecting students to God and each other.

Sundays, 11:15am | E-205

We will have a time of going through the Bible and eating pancakes.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

3rd Tuesday monthly, 7:00-9:30pm | offsite

An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited. Carpool from Creekside.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

MISSION TRIP TO UTAH

July 17-28

Partnering with Flourishing Grace Christian Church during their VBS in the heart of Mormon country, we will sift through doctrinal differences and why they matter.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

PONDEROSA or WILDWOOD

SUMMER CAMP AT HUME LAKE

June 23-29 | Go online to register

www.creeksideeg.com/student-ministries

Ponderosa \$620, Wildwood \$475.

Wildwood is currently full, but there is a waitlist online.

Steven Rossi | steven@creeksideeg.com

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULTS

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/YOUNGADULTS/

LIFEGROUPS

Thursdays, 7-9pm | E-108

A place to belong and move closer to Jesus as you deepen your knowledge of God among friends.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

2nd Wednesday monthly

7:30-9:30pm | offsite

An opportunity to serve the homeless in our community. Space is limited. Carpool from Creekside.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

GUYS' & GIRLS' BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays, 7:30pm | offsite

A place to explore and dive deeper into God's Word. Facilitators:

Girls: Krista Fuller | kristafuller00@gmail.com

Guys: Matt Smith | trixademix@gmail.com

SATURDAYS WITH THE BOYS

2nd Saturday monthly

Join us at 8am in the Venue for the Men's Huddle. Then join us at Elk Grove park at 1pm for BBQ and Frisbee.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

SUMMER RETREAT

August 9-12

Early Bird Registration April 6-June 22, \$90

Join us for a weekend in beautiful Zephyr Point, Nevada at Lake Tahoe for a weekend playing games, building relationships, and deepening our walk with Christ.

Kari Mann | kari@creeksideeg.com

SUMMER BLOWOUT

Thursday, August 15

MARRIAGE & FAMILY

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MARRIAGE-FAMILY

THE ULTIMATE MARRIAGE WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, Aug 9-11

Zephyr Point Conference Center, Lake Tahoe

Refresh marriages and enjoy getting to know other Christian couples. Speaker: Dr. Gil Stieglitz.

Details and registration available online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

CREEKSIDE CALENDAR

CREEKSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WOMEN CREEKSIDEEG.COM/WOMEN

***FALL BIBLE STUDIES - MORNING BREAK** Registration Begins August 17

Tuesdays, Sept 10 – Nov 19,
9-11:30am | Education Building
Grow in your relationship with God,
whether you've studied the Bible for
years, or are just getting started.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

***FALL BIBLE STUDY - EVENING EDITION** Registration Begins August 17

Tuesdays, Sept 10 – Nov 19,
6:30-9:00pm | Education Building
An evening option to grow deeper
in relationship to God. Many ladies
attend who work during the day.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sundays, 9:30-10:45am | M-2
Study the Bible with a loving,
prayerful group of women. All ages
are welcome. Led by Ruby Parsley.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRISCILLA CIRCLE

2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-203
A service group supporting and
ministering to the needs of
local and global missions by
assembling hygiene kits, making
baby layettes, cutting and rolling
bandages, and more. Meets offsite in
July, no meeting in August.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 2nd Mondays, 7-9pm | E-204

Knit and crochet shawls and pray for
those who receive them. Completed
handmade shawls can also be
donated at the Church Office. Meets
offsite in July, no meeting in August.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

DORCAS CIRCLE

1st Wednesdays, 9-11:30am | E-203
A service group ministering to the
needs of our local community and
missionaries overseas by making
quilts, rolling bandages, and more.
No meeting in July.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

***HEART2HEART MOMS**

**Alternating Thursdays, Resuming Sept 5
9-11:30am | E-108**
For mothers of all ages and stages.
Time together includes breakfast,
special events and guest speakers.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WOMEN ALONE FELLOWSHIP

Saturdays, monthly, noon-2pm | Atrium
For all ages, but mostly senior ladies
widowed, divorced or single. Share
a potluck lunch, meet new friends,
enjoy inspiring speakers and music.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

NOW WHAT?

