



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

January 2018

TWO-FACED JANUS

January was named for Janus, the two-faced Roman god of endings, beginnings, and transitions. Janus could look toward both the past and the future, watching carefully for the changes in between. This month gives us an opportunity to look backward ... and forward also. What needs letting go of from the past? What is being birthed in you this year? What have your children let go of in *their* past that *you* might still be clinging to? Are your children going through growth transitions which you don't acknowledge or are not ready to accept? The long nights of winter provide opportunity to slow-down, look inward, be reflective—before the energy of springtime revs up your parenting pace. Your extended CCSM family is here to celebrate your parenting joys and support you through the challenges.



Advent Candle holders take their responsibility seriously: Henry (clockwise top), Wesley and Patrick, Caroline and Charlotte

BE A TECH SAVVY PARENT

Raising children in this digital age can be frightening. Resources for many parenting challenges start with the same advice, whether sexuality or internet use:

- Have genuine conversations with your children (i.e. remember to listen)
- Educate yourself.

For more specifics related to tech-savvyness, you might check out the Family Online Safety Institute. The link [Good Digital Parenting](#) connects you to information, suggestions and written material. Some prayer helps too!



Drew (Joseph), Kiana (the donkey), and Bridgette (Mary) star in the Christmas Pageant



Pageant angels prepare for flight: Wesley, Clara, Kian, Charlotte and Paige



HELP!!!

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



TOO MUCH STRESS

High schoolers choose the topic for each Sixty Minutes with Mike Mullery on second Sundays. Next topic: Stress. Don't miss this opportunity to talk about *school stress*, including tests, workloads, public school compared private school—and even the question, “Do schools kill creativity while trying to prepare the kids for ‘life’”? On January 14, come to the Fireplace Room at 10:30 AM.

MID-WINTER CAMP

January 13-15, Mid-high students go to Sebastopol! Youth from all over Northern California and Nevada are coming to connect with summer camp friends and make new friends. Haven't been to camp before? This is a great opportunity to get a taste of the fun! You'll leave eager to sign up for summer camp. Check out Mid-Winter Camp Information.



Mid-High students jet around the table packing Christmas gift bags for the San Francisco homeless who attend Open Cathedral

IMPORTANT 2018 DATES

As you prep your NEW Year's calendar, make sure to include these dates:

President's Weekend February 17-19, High School *Feb Camp* (registration)

March 10, All-Youth NCNC *Conference Spiritual Retreat*

June 14-17, All-Youth NCNC *Annual Gathering Youth Program*

July 6-8, *Caz "You and Me" Camp* for entering 1-3rd graders

July 8-14, *Caz Senior High Camp* for entering 10-12 graders

July 15-21, *Caz Junior Camp* for entering 4-6 graders

July 22-28, *Caz Junior High Camp* for entering 7-9 graders

Train Day and *Bible Night*, TBA

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.

DON'T FORGET:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

See the picture of the mid-high volunteering above!

- 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).

Gabbie (right) and friends volunteer their musical talents at CCSM worship

