



The Pine Seed

Congregational Church of San Mateo



Summer Round Up!

If you are like me, it may be hard to believe that summer is already wrapping up - but I hope yours has been great. Thank you so much to those who have been around and have been introducing yourselves - please continue to do so! Thank you so much to Elaine Kauffman who led our summer program exploring faith and sustainability through recycled materials.

Our mid-high class explored a whole variety of careers and vocations - ranging from law to drama to engineering to farming! Thank you so much to our guest speakers and Bill, Dave, and Sarah, our core mid-high leaders. In August, the "60 Minutes" high school program looked at the topic of friendship - what does that really mean today, especially with social media?

Another way to stay in touch is through Facebook ("Youth Group at CCSM") and Instagram (@ccsm.hi) - in addition to e-mail, text, and the Pine Seed!



Summer kids' program - building with large recycled cardboard boxes



Summer kids' program - creating a "library" out of a cardboard box



Summer kids' program - weaving on a popsicle stick loom

Kids' Programs Looking ahead to the fall

Some changes are on the horizon!

As the age spread of the kids at CCSM continues to evolve and we work together to discern the best approaches to programming for the kids as both a group and as individuals, we will be modifying the class groupings of our programs starting in September.

Additionally, we will be shifting away from emphasizing age so strongly in our groups and encourage kids and parents to think about what type of programming feels like the best fit for them (and this can also change, week to week!). For example, if one Sunday your kindergartener would like a more unstructured play experience, they are welcome to join the (mostly pre-K) free play class, whereas other weeks they might choose to join the Godly Play (mostly K-2) class.

We feel that this honors the diversity of our kids (in terms of their needs, abilities, interests, friend groupings, etc.). We invite you to experiment and be in conversation with us about how this is working for you and your family!



Here are the planned Sunday morning groups for the fall (except for the 1st Sundays of the Month, which will continue to be all-ages music):

Free Play, Stories, and Songs with Lily (Approx. ages: toddlers/pre-Kindergarten)

Godly Play with Shannon (Approx. K-Grade 2)

Liturgical Arts with Angel (Approx. Grade 3-5)

Mid-High Faith Discussion and Activities (focused this fall on World Religions) with Dave, Bill, and Sarah (Approx. Grade 6-8)

High School "60 Minutes" (Second Sundays theme-based youth discussion) with Mike and Kibbie

CHILDREN/YOUTH/FAMILY SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, September 7 at 8am- LifeMoves Bike Ride to End Homelessness. Participate as a family - all ages are welcome! 3425 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304 <https://lifemoves.org/ridetoendhomelessness/>

Sunday, September 8 - Homecoming Sunday! Food, games, and fun after church for all ages! Youth are invited to help with face-painting, games, etc.

***Mark your calendar** - United Church of Christ National Youth Event - July 22-25 at Purdue University

For questions, please contact Sheryl: sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org



New Youth Group Meeting Time!

Another change we will be experimenting with this fall is moving youth group from Sunday evenings to Sundays at lunch time (with lunch provided!). This change is for a few reasons:

- Youth (and youth group leaders!) don't have to come to church twice in one day
- We can go deeper with topics explored during church time (i.e. 60 Minutes can continue conversations over lunch, the Mid-High Sunday School class might have a field trip that goes into the early afternoon on occasion).
- Parents will be more likely to stay for 2nd hour adult education programs happening at more or less the same time
- Sunday nights are free for family dinner, last minute homework, preparing for the week, etc.

Youth who sing in the Joyful Noise Choir (which will be now rehearsing from 11:45-12:30pm on Sundays) will be welcome to come to youth group at 12:30 - we will plan a transition at that time so they don't feel that they have missed "the main thing!"

This is all an experiment and we are certainly open to feedback as we go. Thank you for your openness to giving this a try!



Congregational Church of San Mateo
Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

NEW PARENTING GROUP!

Sunday, September 29: 11:45am - 1:30pm:
(Please RSVP by Sept 25) We are exploring the idea of a parents' group - an opportunity to learn and engage topics like mental health, kids and technology, and nurturing faith formation and to form deep and meaningful relationships with other parents.

This first session will just be to meet one another, enjoy lunch, gauge interest, and explore possible topics and formats. High school youth group will be taking place at the same time and childcare will be available for kids of other ages.

YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Sunday, September 15: 11:45am - 1:30pm:
High School youth group lunch, community building activities, planning for the year, discussing service project with Open Cathedral.

Sunday, September 22: 11:45am - 1:30pm:
Mid-High Youth Group lunch, community building activities, planning for the year, discussion of service project with Open Cathedral.

Sunday, September 29: 11:45am - 1:30pm:
High School Youth Group lunch and guest speaker from Puente about food security issues in the Bay Area.

For questions, please contact Sheryl:
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