



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

December 2017

ANGELS AMONG US

During Advent at CCSM, you will hear a lot about angels—not the Hallmark version with wings, but the biblical ones. In the Bible, people often failed to recognize angels immediately, because they looked like the rest of us (no wings or halos). By definition, angels are messengers of God. Some might be messengers almost full-time like Gandhi or Jesus (yes, he was an angel), but the rest of us just have our “angel moments” of brief encounters or conversations. That is to say: *any one of us can be an angel*. Any time we pass on the divine message of love, compassion, or justice, we are messengers of God. In spite of the bustle of the season, be open to the angel messages you receive, as well as give. Not surprisingly, your children will sometimes be angels—and not because they’re trying to be good for Santa, but because they bring us many messages from the Source of our Being.



Left: Eagle Scout hopeful Kyle Neil installing WiFi and TVs in the CE Building.

MAKE YOUR ADVENT WREATH

DECEMBER 3: Buckham Room



Pick up your children in the Buckham Room this Sunday, where they will be doing crafts and starting your family’s Advent wreath. They will need your help, so please join us. Later, at home you can light candles until Jesus’s birthday, remembering the joy, hope, love, and peace of the season (even in the midst of all the commercialization).

Below: the children’s answers to “What brings you joy?”



WATCH YOUR EMAIL...

for details about the children’s **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** December 17. The story needs flocks of angels, wandering sheep, dazed shepherds, and some villagers to help the lost magi find their way. This is another daring, no-rehearsal pageant. Children come at 9:30 to choose their costume and practice a little. If you would like to help out or your child requests a particular part, please send a note to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.

CE BUILDING STILL CHANGING

New furniture soon arrives for the Youth Room. Last week the old youth room officially became the Will Bullis Community Room. The Girl Scouts and 12-step groups have moved back in...but there is more ahead. Keep peaking in!



GENDER EQUALITY

High schoolers choose the topic for each Sixty Minutes with Mike Mullery on second Sundays. After all the news about sexual harassment, the December topic gender equality will create some lively conversation. (10:30 AM in Fireplace Room December 10)



Fourth and fifth graders worshipped at the UU church, watching and listening for what is "sacred" there.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Jan 15

Details soon about signing up for one of the many service opportunities in the area.



Kate cuts up with her sock snow-baby

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

- Children and youth can usher any Sunday and greet, hand out bulletins, and even pass out packets to visitors.
- Any age can help in worship by speaking the welcoming "Whoever you are..." or lighting the community candle.
- High school youth can volunteer to help with the younger children.
- On first Sundays, even mid-high can help with the children.
- On Wednesday nights, anyone can play with the children from our Iglesia (Latino church).
- On MLK Day, there will be local service projects for families (and one just for teens).

YES, WE MEAN YOU!

Children's Church needs second adults with each group of children—just for 45 minutes on Sunday. Email kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org or use [Sign-up Genius](#) to choose a date and age group to enjoy this month.



DATES TO REMEMBER

FOR CHILDREN:

Joyful Noise Children's Choir practice most Sundays at 9:45AM,
Junior worship with music on first Sundays of each month.

FOR MID-HIGHERS:

Mid-High class every Sunday but the first
(when mid-highers sit with Patrick in the balcony),
Youth Group 1st and 3rd Sundays 6-7:30PM in the new Youth Room.

FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS:

Stay tuned for Patrick's alerts about shopping for your adopted family!