Saturday, July 20, 9am-noon | the Venue
A brunch with uplifting testimonies
about navigating life's transitions,
especially during mid-life challenges.
Register online or at the Sign-up
Center in the Atrium.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEN CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MEN

MEN'S HUDDLE

2nd Saturday, 8-9:45am | the Venue
For guys in all stages of life. Join us
for breakfast, worship and inspiring
speakers. Bring a friend along! \$7
donation for breakfast.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Sundays | M-2
Prayer, 7:30-8am | Bible Study: 8-9:15am
An awesome, biblically sound, Bible
study. The first 30 minutes is spent
praying for our families and other
concerns.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6-7am | Atrium
A perfect morning start, seeking
God first! Spend time in the book of
Proverbs with leader Gary Grace.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

HOMELESS MINISTRY OUTREACH

1st Fridays, 7:15-8:45pm
Union Gospel Mission, Sacramento
Join us as we serve the homeless by
conducting Chapel.
Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CAMPOUT

**Friday-Sunday, July 26-28 | Loon Lake, El
Dorado Natinal Forest.**
A weekend filled with fellowship,
outdoor activities, worship and God's
Word.
Details and registration available online.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

FATHER SON CAMPOUT

Friday-Sunday, Oct 4-6 | Rancho Seco Park
Make memories to last a lifetime! Join
us for camping, campfires, lots of
laughter and guy-time. Register online
starting August 4.
Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MEN'S CONFERENCE

Friday, June 21, 6:30-10pm | Venue
Saturday, June 22, 8:30am-noon | Venue
*"What's Playing in The Theater of
Your Mind - PHIL 4:8-9."*
Learn the truth about the porn
and sex-trafficking industries which
deceive and enslave.
Speakers: Harmony (Dust) Grillo,
former sex industry worker from
"Treasures," Jenny Williamson,
president of "Courage House
International," Senior Pastor Scott
Hansen and Tony Bell.
Details and registration online.
Tony Bell | tony@creeksideeg.com

MISSIONS CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MISSIONS

We love supporting missions, local and worldwide.
Check out our page for upcoming events and initiatives.
Karen Stoneburner | karen.s@creeksideeg.com

SENIOR ADULTS 55+

CREEKSIDEEG.COM/SENIORS

"JUST BOBBING AROUND"

Wednesday, July 17, 11:30am-2pm | the Venue

A fun lunch with a baked potato bar, followed by Bob and Nancy Speizer sharing experiences from the mission field. There will also be "comic relief" provided by Bob and Lynn Marie Gault. Register at the Sign-up Center in the Atrium.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

GAME DAY WITH STUDENT MINISTRIES

Wednesday, August 14, 11am-1pm | Atrium

Games and entertainment led by Student Ministries and a potluck lunch provided by the Senior Adults. Register at the Sign-up Center in the Atrium

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am | A-1

A warm and friendly crowd will be pleased to welcome you to this on-going, in-depth Bible study. Led by Mike Jones.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 10-11am | E-101/102

On summer break until September 5.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

WORSHIP CREEKSIDEEG.COM/WORSHIP

WORSHIP PREVIEW

Sunday, July 14, 12:45pm | B4

Shannon Schulze | shannon@creeksideeg.com

SUPPORT CREEKSIDEEG.COM/RESOURCES

SCALES

2nd Fridays, 7-9pm | E-103

A monthly confidential support group for families and friends impacted by a loved one with mental illness.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com

COUNSELING

Community Counseling Center of Elk Grove www.cceeg.net | 916.509.8285

CCCEG is a full service counseling and Christian Assistance Center

creekside SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

CHURCH SERVICES

- 8am | Classic
- 9:30am | Contemporary
- 9:30am | the Venue
- 11:15am | Contemporary

NURSERY | Newborn to 4 yrs.

- 8am, 9:30am, 11:15

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL Kinder to 4th Grade

- 9:30 & 11:15am
- Check-in: Rm. M-9 or South Wing/Main Bldg.

SPECIAL NEEDS for KIDS

- 9:30am | Rm. B-4

PRETEEN MINISTRY 56'ers

- 9:30am, 11:15am | Rm. E-201

JUNIOR HIGH

- 9:30am | Rm. E-108 | 11:15am | Rm. E-205

HIGH SCHOOL

- 9:30am, 11:15am | Rm. E-205

SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30am | Rm. A-1

HEADS UP FOR THE FALL:

PARENTING CREEKSIDEEG.COM/MARRIAGE-FAMILY

"DON'T JUST SURVIVE - THRIVE!"

CREEKSIDE PARENTING CONFERENCE

Friday, Oct 11, 7-9pm | Auditorium

Saturday, Oct 12, 9am - 12:30pm | Auditorium

An opportunity for parents to be equipped and inspired by speakers Josh Mulvihill and Marty Machowski. \$18 per person. More details and registration online.

Nancy Aird | nancy@creeksideeg.com



CREEKSIDE MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, Sept 29, 2019

1:30pm-4:30pm | Rm. A-1

Membership Class connects you to Creekside and explains our purpose, values, and history. You'll have the opportunity to become a member of Creekside as well as explore the many ways to get involved in ministry here. Sign up online or in the Atrium.

Melissa Yocum | melissa@creeksideeg.com

BY CHRIS LOSEY

Intentional Marriage



It has been said that marriage today is like flies on a window pane. Those in want out, and those out want in.

