

Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

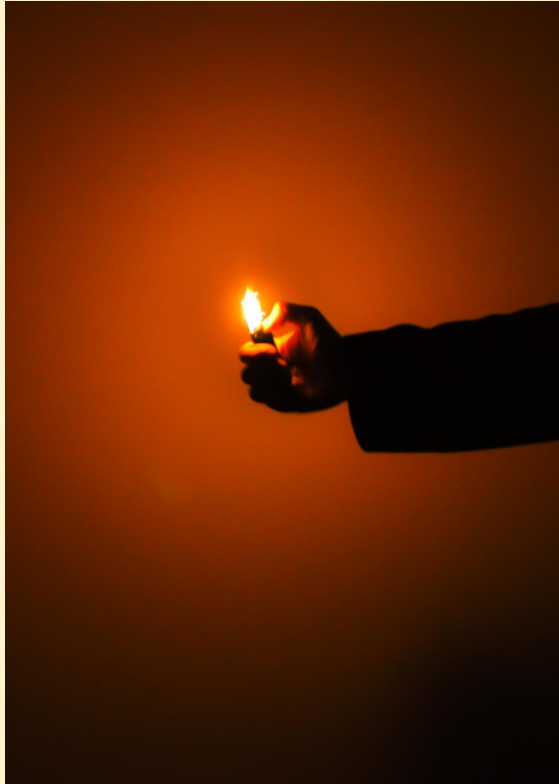
Sparked & Sustained by the Spirit:

Guiding Principles of Spirit-Filled
Cross+Generational
Faith Formation in
EVERY Congregation

with Rev. Breen Marie Sipes

<https://pbsipes.com/sparked-and-sustained>

Sparked & Sustained by the Spirit:

