



# THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

March 2018

## YOUTH ADVENTURES AHEAD

### GROWING UP

For CCSM's second annual Coming of Age Retreat, our mid-highers will head for Danville to discover inner resources of peace and resilience for their transition from childhood to adulthood. Through games, songs, and discussions, they will explore what it means to be "come of age" in our modern world—from March 24 at 9AM till March 25 at 4PM. Click on the [registration page](#) to get signed up! Email [pkane@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:pkane@ccsm-ucc.org) for more details.



### YOU'RE KIDDING? HAWAII?

Not a jaunt on the beach. This year the Western Regional Youth Event (WRYE) will be hosted by the Hawaii UCC Conference. This transformative experience includes service projects, worship, music, speakers, workshops—and a trip to the Polynesian Cultural Center. In extra days wrapped around the event, CCSM high schoolers will more deeply explore the spirituality that grows from Hawaii's natural beauty, delightful people, and tragic history (Pearl Harbor and near destruction of the native culture starting with Captain Cook). For event information click [WRYE](#); for details about the CCSM trip June 24-20, email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).

### WHAT JUST HAPPENED (in February)

- Our children made and delivered Valentines next door to Lesley Plaza, subsidized senior housing that was built on property donated by CCSM. It used to be called Pilgrim Plaza in honor of some of the country's first immigrants who started the Congregational Church in America.
- Angelo represented our high schoolers at the NCNC Feb Camp over the Presidents' Day weekend. Like a Camp Caz buddies reunion!
- Over twenty youth hosted the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, chopping fruit for salad, frying sausage, and flipping four kinds of pancakes. Three even added music to the yummy evening. (Thank you to Pam McCarthy-Hudson and the dozen adults who also helped.)
- Our Mardi Gras celebration included making colorful masks, one modeled by Lois (right). The table filled with kids busy creating their masterpieces. (Thanks to Kate Joyce.)
- Then somberness! The next morning families gathered in the sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday reading from Ecclesiastes, "... the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless." Lent starts with facing reality—and ashes on your forehead.
- Fourth and fifth graders huddled in the church "catacombs" to read scripture at the Bible Night mini-retreat. After two and a half hours, the kids didn't want to leave (admittedly they were learning about famous Bible people by playing



FROM MASKS TO ASHES



bingo for Oreos, the cookie equivalent of Jesus's message that what matters most is what's on the inside).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT

### EVERYONE

*Palm Sunday*, March 25 (starring a special guest)  
*Easter Celebration*, April 1 (crafts, cookies and games)  
*Earth Day Celebration and Team Up to Clean-Up*,  
 April 22 (fun trash pick-up around our block)  
*NCNCN Annual Gathering*, June 14-17, All-Youth Event

### MID-HIGH

*Coming of Age Retreat*, March 24-25  
*Youth Group*, first and third Sunday nights  
 6-7:30PM in the new Youth Room  
*Mid-High Class* starts after the youth leave worship,  
 except on the first Sundays (stay in church with PK)

### HIGH SCHOOL

*Sixty Minutes*, March 11 and April 8 during church  
*Confirmation Retreat*, April 21-22  
*Western Regional Youth Event* in Honolulu, June 24-June 30

### CAMP CAZ

July 6-8, *Caz "You and Me" Camp* for entering 1-3<sup>rd</sup> 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



Ellie and Leilani flipping



Linus looks forward to cookies we'll decorate on Easter



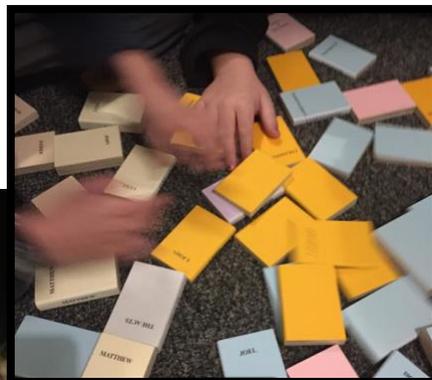
## TALKING TECHNOLOGY

Javier Ruiz, a bona-fide techie and AI whiz, will join Mike Mullery and the high schoolers March 11 to discuss the effects of various forms of technology on today's youth. The teens choose the topic because of their lives are infused with gadgets. Also, come on April 8 when a special guest will come to talk about his experience in prison and what restorative justice looks like. (Sessions are during church.)



## MARCH KIDS' COLLECTION

Please bring in towels, pillow cases, and twin and double sheets for Life Moves and other shelters.



## ONCE IN THE DARK...

The Bible Night retreat included a scramble to put the books of the Bible back in order, risking bugs to worship in the catacombs, and telling creation stories around the campfire. In April, the fifth graders will receive their personal Bibles from the church.



**Don't forget to register for CAMP CAZ**