



Designing and Managing Cause-Driven Opportunities for Groups to Serve

Message from Anne-Tillery, Community Connector for Spark'Dwell:

It is hard to believe that this time last year I was just beginning to work with SPARK. Last summer, I was getting the hang of what a Spark'Dwell summer looks like. It's a lot of middle and high schoolers running around the church building, long days that leave you sweaty and exhausted, and unlikely conversations and friendships formed.

There are many layers and holy moments within Spark'Dwell: our staff forge close bonds as they live and work together; our unhoused counselors from The Dwelling empower each other and the youth participants as they have raw and honest conversations; our community partners get to invite others into their passion and work; our youth and adult participants learn and serve in Forsyth County, but are then inspired to go do similar work in their hometowns.

Our summer 2025 theme is Unrest: we are encouraging our people this summer to consider places in their community where they see injustice causing unrest, and to stir up a bit of unrest in order to effect the change they want to see in the world. But we are also emphasizing the importance of rest, for we cannot do the work of justice if we are not taking care of ourselves. As we prepare for the fast pace of the Spark'Dwell summer, please join us in prayer: may our staff find times of rest amidst the busyness, may our groups travelling to Winston-Salem be ready to stir up unrest, and may we all with God's help find the balance between both rest and unrest.

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Preparing to Be Unrested

Our fifth summer of Spark'Dwell is underway! Staff are moving in and starting training, service project plans are being finalized, and we are transforming the spaces at Sherwood Forest United Methodist Church for service-learning, spiritual formation, meals, and lodging.

There are 5 pillar causes we are focusing on this summer. Below are a few examples of partner organizations we're working with. We're excited to have 20+ service-learning projects going on this summer!

Affordable Housing: Groups will work throughout the summer on the demolition, repair, and renovation of house in downtown Winston-Salem so that it may become an affordable housing unit.

Children and Youth: Our afterschool program at Peacehaven Mobile Home Park will have programming through the summer that encourages healthy living, movement, safe swimming and friendship.

Food Insecurity: SPARK is on a mission to keep Blessing Boxes all over the area well-stocked with food for our neighbors. We are also partnering with three community gardens this summer to help maintain through the summer season and prepare for the fall harvest season.

Inclusive Community: Youth participants will serve at Horizons Residential Care Center building relationships with exceptional children and adults at their residential living facility.

Intergenerational Bridging: Partnerships with Senior Services and Vienna Village provide the opportunity for youth and senior adults to bond and learn from each other.



SPARK

We share space at Sherwood Forest UMC
www.spark-community.org @SPARKcommunityws