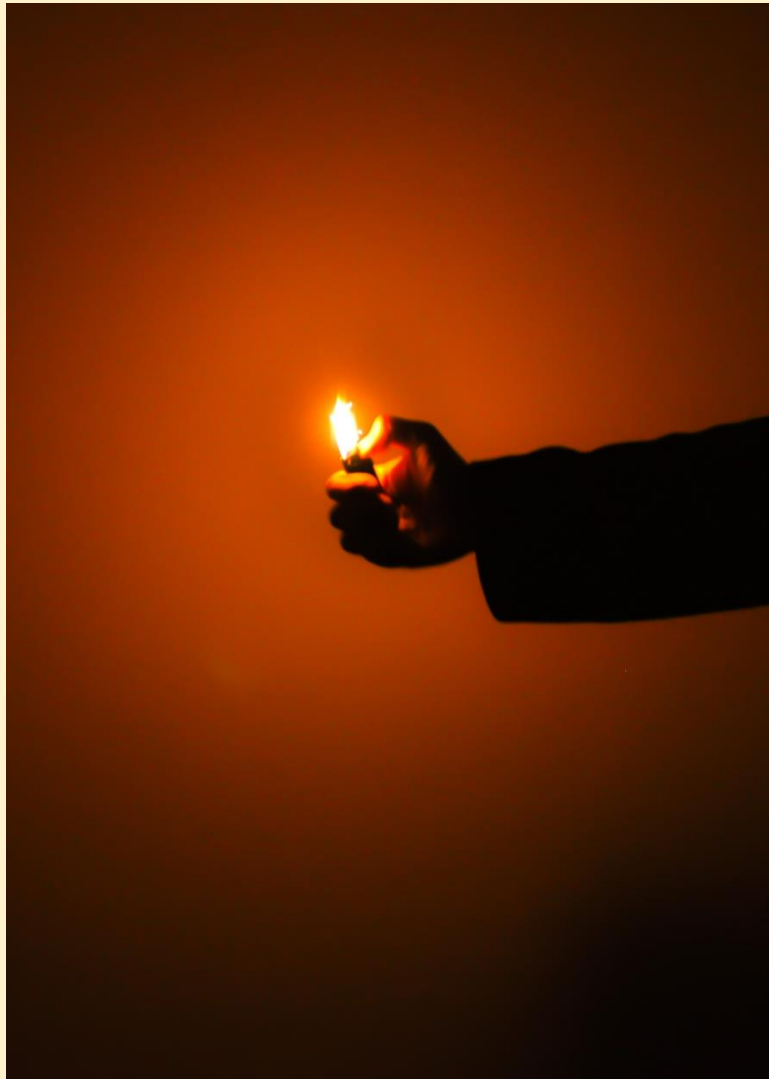


Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

<https://pbsipes.com/sparked-and-sustained>

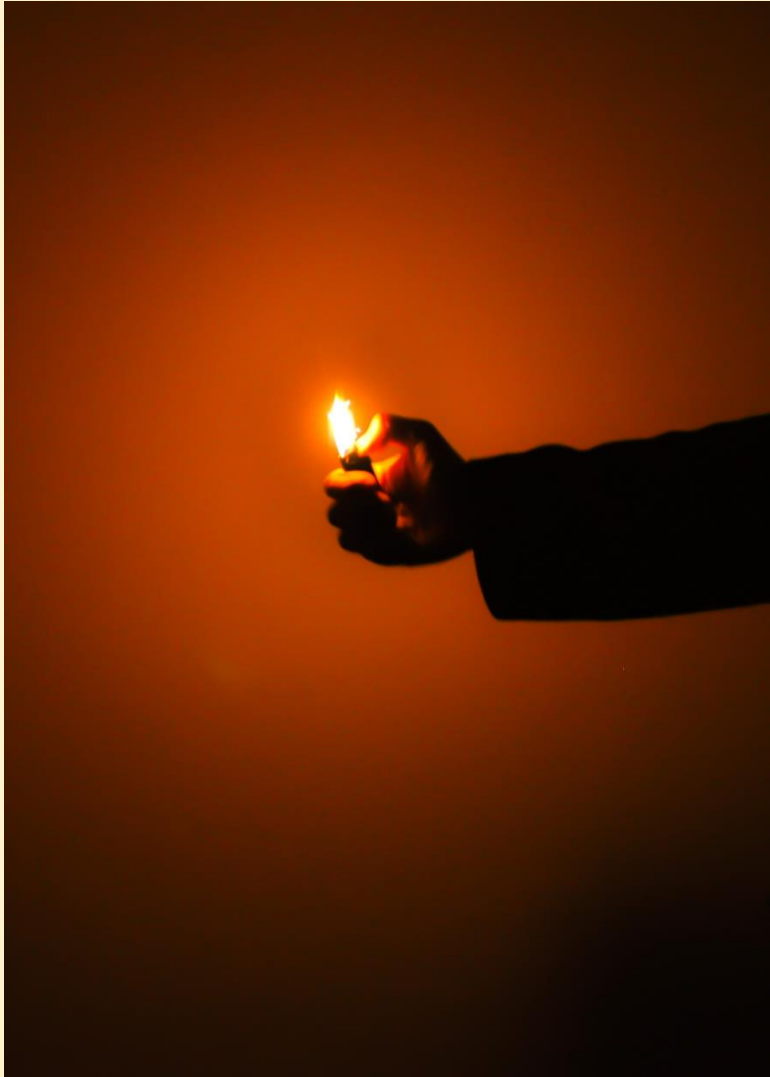


Guiding Principles of Spirit-Filled Cross+Generational Faith Formation in EVERY Congregation
with **Rev. Breen Marie Sipes**



Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth,
cleansing us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge
and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
now and always. Amen.



Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

Framework of the Spirit:

- Experimentation
- Curiosity
- Vibrancy
- Invitation
- Teamwork
- Tenacity

Cross+Generational Faith Formation:

three or more generations interacting in meaningful ways as they deepen in faith together in community and with one another

#1

Spirit of Experimentation



Chemical Experiment by clement127 on flickr.com

Anatomy of an Experiment:

- A PROBLEM, a burning QUESTION, or something that you WONDER about
- A HYPOTHESIS of how to explore the problem, question, or wondering
- TEST the hypothesis through an EXPERIMENT
- RECORD and REPORT the results. Make a plan for future experiments

#1

Spirit of Experimentation

Experiments:

- Don't last forever
- Can be tweaked and changed
- Help us to get our feet wet
- Help us to dive into the deep end
- Often lead to more experiments
- Are meant to be evaluated



Chemical Experiment by clement127 on flickr.com

#1

Spirit of Experimentation



Chemical Experiment by clement127 on flickr.com

Questions:

- What kind of experiment would you like to try?
- What problem would you like to try solving, question to answer, wondering to explore?
- Where is experimentation happening in your own context? Can you expand to include more generations?

#2

Spirit of Vibrancy

The Spirit is already providing energy



- Begin with what is already working
- Remember:
More people & generations =
Change to expect, acknowledge
and work through

Ride the Colour Wave by Rodger Evans on flickr.com

#2

Spirit of Vibrancy



Ride the Colour Wave by Rodger Evans on flickr.com

Questions:

- What is already working?
- What exciting ministry needs a critical mass?
- How can we intentionally and consistently invite more generations to participate?
- What might need to change?

#3

Spirit of Teamwork

When we work together,
the work is sustainable

- Consider those who are ready for a new thing
- Seek open minds and willing hands
- Notice who keeps showing up
- Include ALL generations on your team



#3

Spirit of Teamwork



School Diversity by wildrose115 on flickr.com

Questions:

- Who is ready for a new thing?
- Who has an open mind and willing hands?
- Who keeps showing up as a participant?
- How many generations can you include?

