



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

November 2017

THE PLUS SIGN

Two of my grandchildren consider CCSM their church, but since their father doesn't want them "indoctrinated" into a religion, they rarely come and know little about world religions. But their spirituality shines and teaches me a lot. Today, while using landmarks to navigate around south San Mateo, my 7-year-old grandson yelled from the backseat, "That's it. Turn at the plus sign." The plus sign? He was referring to the big cross on Hillsdale Methodist Church.

Rather than a symbol of torture and death, our cross truly is a *plus sign*—adding the sacred to human community, adding love to our sometimes lonely lives, adding healing to our brokenness.

Your own children might express their spirituality in ways that teach you too. Enjoy their wondering and insights. As one boy explained to me, "You are old. It was a long time ago that you were with God. I was with God only four years ago before I was born, so I know God a lot better than you do."



BLESSING THE NEW BULLIS COMMUNITY ROOM

Already the children are enjoying the Community Room for their first-Sunday-of-the-month worship services and music. (Olivia is lighting her candle during prayer time. Zach is setting the rhythm for the singing.) Join us November 26 after church when Rev. Penny will dedicate the Community Room and kitchen to honor Sue Bullis' son William, who would have loved cooking for events there.



GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS—ALREADY?

DECEMBER 3:

Stay after church to make your **ADVENT WREATH**



in the Buckham Room. Instead of marking the days until Santa comes, light candles until the Christ arrives. Remember the joy, hope, love, and peace of the season (even in the midst of commercialization). All ages welcome!

DECEMBER 17:

Don't miss the children's **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** during worship! The story needs flocks of angels, wandering sheep, dazed shepherds, and lost Wise Ones—and very little practice (you know the plot already). If you would like to help out or your child requests a particular part, please send a note to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.



OCTOBER CONFIRMATION RETREAT, SANTA CRUZ

PRACTICE GENEROSITY

- ❖ In *November*, bring sample size toiletries, shaving supplies, etc. for the homeless. Send your donations forward with the children at worship or leave them in the church office.
- ❖ In *December*, Adopt-a-Family by purchasing a gift for a shelter resident. Off a special Christmas tree on the loggia, pick an ornament that names the gift you'd like shop for. Fun family project!

ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERING

Kibbie and Patrick will eagerly sign off volunteer hours so our youth get the credit they deserve.

- Children and youth can usher any Sunday. Just show up and the delighted ushering team will be ready for their junior sidekicks to 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 (except on a second Sunday when they have Sixty Minutes).
- On first Sundays, even mid-high can help in the CE Building.
- On Wednesday nights, anyone can play with the children from our Iglesia (Latino church).
- And, there are always other projects at the church or in the neighborhood. Just let Kibbie know what sounds most appealing.
- Volunteer yourself! 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.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

FOR PRE-SCHOOL and up, Joyful Noise Children's Choir practice most Sundays at 9:45AM.

FOR CHILDREN, 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, at 6-7:30PM, in the new Youth Room

Mid-Winter Retreat, January 13-15

FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS,

Sixty Minutes on second Sundays of the month, during church in the Fireplace Room

Youth Room Sleep-over, November 18-19

Monthly activities (check with Patrick)

FOR EVERYONE, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, the morning of January 15