With summer almost here and many children getting breaks from school, families make plans for special activities and vacations to the mountains, beach or destinations beyond. In doing so, some parents unintentionally make nearly all of their plans child-centric; they, in essence, plan everything around their children.

As important as children are (and they are extremely important), the relationship between husband and wife is more important. If parents don't keep their relationship strong, it may not be long before their once bright nuptial-flame grows dim. It can happen so slowly that parents don't even realize the fire is out until the kids move away, the house is quiet, and spouses stare at each other realizing they never took enough time for themselves.

How can relationships be kept strong? It happens by being intentional. Here are some ideas you may find helpful in keeping your marriage flame bright this summer and throughout the year.

Strong marriages start with the right view. Having the right view of marriage and your spouse is foundational in keeping your relationship strong. How do you view marriage? Is it simply a casual relationship or is it something more? Many people know that God instituted marriage in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. It is a sacred union intended to last a lifetime. Because marriage is so important to God, humans have the great privilege of viewing it the same way. Having this view helps couples enter marriage carefully, and then do everything to keep the bond strong. If you have never viewed marriage this way, you are encouraged to start. It is also important to see your spouse as God's special gift to you, for that is exactly what they are.

Marriage is as much being the right person as finding the right person, and it starts with kindness. Every marriage will have challenges because none of us is perfect. Thus it is easy to slide into confrontation or the blame game. Instead, each spouse needs to choose to be kind. Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

When our children were young, sibling rivalry often erupted in arguments. When this happened, we had our kids stand toe to toe, look each other in the eye, and say the Ephesian verse. It wasn't long before they were giggling and laughing, realizing how petty their arguing really was. There are times my wife and I need to do the same thing.

Home is to be a place of safety and encouragement where spouses and children are built up, not put down. When the "one anothers" from the Bible become the family norm, home becomes the warm, comfortable, inviting place God intended. For example:

"Encourage and build each other up..." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Choose to use words that encourage and build up your spouse rather than tear them down. If you look for the bad in each other, you will surely find it. Instead, look for the good and applaud it!

"Prefer one another..." - Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:3. Look for ways to prefer your spouse. Let them choose the restaurant you go to, the movie you watch, or the place where you vacation. Be sure you never demand your own way. Be a giver not a taker. And if your spouse prefers you, thank them and reciprocate.

"Be of the same mind with one another..." - Romans 12:16, 15:5. Work hard at trying to understand your spouse, and talk things out so that you have agreement on important issues like financial goals, expectations, and child discipline.

"Accept one another..." - Romans 15:7. When people get married and see each other daily, it is easy for each spouse to point out flaws in the other. Don't make it your job to mold your spouse into the person you want them to be. That's God's job. It is your job to work on yourself, and simply to love your spouse, pray for them, and let God show them any areas requiring change. Hopefully they will do the same for you.

Communicate regularly. There are few things people value more than being listened to by someone who genuinely cares. Guys, if your wife wants to talk, stop whatever you are doing and give her your full attention. Our tendency as men is to be "fixers," but resist this urge and just listen, unless she asks for your input. Likewise, wives, if your husband wants to talk, don't faint or criticize what he says, just listen. Hopefully he will want your input when he is finished. If not, that's alright, too.

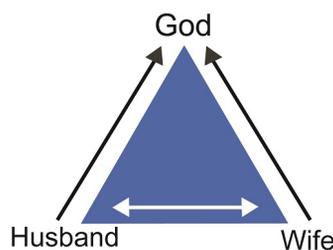
Besides these crucial times of sharing, every couple needs time each day when they talk about non-earth shattering topics. My wife and I often discuss things on our daily 30+ minute walk. We also enjoy Starbucks or Pete's Coffee dates when we go over calendars and talk about the week ahead. Each couple needs to find a time and place that works for them. It might be in the living room after the children go to bed, or sitting at the kitchen table with coffee before they get up.

Be a student of your spouse. There's an old song entitled, "Life Gets Tedious, Don't It?" One verse says, "The sun comes up and the sun goes down, the hands on the clock go round and round, I just get up, and it's time to lay down, life get's tedious, don't it." Even though the song is a spoof on busyness,

life can get tedious, especially for those with young children. Spouses need to be students of each other and step up to help when needed. Being a servant and helper by doing dishes, spelling your spouse, watching the kids and in general being sensitive to whatever needs arise, shows the kind of selfless love God wants us to have for each other.

Go on dates and do fun things together. Even in the various seasons of life, couples need to get away together for more than "you know what." My wife and I enjoy playing golf and are currently playing in a weekly golf group called, "Couples Therapy." No, we don't get counseling and a massage afterwards, we just play golf. It's great fun, and we are making new friends.

If you and your spouse have common interests like hiking, dancing, photography, or going to the theater, plan time to do these things together. The best money you will ever spend may be on babysitters. If Grandma and Grandpa are nearby, they may want to help, too.