#4

Spirit of Curiosity

Every generation is still learning



- Cultivate our own curiosity
- Every generation is invited to be curious
- Identify barriers to curiosity
- Set the tone for curiosity every. single. time.

Curiosity by brian donovan on flickr.com

#4

Spirit of Curiosity



Curiosity by brian donovan on flickr.com

Questions:

- What sparks your curiosity?
- What do we have to learn from one another?
- How can we lower the stakes for those who are afraid they don't already know something?
- How can we provide experiences which help us to be surprised by the Spirit?
- How can we issue clear, personalized invitations?

#5

Spirit of Invitation



Curiosity by brian donovan on flickr.com

Each of us has something to teach

- Explore God-given gifts of your team and put them to use
- Discover what participants like to do, and set them free to do it
- As your ministry develops, new gifts will arrive
- Participation and engagement can be broadly defined

#5

Spirit of Invitation



Curiosity by brian donovan on flickr.com

Questions:

- What sparks enthusiasm and passion in your youth?
- Who are the wise among you? How can they be invited to share?
- In what ways can we facilitate teaching partnerships?
- How can we provide space for reflection and opportunities to share with one another?

#6

Spirit of Tenacity



“Rock Wall Climbing” by 115thmpad on flickr.com

Culture shift requires consistent support

- Institutional memory is strong, easy to slip back into old habits.
- Paradigm shift/culture change requires consistent support and advocacy
- A cycle, not a checklist: Cast the vision, invite, train, retrain, cast vision, invite...
- Engage a partner(s) to help you “Stay the course”

#6

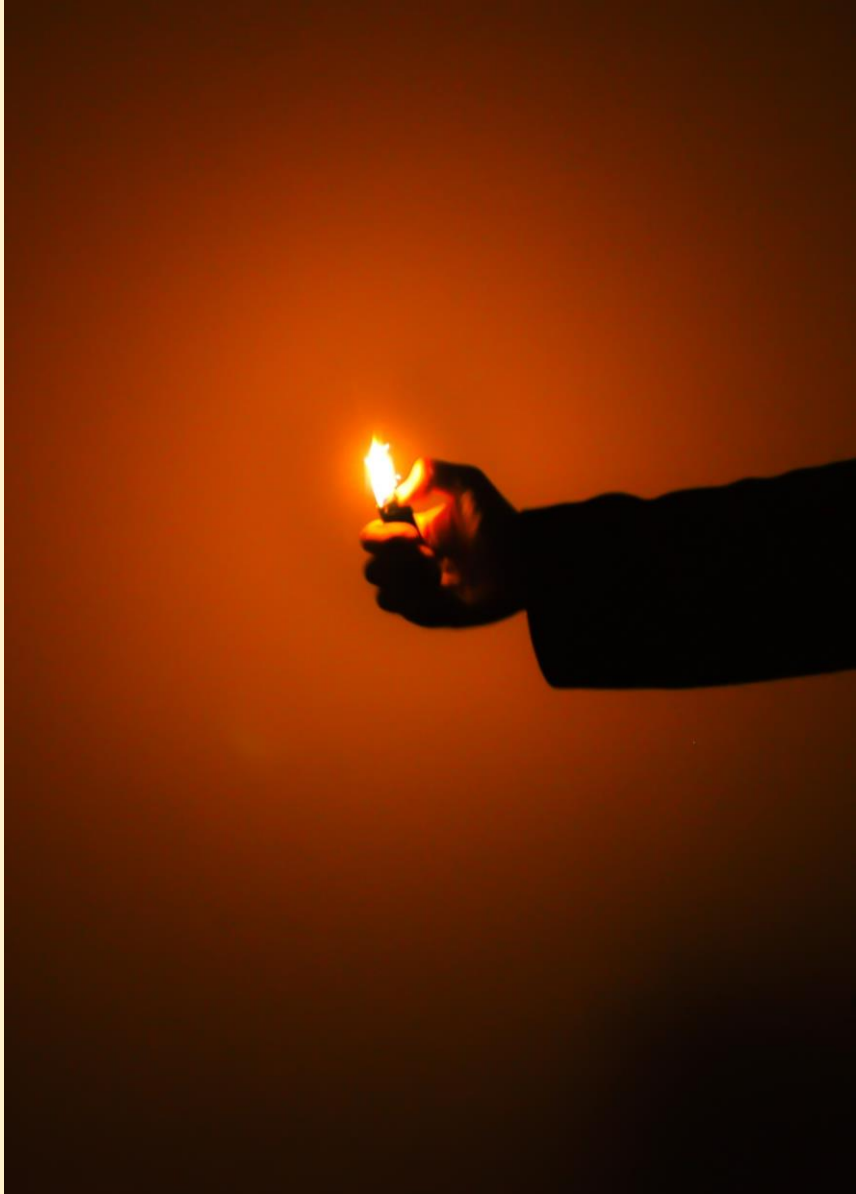
Spirit of Tenacity



“Rock Wall Climbing” by 115thmpad on flickr.com

Questions:

- What are some ways we can recognize a shift to old habits and do a course correction?
- What are some ways we can encourage and advocate for Cross+Gen, be in “the room where it happens”?
- Who could you invite to be your partners for support who help you to “stay the course”?

