



The Pine Seed

CCSM's Children, Youth, and Family Newsletter



CCSM Youth Filling 100 backpacks for Open Cathedral

So many “thank yous” to express!

All we did in 2019 could not have been possible without you

Thank you all so very much for all of your support and participation in everything this past year. Since arriving at CCSM in June I have felt so very supported by everyone, children, youth, parents, volunteers, and so so many others. We had a busy December with multi-age Advent preparations and wreath-making, kids helping to write the Christmas pageant, so many costume helpers and narrators and actors, and of course donors and assemblers that allowed us to give out 100 backpacks filled with basic necessities and a few treats for homeless and under-housed people in San Francisco.

And the help has extended far beyond the Christmas season. Thank you all so much for your willingness to help me get oriented, to pitch in wherever needed, to be with the kids, to share your ideas and input, and to trust me as I make some experiments and hypothesize my way into what might work at CCSM. I am so incredibly filled with gratitude and am so excited to share some of our plans for 2020. I feel very hopeful about what is to come! Blessings, Sheryl



Making cards to give out to seniors in the community



Creating Advent wreaths to light at home



Sheryl playing with kids during the preschool family playgroup

Youth Update

Our 10:45am youth class continues to learn about a different world religion each month with site visits, guests, videos, holiday celebrations, and more!

60 Minutes will continue for high school on the 2nd Sunday of the month (10:30-11:30) and on the 4th Sundays, youth will work from 10:45-11:30 to plan kids' activities to implement during our new 4th Sunday parenting program (11:45-1:30).

Another new high school program is volunteering at the Samaritan House meal program on 2nd Wednesdays of the month from 4-5:30pm. This is a great way to serve the community and build your resume. Sheryl will serve alongside the youth.

On Wednesdays, our youth continue to discuss current events and topics that they choose (sort of like 60 Minutes!) during their gatherings. They also play board games, build community, and plan special intergenerational worship and events.

There are many youth retreats/events coming up - please mark your calendar and let me know what you plan to attend! We are also working on a new high school leadership change-making program!

YOUTH GROUP IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 12: No youth group due to planning meet for new Adoptee ministry program (let Sheryl know if you would like to participate!)

Sunday, January 19: 11:45am-1:30pm: Mid-High planning lunch! 7th and 8th graders are invited to help make plans for programs in 2020.

Sunday, January 26: 11:45am-1:30pm: High School youth will lead fun activities for kids during the new monthly parenting program! (Youth will work to plan activities from 10:45-11:30). Lunch!

Saturday, February 1: 6-8:30: Mid-high movie, pizza, and game night! All are welcome (friends too!). Wear comfy clothes and bring a snack (i.e. chips, popcorn) if you can.

INFANT, TODDLER, AND PRE-SCHOOL GATHERING IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 12: 9:30am-10:20am: Parents/guardians are invited to come for an informal time before church to connect with other parents, enjoy breakfast, coffee/tea, connect with Lily (our awesome preschool teacher), and play with the great toys in the Muslim Children's Garden Preschool Room!

YOUTH RETREATS AND CAMPS FOR KIDS AND YOUTH!

Please let Sheryl know asap if you are interested in participating any of these so we can begin to arrange carpools, transportation, chaperones, funding, etc. Many of these events are supported/organized by the wider UCC so we know they will be well-organized and based on progressive Christian values.

Mid-Winter Retreat: Jan 18-20 (Mid-High) - Community of the Great Commission in Foresthill (Dec 18 was the deadline for early bird registration but spaces are still open and scholarships available)

February Camp: Feb 15-17 (High School) - Monte Toyon in Aptos (Jan 15 is the early bird deadline)

NCNC Camp Cazadero: This is a beautiful camp located near Guerneville, CA. There are camp weeks for kids in grade 1-3 with a parent/adult (July 10-12), grade 3-6 (July 12-18), grade 7-9 (July 19-25), and grade 10-12 and CIT program (also July 12-18).

United Church of Christ National Youth Event - July 22-25 at Purdue University in Indiana (with possible service project in Chicago before/after) for grades 9-12.