Don't forget the "The Marriage Triangle". In any discussion about building strong marriages, it is important to understand the "marriage triangle" where God is at the top, and husband and wife are at opposite corners at the bottom (See the diagram). In seeking to build their relationship, many

spouses simply try to draw closer on the horizontal axis. Real success comes by drawing closer to God on the vertical axis. This automatically draws them closer on the horizontal. How does a person draw closer to God? Church involvement, Bible reading and prayer are great ways to start.

I absolutely adore my wife. She has been God's special gift to me for forty-five years. One fun thing we do each evening is play a game called "Move the Pillow." What kind of game is this, you ask? It starts with one of us turning down the other one's side of the bed and placing a special pillow there which reads, "Love You More." Sometimes I start the game, and sometimes she does. There is no plan. It just happens. If one of us goes into the bedroom and sees the pillow on his or her side, they move it to the other side. The pillow often goes back and forth several times each evening. It's a fun way we tell each other "I love you!" I hope that you and your spouse have your own unique ways of expressing your love.

Great marriages don't happen by osmosis. They take intentional work and lots of it. I know that the biggest room in my life is the room for improvement. That's why I'm going to keep working on mine.

As you plan your activities this summer, have fun with the kids, but don't forget to take time to fan the marriage flame. You'll be so glad you did!



This Feature article was written by Chris Losey. He serves at Creekside by helping write the LifeGroup questions,

The Creekside Insider

What is a favorite summer memory?



Deanna Watson Tymochko

"My favorite would be camping. We just installed new canvas on our tent trailer and we're all eager to get out, go hiking, have campfires & of course make S'mores! Our kids have been begging us to go camping!!!"



Heather Holm

"Some of our favorite memories are exploring nature as a family through hiking, canoeing, and camping."



Beckie Shaefer

"A favorite summer memory is camping at Burney Falls in Shasta County. We went there many times when our girls were small, and still enjoy going with friends."

WHAT YOU SAID ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM:

 **jenschopf** This summer my life group will be going on a camping trip to Bodega Bay with our families. I'm excited to spend time surrounded by God's beauty with my awesome life group friends. ❤️

 **plaidypus007** My teenage son and I every year go to Santa Cruz. Just the two of us. We've been doing it for 5 yrs now. We are making great memories. ❤️

 **sarahemmons56** Serving at Camp Barnabas as a missionary, being able to serve the Lord at the beginning of each summer is the best thing ever! ❤️

 **Susan Magonigal** Gardening in my yard. Vegetables and flowers and trees. So much fun. Can't wait to start planting. ❤️❤️🕶️  1
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7w

 **Margaret Mutschler** VBS. Family vacations. Camp.  1
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [See Response](#) · 7w

 **Angelena Torset** Hiking along Lake Tahoe.  1
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 7w



Ruth Altman

"One of my most memorable summers was when my sister went to London

to study abroad for a couple of months. Once her classes finished, I flew over and met her. We visited Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and many other historical sites. The trip ended with Becca and I visiting our uncle in North Wales. This became a precious time of reflection and encouragement, as this was the last time Becca and I got to see our uncle before he passed away a couple of years later. After the trip, I definitely gained a greater appreciation of the blessed life Christ graciously bestows upon us, along with the reminder to live this current life on Earth with an abundance of laughter and grace, regardless of the situations before us."



Joe Diaz-Romero

WORSHIP ARTS

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

I wanted to be a ton of things growing up. I wanted to be a chef, a teacher, a video game designer, and then after I became a Christian I wanted to become a Youth Pastor.

PROUDEST MOMENT?

Either when I finished my first tour with Acquire the Fire, 9 months on the road and getting the opportunity to be in front of over 100,000 students, or when I finally graduated from William Jessup University with my BA in Youth Ministry because of all I had to overcome to get to that moment 8 years in the making.

IF YOU COULD GET COFFEE WITH ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD...

My great grandpa William Souza Sr. He died the day that my mom found out that she was pregnant with me and my family has always said they see a lot of him in me, plus it would be fun to hear all his stories and jokes first hand.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I love going out and doing things with friends whether it's playing board games or video games, going out for a round of disc golf, or watching the latest movie or TV show. Everything is better in community.

WHAT IS YOUR ULTIMATE DAY?

Going out and doing something fun outside with people like floating the river, and then after firing up the grill for some ribs and other good cookout food, and maybe ending with a good movie.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/team/

SUMMER refreshment



Growing up on the Canadian prairies meant you had to make the most of your two months of Summer. I remember cramming in as many BBQ's, family get-togethers and parties as possible. Of course all of these events revolved around food! Auntie Joyce (not really my aunt, but in a small town everyone is given the title) was the absolute best at food!! Hands down!! I'll never forget long summer days spent out on their farm. I use a lot of her recipes to this day. One of my faves on a hot Summer day is her Banana Slush. it's sweet and yummy, sour and refreshing...I'm starting to drool....sorry! But seriously, its amazing!! It also allows you to use up those bananas that are starting to expire. It needs some attention at first, stirring as it freezes, but when done, you'll have a gallon of yumminess that only needs a splash of your favorite lemon-lime soda to cool you down. You're going to want your Summer to begin with a large glass of this slushy deliciousness!!

