



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

MAY 2017

ABUSE?

“Abuse” may be too strong a term, but the caution is clear. *The Intimacy Factor* says, “parents abuse children when they give them the message that they are ‘better than’ or ‘less than.’ When the message is that they are ‘less than,’ this disempowering abuse shames them.” “Shamed children feel less than human...They live in a spiritual distortion in which they believe they are defective and that God would never love them.”

When the parental message is that the children are “more than,” children become exalted above others, exercising power over the parents and creating unhealthy family dynamics. “Falsely empowered children know no other god but themselves... a crippling burden.”

Children raised with these *more than/less than* messages cannot develop an authentic sense of self. Instead, we can guide and discipline our children without their feeling shame or unworthy of our love. We can show our children our immense love, without implying they are better than someone else.

MOTHER’S DAY SUNDAY

Our four and five year olds will be “leading” worship, so children can stay in church for the whole delightful service and hear Joyful Noise sing.

DIRT AND WORMS AT CHURCH?

Yep! This summer the children will gather outdoors for Children’s Church—to prepare to create a spiritual garden within themselves and ultimately in front of the CE Building. Read more about this adventure in the Pine Tree.



CE BUILDING GETS AN OVERHAUL

For four years, the CYF has planned a make-over of the tired space where our kids gather. Thanks to a generous gift from Sue Bullis, the upper floor remodel will begin the end of May and be done by fall. Then, the mid-high and high schoolers (including our Girl Scout troop) will have their own space, the kitchen will finally be functional, and the multipurpose room will shine. Of course, the project exceeds the current funding—so you may soon hear about fundraisers.

MAY COLLECTION: SHOES

Several countries have been especially affected by war and natural disasters. In June, a shipping container is headed for Pakistan loaded with supplies for people in desperate situations there. The Muslim agency sponsoring this effort asked if CCSM could help collect hundreds of shoes—any size or type.



STILL ROOM AT CAZ

Everyone who goes to **CAMP CAZ**, loves it! The UCC's safe, fun and spiritual summer camp programs for children immerses them in nature (and a swimming pool). Campers can be as young as first grade (with a parent). Check out the camps [here](#).



MID HIGH



REGULAR MID-HIGH ACTIVITIES

- Youth group on the first and third Sunday nights 6-7:30PM, upstairs in the CE Building.
- Mid-High class in the Youth Room every Sunday after the Children's Moment in worship—except first Sunday, when they stay in the service and hang out with Patrick on the back row of the balcony.

TEN YOUTH ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

← (and two tired adults)

FIRST EVER COMING OF AGE RETREAT

Don't miss worship on Mother's Day when we honor the mid-high students who participated in the Coming of Age retreat. That weekend, many profound conversations interspersed with playful moments including a spontaneous drumming circle. Now we know what spiritual practice that age prefers!

HIGH SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL SHAKEUP

Starting in June (with the road trip to Fresno), our high schoolers will enjoy an adventure each month: camping, service projects, hiking, and even a spiritual practices morning with drumming and the labyrinth. So, remind them to watch their email to find out what's next.

On Sundays from 10:30-11:30, they can worship with their families, help with the younger ones at Children's Church, or on **May 14** come to the famous and infamous, second-Sunday *Sixty Minutes* with Mike Mullery. The daring topic for Mother's Day is "What do you wish you could say to your mom?" (Actually, how to talk to parents without losing your cool.)



SERVICE/LEARNING ROAD TRIP, June 23-25

This summer's service/learning trip to Fresno will help the high schoolers experience a culture very different from our own on the Peninsula. Nearly half of the population there speaks Spanish! They'll learn how an agricultural hub like Fresno is different from our hometowns and reflect on the ways in which we, as people of faith, are called to interact with those who are different from us. More details as the plans unfold—but let Patrick know **now** if you can join us.