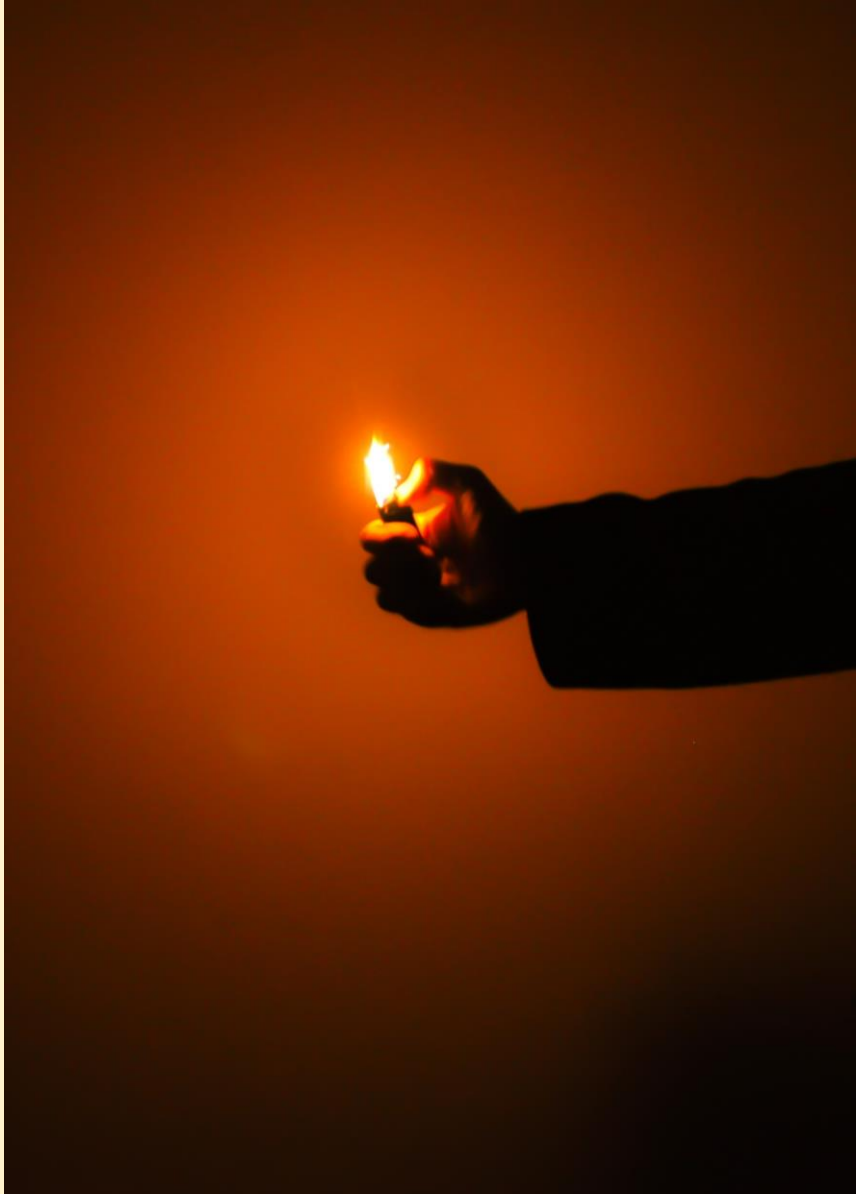


Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

Sparked & Sustained by the Spirit:

We don't have to go it alone!

- Nebraska Synod Growing God's Generous Generations (4G) Network
- Contact Rev. Breen
- Watch for an Emmaus Course next spring!



Spark by agelshaxe on flickr.com

May God, who has a heart
for all generations,
stir up in you
the gifts of the Holy Spirit:
The spirit of experimentation and
vibrancy,
The spirit of teamwork,
of curiosity and invitation,
The spirit of fierce tenacity, and
the spirit of joy in God's presence,
now and always. Amen.

Sparked and Sustained by the Spirit:

We don't have to go it alone!

Nebraska Synod Growing God's Generous Generations (4G) Network

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSynod4GNetwork/>

Pinterest: https://www.pinterest.com/NebSynod4GNetwork/_saved/

Website: <https://www.nebraskasynod4g.org/>

Contact Rev. Breen Sipes

Email: pstrsipes@aol.com

Workshop Resources: <http://pbsipes.com/sparked-and-sustained>

Websites: <https://feedmyfaith.weebly.com/>

<https://takingworshiphome.weebly.com/>