Summer Slush

8-10 ripe bananas (mashed)

1 can of lemonade concentrate (thawed)

1 can of orange juice concentrate (thawed) 3 cans pineapple juice concentrate (thawed) Heat: 1-1/4c sugar and

3 c water until dissolved

1. Combine all in a gallon size container (I use an empty ice-cream tub) 2. Stir well and put in the freezer

3. Stir once per hour until frozen

4. Using an ice cream scoop, fill your glass, adding 7-up or the like

5. You'll need a spoon and a straw

6. Enjoy



This REFRESHING SECTION was written by Jenn Neufeld who is a Canadian native and Creekside Worship Leader.

CAMP!

We work hard to get kids to summer camp so that they might experience Jesus in a new and life-changing way. Countless hours are put into getting kids interested, fundraising, communicating with parents, praying, and more. When the camp week arrives it may feel as though we are almost done; the finish line is near! But I want to propose that coming home is just the beginning.

Why do we go to camp? Camp wakes kids up to see Christ in a way they may not see Him back at home.

We believe that if kids see Christ clearly, they will find Him irresistible. The problem with many kids is that they never get a shot at a clear picture.

While there is no magical formula that makes camp transformational in a student's life, camp often lends itself to be impactful because above all else, it is distraction-free, or at least the most distraction-free place for many in the world we live in. Kids get a break from technology, family issues, pressures at home and school, sports, etc., and come to live in a world that most resembles the kingdom for a short time.

At camp kids get a picture of the kingdom at its very best. They see the servanthood of Jesus lived out that communicates how valuable they are to the kingdom. They see people living out their God-given giftedness. They experience humor which which down walls. They are challenged with adventures alongside a trustworthy adult, and relationships with people who care deeply about them are enhanced through it all. They are given time and space to process what they are seeing, hearing, and feeling about their Savior.

Students have the opportunity to see family (God's family) modeled and get to participate in it no matter their beliefs, race, gender, or any other deterrent they may find at home. Coming home is filled with emotions for our students. New life, questions, experiences, fears overcome, and more.

For kids who come home with the same disinterest that they left with in Jesus, the need to know they are still loved and pursued by leaders is imperative. Camp, or really their response at camp, changed nothing about how those who wanted them to go to camp feel about them now. Encouragement to continue hanging out, asking questions, and participating is essential in communicating the Good News to them. The offer to participate in God's kingdom doesn't end when leaving camp but is still extended to them in the same way that existed before they left. Keep pursuing these students.

Some kids will walk away uncertain about what they think about Jesus. More questions than answers, more to learn and know before they want to make a choice about what they believe. Continue offering these students places to continue to learn. Being their sounding board as they process through what they have experienced is important. Those leading the time having a willingness to admit when they don't know the answer helps these students see they don't need to have it all figured out to jump in with Jesus.

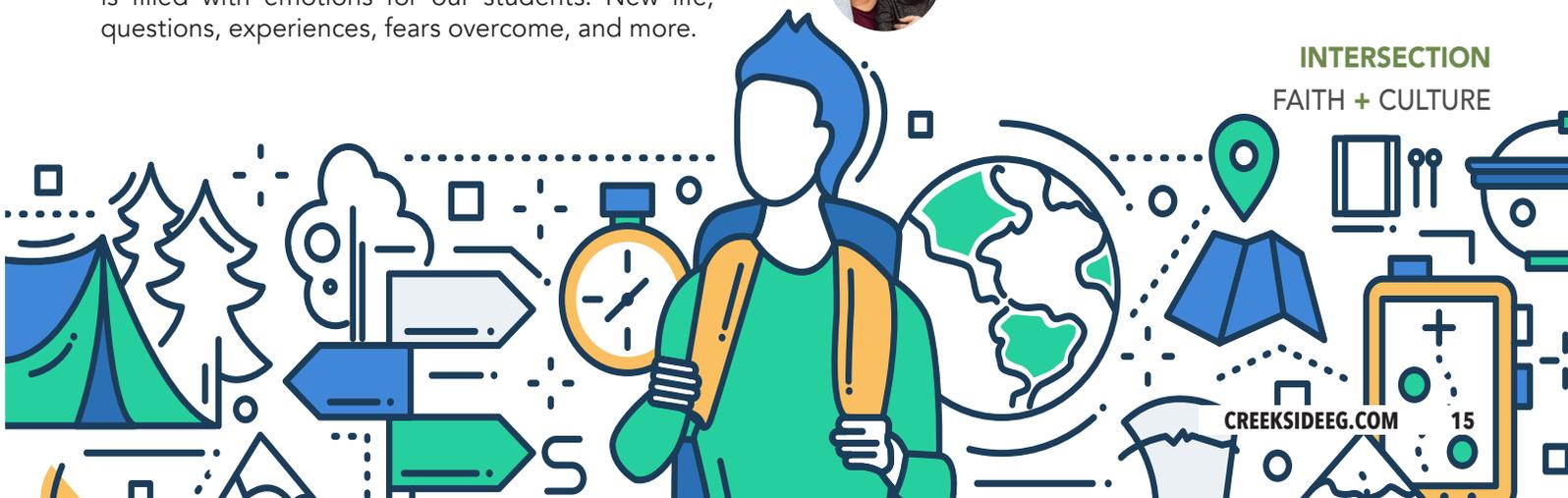
A kid who comes home from camp with a new relationship with Jesus is like bringing your new baby home from the hospital. New life has literally begun. Offering these students opportunity to learn spiritual practices and disciplines will help them build a foundation in following the Lord. Bible studies, opportunities to serve, equipping them with ways to share what they've learned, and living life with them will help them continue to grow and mature.

