



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

April 2017

BREATHE EASY

Oh, the theological tap-dances we do! Just try explaining Easter! Maybe there are 40 days of Lent because we need lots of time to figure out how to describe resurrection. Do you explain that Easter is based on ancient celebrations to welcome springtime? Do you describe Easter as *transformation* (the butterfly analogy) or *rebirth* (second chances or rising again after tragedy)? Please don't worry about having the right answer (clergy don't either), but relish the questions and wonder along with your children and youth. Remember the ancient proverb that "a little child shall lead them" (to the divine). Your child's questions and observations may guide *your* spiritual journey. Enjoy the season—and enjoy saying, "I really don't know. What do you think?"



DON'T MISS THE PARADE on PALM SUNDAY

Come to Kloss Hall no later than 10:15AM to be part of the festivity. Even the grownups are invited to process into the sanctuary that day—all waving our palms. You will never guess what is coming to lead us in.



RISE AND SHINE EASTER MORNING

A sunrise Easter service for sleepy heads! The youth-led service will start at 8AM, instead of actual sunrise. Bring flowers to create the beautiful floral cross and your openness to hearing different out-of-the-tomb story. Hint: The key verse is John 11:44, "Unbind him. Set him free."

... THEN ENJOY THE EASTER FESTIVAL

After the Children's Message in the Easter service, children will celebrate the joy of the season in Kloss Hall as they make baskets, decorate eggs with special symbols, and play games.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP FOR ALL AGES, APRIL 23

Join us after church and a simple lunch, for a fun sweep of the area around the church co-sponsored by the City of San Mateo. Kiana and Lois were pickers-uppers last year.

APRIL COLLECTION: TOWELS

As the winter rains dry up, so do the towel supplies at community agencies helping the homeless and hungry.



Everyone who goes to **CAMP CAZ**, loves it! The UCC provides safe, fun and spiritual residential summer camp programs for children as young as first grade (with a parent) up to adults - all in the beautiful natural world. Check out the camps [here](#). Scholarships available!

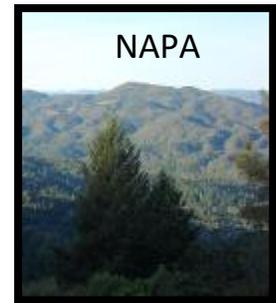


MID HIGH

MOVING THROUGH ADOLESCENCE?

Instead of a confirmation class for mid-highers, those youth will have annual **Coming of Age Retreats**. This year's is April 28-29 on top of a mountain overlooking the Napa Valley. The 6th-8th graders will set aside all "screens," step away from the hustle and bustle of their too-busy lives, and explore the grand

transition as they mature toward becoming adults (one day). What better way to grow than within a spiritual community? Confirmation classes will start in the fall for tenth through twelfth graders.



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.

HIGH SCHOOL



REBUILDING TOGETHER, April 29

The Rebuilding Together service project needs our help. And after we rehab a dilapidated house in San Mateo (with professional guidance), we get to party at Oracle's mega-barbecue. Check with Patrick about details.

ROAD TRIP, June 23-25

This summer's service/learning trip will take us to Fresno to experience a culture very different from our own on the Peninsula. Nearly half of the population there speaks Spanish! We'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.

REGULAR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Youth group every Sunday after church noon till 2PM.
- Sixty Minutes with Mike Mullery is usually the second Sunday of the month, but this month the

second Sunday is Palm Sunday. So, on April 23 come to the Fireplace Room during church—for the provocative topic of “Adulthood”—what is adulthood really like? Is it endless paying of bills?