



# THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

February 2018

## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

When your children participate in worship as speakers or ushers, they learn that *the church belongs to them*...not that they just belong to the church. Their comfort volunteering in the grown-up worship service teaches them skills that translate into adulthood. My own daughters owe much of their public speaking poise, commitment to justice and leadership skills to growing up at CCSM. Of course, we had some challenging moments—like when my then-three-year-old forgot to wear her underpants and then sat up front for the Children’s Message with her knees too many inches apart! No one noticed, but we parents were certainly cringing.

Launching this summer, CCSM will formalize a spiritual leadership program for our youth, offering them opportunities beyond those available for the younger children. As a kick-off, they will attend the Western Regional Youth Event hosted by the Hawaii Conference to meet youth from other UCC churches. Then, throughout the year they will participate in service and justice activities, volunteer at church events, and more. Hopefully surrounded by a community of love and support, these young people will grow in their faith and commitment while also learning to be good citizens of the world. If you are interested in helping in design of the program or mentoring a teen, send a note to [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).



*Children from our Wednesday Gatherings show off the trains they created*



## LET YOUR KIDS LIVE A LITTLE: EAT PANCAKES FOR DINNER!

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is celebrated by splurging on dinner and partying before solemnness of Lent begins—and some more disciplined people give up chocolate and sugar. Don’t cook Tuesday, **February 13**. Instead, just for fun, come eat pancakes (fruit, juice and sausage) in **Kloss Hall from 6-7:30PM**. No reservations needed. Witness our youth help with the dinner—they may never be this helpful at home! And, make a playful Mardi Gras mask or create other crafts. Not a night to miss!



## KIDS GALORE ON TRAIN DAY

Eighty-five people young and old filled Kloss Hall and the Buckham Room to play with trains, decorate cookies, and create free-form engines. Charlotte (left) made sure the icing on her face didn’t mess up her fancy pink train. All four groups of children who use our buildings were represented: Little Wonders, Children’s Church, Muslim Children’s Garden, and the Wednesday Gatherings. Many thanks to Jim Granucci who spent hours setting up the electric trains for everyone to enjoy and Nicole Tocchini for all her organizing skills.



## HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

Last Sunday the children worked diligently on their Valentines to deliver to the older residents in Pilgrim Plaza, the subsidized housing next to the church parking lot. This Sunday the first-third graders will walk around the apartments spreading their love and joy. You can just imagine how much that visit will be appreciated!

## ENJOY THE CHILDREN

Children's Church needs second adults with each group of children—just for 45 minutes on Sunday. Email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) or use the [Signup Genius](#) link to choose a date and age group to enjoy this winter. High schoolers are also welcomed to help out—except on second Sundays when they go to Sixty Minutes.



## WHAT DOES A RABBI SAY TO A MINISTER?

Who knows! Sunday during Sixty Minutes, the high schoolers will find out. Everyone has *spirituality*; it is our life force (what Jews call "breath"). How that spirituality gets packaged into practices, beliefs, and sacred texts is *religion*. Do you need religion? Come join the discussion—in the Fireplace Room around donuts, this Sunday February 11 during church. (Bonus: we will sneak into the balcony to hear what Rabbi Jhos has to say to Pastor Penny.)

## FEB CAMP

Presidents' Day weekend (February 17-19) our youth can participate in the energetic UCC camp at Monte Toyon Camp in Aptos. Check [registration information](#) for details or email Patrick ([pkane@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:pkane@ccsm-ucc.org)). A great time to keep up with Camp Caz friends and meet youth from other churches. Register before February 12!

## ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

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

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

### MID-HIGH

*Coming of Age Retreat*, March 24-25

*Youth Group*, first and third Sunday nights 6-7:30PM in the Youth Room

*Mid-High Class* starts after the children leave worship, except on the first Sundays.

### HIGH SCHOOL

*Confirmation Retreat*, April 21-22

June 24-July 1, *Western Regional Youth Event* in Honolulu

### 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



## ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO VOLUNTEER...

- Children and youth can usher any Sunday and greet, hand out bulletins, and even pass out packets to visitors.
- Sing with Joyful Noise Children's Choir.
- 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 Spanish-language service.