I have often heard when leaving camp that "it's time to go back to the real world". Over the years I have come to believe that the real world lives at camp. God's kingdom is clearly lived out in these places where time slows down and relationships with God and one another are priority. So instead of returning to the "real world" when camp is over, let's invite students to start living in the kingdom of God here at home.



INTERSECTION is written by Andi Linley who is a missionary for the youth as a Director of Young Life in Elk Grove.

INTERSECTION
FAITH + CULTURE



FUN FAMILY THINGS TO DOfor \$10 and under

If you know the Doty family, you know we are a frugal and fun loving family. Having five children means the cost to do things adds up quickly. So, we compiled a list of summer family fun things to do in Elk Grove that are under \$10.



Visit a Sprayground Park— Backer Park, Derr-Okamoto Park, George Park, Horseshoe Park, Kunsting Park, Nottoli Park, Stephenson Park, Wright Park, or Morse Community Park; Check online for sprayground park hours and closures.

15
Look at the stars—
Especially in August around the 12th during the peak of the annual Perseid meteor shower (July 17 to August 24).



Volunteer as a family—
Try the Elk Grove Food Bank, CSD, creek clean-up, church, or visit the elderly.

10
Check out the critters—
at the Serpentarium or Petsmart.



Visit local historical towns—
Hood, Franklin, Elk Grove, Sheldon, Locke.

7
Visit a Library—Elk Grove, Franklin, or North Laguna. Also, attend a story time, free movie, or other activities while there.

14 **Tour a fire station—**
for free.



Visit a farm—Davis Ranch*, local strawberry stands off Bond Road, Grantline Road, etc. FALL: Fog Willow Pumpkin Patch. Farther away but we just can't ignore these: Apple Hill, Newcastle Mandarin Ranch, and Lodi Blueberry Farm.

11
Pick up sports game—
Join an existing group or start your own: baseball, volleyball, soccer, etc. Many families meet in different locations around town. Check the CSD website for parks which have a list of accommodations. Use this as a way to stay connected to your LifeGroup during the summer!

The Doty family at Jack Hill Park, one of their favorite outdoor spots.



**Davis Ranch: if you choose to do "you pick," it is only certain days and times and requires a minimum purchase amount.*

6

Head to Elk Grove Regional Park—Visit Pirates Island and play hide and seek, try out the Off-Road Bike Track, discus/Frisbee golf, fly a kite, fish, and have a picnic.



5

Visit—Food Truck Mania or Elk Grove farmers markets (bike there for fun!).

4

Free summer events— Enjoy a free summer concert and/or movie in the park through Cosumnes Community Services District or neighborhood associations. Also noteworthy is the CSD Multicultural Festival and Big Truck Day. <https://www.yourcsd.com/calendar.aspx>



3

Creek Trails— Walk or bike the Laguna or Elk Grove Creek trails. Special events occur occasionally on the trails hosted by Elk Grove Trails Advocates, and May is Bike Month. We also see people fishing in the creeks and lakes.



2

Appreciate a Local Preserve— Cosumnes River Preserve – museum, bird watching, hike, fish, and kayak. A less accessible preserve, Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, hosts regularly scheduled tours.

1 Visit Creekside Church—Join in on FREE fun family events. Family Picnic is June 2, Family Unity Nights is July 11-13, and there are plenty of other activities coming up! Check it out on the back cover! **CL**



This issue's ACTIVITY article was written by Melina Doty who is a Creekside member and mother to these five adorable children. We thank her for sharing her wonderful ideas.

