



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

January 2019

RESOLUTION: GROW YOUR CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY

"Imagine raising a daughter who wouldn't think of going to bed without talking to you about her highs and lows every night, even though she's 16. Imagine raising a son who won't turn out the lights without asking you about *your* day, praying for *your* high and lows, and blessing *you*. Imagine growing up in a home where everyone feels loved, valued and heard every night..." an intriguing book begins. The pastor who recommended it to Penny says the book transformed his church families. Worth a try?

Simply put (and translated for our progressive approach), families create a simple ritual each and every night—starting with dinner maybe and ending with lights out.

- Step 1: *SHARE your high and low of that day (the youth call this "wow" and "pow").*
- Step 2: *TALK about how Jesus' teachings might relate to each high and low. (i.e., How did the highs or lows relate to furthering justice, bringing joy, promoting peace, instilling hope, express love, and/or being the hands and feet of God?)*
- Step 3: *PRAY for one another's highs and lows aloud each night.*
- Step 4: *BLESS one another before turning out the lights on the day.*

Not a magical process. Just communication at a deeper level. "When you use this simple nightly routine intentionally and consistently over time, it will help you model compassion, empathy, reflection and care for your children" and, mostly importantly, encourage their spiritual growth. Maybe a good New Year's resolution?



We are Family!

One of our newest children couldn't put his shoes back on after St. Nicholas filled them. He felt right at home when another CCSM mom helped him out.



Pageant Magi cuts up

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

In just four weeks, our youth packed gift bags for the homeless in San Francisco, bought Christmas presents for two adopted families, and created holiday dinner boxes for three families. Weekly teens also volunteer to help the younger children with Sunday activities. Actually all ages can help be the *Hands and Feet of God* at CCSM and in the community.

For example, any age can:

- Usher on Sunday (greet, hand out bulletins, and pass out packets to visitors).
- Read scripture in worship or give the welcoming "Whoever you are..."
- Be an acolyte (light the tall worship candles).
- On Wednesday nights, play with the children from our Wednesday Gathering.

For ideas about projects to help our neighbors, send an email to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.

CLEAN AND PURE

Mid-high narrators kept the Christmas story moving as spontaneous animals, angels, magi, and other young characters took the stage. Everyone was totally surprised when the tiniest child appeared. Dimitar, less than two months old, played the part of a sleeping Jesus—but only after it was safe. Wicked King Herod had been out to kill him, until Herod got a good scrubbing and finally opened his heart to receive the message brought by the sweet child who was laid in the manger.



Head Angel Kiana, King Herod Benton, and Innkeeper Avery (seated on right)



Yaeli enjoys the music Jacob writes

Toot-toot, TRAIN DAY arriving soon!

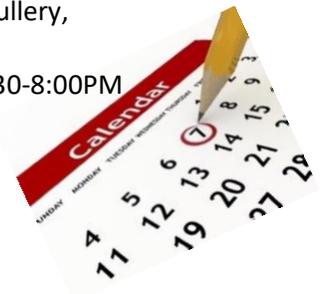
Saturday, February 2, between 2:00 and 4:30PM, the trains will be pulling into the Kloss Hall station for all ages. Make cookies, be an engineer, create your own layout, and build your own train. Don't miss out!



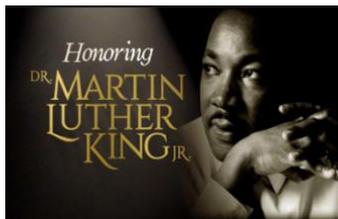
IMPORTANT YOUTH DATES

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

- **Sixty Minutes**, second Sundays 10:30-11:30AM with high schoolers and Mike Mullery, Intriguing topic: "Should free speech have some restrictions?"
- **Mid-High Youth Group**, second and fourth Sunday nights, January 13 and 27, 6:30-8:00PM
- **High School Youth Group**, first and third Sunday nights, January 20
- **President's Weekend February 16-18**
Mid-High Winter Camp ([Mid-High Camp registration](#))
High School Feb Camp ([High School registration](#))



MLK MULTIFAITH DAY OF SERVICE



Honor the lifechanging service of MLK by changing some lives yourself on January 21. Participate with hundreds from other faiths and cultures to work side by side on dozens of projects from knitting to park restoration. Many of the projects are family-friendly and count toward community service hours required by many schools. Start with breakfast together with your CCSM friends, and finish before lunch. Click here to [Choose Your Project](#) before your first choices are overbooked. (CCSM was a founding member of the Peninsula Multi-faith Coalition, which sponsors this day of service to build relationships among religious communities.)