



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

September 2017

WHAT IS SACRED?

Best answer? Our children. And yet we seem so afraid to have spiritual conversations with them...beyond maybe, "How was Children's Church today?"

In *The Spiritual Life of Children*, Dr. Lisa Miller lays out research proving that "Our children are hardwired for spiritual connection...designed by nature to prepare the child for the decades ahead; children are born fully fluent in this primal, nonverbal dimension of knowing." Lack of "support for children's spiritual growth has contributed to alarming rates of childhood and adolescent emotional suffering and behaviors that put them at risk....dramatically increasing rates of depression, substance abuse, addictive behaviors, and other health concerns."

Nurturing our children's innate spirituality requires more than dragging them to church; it means our having authentic free-flowing conversations with them, encouraging their curiosity rather than providing answers. Wonder *with* your children as they explore sacredness in their lives: sacred places, sacred texts, sacred traditions, sacred practices...and of course, sacred conversations. You might discover that, rather than your handing faith down to them, they inspire your faith.

(In the picture above, Avery and Taylor help Jim tidy up our sacred Memorial Garden.)



HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE FALL

- Homecoming Sunday, September 10, face painting, balloon artist, hair-braiding, and barbecue
- Bay Clean-Up, Saturday, September 16, Ryder Park, anytime between 8-noon with free lunch

IMPORTANT TUESDAY NIGHTS FOR PARENTS

For details about future activities, please come to the Fireplace Room, on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30PM (childcare provided).

- Sept 5 *What's Ahead* gathering of Pre-K and kindergarten parents
- Sept 12 *What's Ahead* gathering of High School parents (confirmation, trips, service projects, and more)
- Sept 19 *What's Ahead* gathering of 4th-5th grade parents
- Sept 26 *What's Ahead* gathering of 1st-3rd grade parents
- Oct 24 *What's Ahead* meeting of Mid-High parents (classes, youth group, and Coming of Age Retreat)



ARE YOUR KIDS EAGER TO USHER?

Children and youth can volunteer to help any time. Just send an email to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org before Sunday morning, and the delighted ushering team will be ready for their junior sidekicks.

COUNTDOWN to SIXTY MINUTES

Mike Mullery's fascinating "Sixty Minutes" returns on second Sundays—but only for high schoolers. Instead of going to church, the teens go to the Fireplace Room for energetic conversations. Usually, the teens pick the topic each month, but September 9 is Grandparent Day...so the conversation might explore: "What role do grandparents (and other blood relatives) have in your life or in the lives of your friends?" and "What makes a family?" Good questions for all of us to consider!

On other Sundays, the high schoolers can volunteer to help with the younger children (sign-up link below) or help with other church projects on Sundays—like Cole who's cleaning the beloved Memorial Garden fountain.



PLANNING YOUR SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR?

➤ FOR HIGHSCHOOLERS, please add special weekends:

- **Confirmation Retreats** at Napa October 21-22 and April 27-28
- **Fall Youth Event** at Monte Toyon November 17-19
- **"Feb Camp"** at Monte Toyon February 17-19

➤ FOR MID-HIGHERS, please add special weekends:

- **Mid-Winter Retreat** January 13-15
- **Coming of Age Retreat** at Napa April 21-22

**SIGN-UP TO
VOLUNTEER**
at **Children's Church**
on
[Sign-up Genius](#)

ARE WE DONE YET?



Soon the Betsy Woodward CE Building will be ready for the activity to return— new cabinets, new floors, new paint and...if we can raise enough money, some new furniture. The upstairs will also have WiFi and projection capability in the new Youth Room *and* William Bullis Community Room (the old Youth Room). Sue Bullis' son Willie was a teenager when killed in the San Bruno explosion; the new multipurpose space will be dedicated to him and his energetic spirit.

If you would still like to contribute to the building's refurbishing, please go on-line to [GIVE](#) (note it's for the CE Building) or slip a check into the offering plate. Thank you to all who have contributed. Our children will appreciate your generosity far into the future!



Mid-High Classes every
Sunday but the first;
Youth Group meets
1st and 3rd Sundays,
6-7:30PM.