For more ideas and for a full list of community events, activities and resources, we recommend you check out the Elk Grove CSD website at: yourcsd.com

SUMMER reading

No matter what your summer has in store, why not let reading be a part of what makes this year's summer memories special?



As I reflect on summers of years past, I realize how blessed I was to have the opportunity to make treasured memories going to church camp, traveling to visit grandparents, and attending special events such as the county fair. Surprisingly, another special memory that comes to mind - although it may not seem as grand or exciting is Summer Reading.

Our local library had a "Summer Reading" program to encourage kids to keep up their reading skills over their summer vacation from school. Students who kept a reading log of 10 books or more earned admittance to an ice cream party held at the library at the end of summer. Although I wasn't a big fan of reading at the time, my family was pretty strict about healthy eating, so the chance to eat ice cream was more than enough to encourage me to participate.

Also very memorable, was how we had "Quiet Time" every day for an hour or two after lunch. This meant time in our room, by ourselves when we were supposed to be reading. I thought my mom made us do this just so she could have some time away from us kids, but now as a mother myself, I see how making us spend time in "solitary confinement" actually helped us make reading a priority.

We were all able to achieve our goal of attending the library ice cream party and somewhat surprisingly to me (but probably not to my mom) I eventually learned to enjoy and even look forward to this time set aside for the pleasure of relaxing and reading a book of my choosing.

“

Sharing stories will open up opportunities for conversations beyond the story itself. Great literature has the power not only to entertain but also evoke further thought and encourage expanded thinking.

”



This feature article was written by Susie Roeser, who is owner of local children's store, Gifts from the Heart.

RESOURCES

Here are some websites to check out for information on Summer Reading Programs:

saclibrary.org

giftsfromtheheartofelkgrove.weebly.com/calendar

scholastic.com/summer/home/

barnesandnoble.com/h/summer-reading

halfpricebooks.com/fyb/

bookadventure.com

Other Reading Websites and Booklist Resources:

readaloudrevival.com

littlefreelibrary.org/books/

Reading Incentives:

Six Flags Read to Succeed for Free Tickets

feedback.sixflags.com/rts/

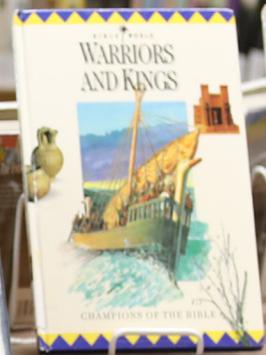
Book It Program for Free Pizza

bookitprogram.com

Read & Ride Program for State Fair Tickets

castatefair.org/read-ride-program

Did you know Creekside has a library (pictured) where you can check out all kinds of Christian books and videos? Try checking out Adventures in Odyssey for your next road trip.



11 PICTURE BOOKS



ROADTRIP TIPS



Summertime road trip season is upon us. Getting up and hitting the road could be just the thing you and your family need to unwind this summer. Now, whether you are headed into the mountains alone, to the beach with the family, or exploring a new city with your friends, we have got some awesome (and some unconventional life savers) for you. Speaking from the adventurous experiences of Justine and Quinn here are the top 5 [ish] things you'll need for a road trip EXTRAVAGANZA.

5 Load up with snacks and beverages. If you are camping... pack Doritos because, speaking from experience they are in FACT amazing fire starters. Healthy snacks are wonderful too. You will have plenty of energy for all the outdoor activities like hiking, swimming, and tanning. Having snacks and lots of water available for the ride will also help you stay safe!

4 Have a paper map (they still make those right?). There will be unpredicted times our technology will fail us. I know, I know who said our technology could do that

on a road trip? "I can't get a signal" is a scary phrase in a far away unfamiliar place better to be caught OVERprepared.

3½ Check the weather reports, honestly putting up a tent in pouring rain and praying it'll let up doesn't always work. Don't let the weather changes get you down either, there is something heavenly about the moment when the clouds break.

3 Pack a backpack that would make Marie Kondo proud. Fill it with things that "spark joy." If you have children, let them fill theirs with art supplies, card games, their favorite stuffed toy and I suppose their electronic brain stimulators filled with apps that'll work without internet supply. Let the force be with you.

2 Have a loose plan: Don't get caught up in arrival times or set destination locations. You might be surprised on what you will see and experience on the way. God loves to place surprises after our anticipation. Leaving room for new opportunity is key.

1½ Dress comfy. Honestly it won't be the first time a gas station attendant has seen travelers in their PJs. Don't let that stranger stop you from living your best life...that yoga pant, baggy shirt life is so FETCH (aka IN) this time of year.

1 Last but not least you'll need a super amazing playlist...a playlist to uplift your spirits when you are seeing rainy skies ahead, when you take a wrong turn, when you have a fussy child or even if you are smooth sailing and just ready to enjoy the ride. We have you covered. Use this QR code to see what Creekside Summertime Road Trips are meant to sound like and remember to take time to breathe, reflect, relax and have a carefree adventure this Summer.

Listen to some sweet jams on my special road trip playlist:

SCAN THIS QR CODE
FOR THE PLAYLIST



This was written by Quinn Williams who is part of the Children's Ministry Team at Creekside.

Shelli Clift

Assistant Director at Shining Stars Preschool & Kindergarten

www.shiningstarseg.com



Imagine a place where excellence in education is a priority. Imagine a school where they believe that early education is the foundation of incredible leaders and lovers of learning and life. Even deeper, think of the people who cannot help but to pour their attention and passion into what they do and how they reach the youngest of all generations for the future. Now, imagine the people that are behind such a place and you get Shelli Clift from Shining Stars Preschool and Kindergarten right here at Creekside.

Shelli calls El Dorado Hills home with her husband, Gary, and their beautiful blended family of 8 (even score, boys: 4, girls: 4). She enjoys her granddaughter with snuggles and pink bows. Her dog, also, make its way to the center of attention and entertainment. As fun and entertaining her home is, she still enjoys an escape to the beach with a good historical fiction book.

Not only is she passionate about early education as the Assistant Director at Shining Stars, she is well-qualified with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and experience in various levels of authority at schools for twenty years.

When talking with Shelli, you know this: Sharing the love of Jesus with little children is what ticks her clock. Shelli said,

"I believe that children experience Jesus more fully and in different ways than adults. My favorite verse for working with children is Jeremiah 7:7-8 which states, "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." What an amazing gift to offer! What an amazing opportunity to help children put their confidence in Christ!"

What a beautiful example of spreading the Good News to even the smallest of "image bearers" on this earth! It's no wonder she beams with joy whenever parents come to church for the first time because of what their children are sharing at home! Let's take Shelli's example of Christ-driven love and "let the little children come to us."

FAMILY

Beautifully Blended
with 8 kids

EDUCATION

Master's Degree
in Educational
Leadership

ROLE AT CREEKSIDE

Assistant Director
at Shining Stars
Preschool &
Kindergarten

BACKSTORY

Loves the beach,
historical fiction
literature



This issue's PROFILE is written by Amy Atkins who is on the Communications team.

For more about Creekside pastors and staff, visit www.creeksideeg.com/team/



Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH THIS SUMMER? CREEKSIDE UNIVERSITY IS A SERIES OF SUMMER COURSES TO HELP YOU TAKE THAT NEXT STEP IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS. CHOOSE FROM FOUR COURSE OFFERINGS.

● **Jesus and the Gospels**

June 18-July 30 | \$50 per person | Taught by Dr. David Nystrom

Do you ever find it challenging to wrap your mind around who Jesus is and what He taught? Jesus and the Gospels will distill Jesus' life and teachings to help you know Him more and to live and love like Him.

● **Best. Marriage. Ever.**

June 18-July 30 | \$40 per couple | Taught by Mike Beckner, LMFT, Counseling Team

These seven weeks will unpack a marriage toolkit to help you experience the Best. Marriage. Ever. From the purpose of marriage to the everyday expressions of love and respect, you'll be empowered to move toward the marriage you've always wanted.

● **Financial Peace University with Dave Ramsey**

June 18-August 13 | \$110 per family | Facilitated by Dean Cunday

Do you ever feel like there's too much month left at the end of your money? Or do you have big questions about your long-term financial health? This life-altering resource will help you learn to manage the money God has entrusted to you.

● **Discovering the Story You Were Made to Tell**

July 9-July 30 | \$10 per person | Taught by Chris Sapinosa

Isn't it incredible that God invites us to join Him in His healing and redeeming work in this world? This course will empower and equip you with Scripture and practical tools to engage in relationships and share your faith in any context.

KIDS' CARE IS AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL COST. GET MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTER FOR CLASSES AT CREEKSIDEEG.COM/UNIVERSITY

July 11-13



family unity nights

creekside 8939 E. Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove

Thursday, July 11 | Family Blitz at Creekside

Join us for high energy, family-style, minute-to-win-it games! Auditorium doors open at **6pm**. \$5/person. Tickets can be purchased online with link below.

Friday, July 12 | Family Camp-In at Creekside

Sit by the campfire with your family, share a meal together, participate in a Family Scavenger Hunt and "S'more"! **6-9pm** FREE EVENT, RSVP with the link below

Saturday, July 13 | Swim at Wackford Aquatic Center

Join us for family fun in the sun! Bring your swim gear, invite your friends, and dive right in! **6pm** FREE EVENT

RSVP TODAY creeksideeg.com/summer



READ CREEKSIDE LIFE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.
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CREEKSIDEEG.COM



creekside
christian church

8939 E Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove, CA 95624

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Auditorium: 8, 9:30 & 11:15am | Venue: 9:30am