



# The Pine Seed

CCSM's Children, Youth, and Family Newsletter



CCSM Youth Making Sandwiches for Open Cathedral

## Our Lent Focus: Climate Change

How might the simplicity of Lent help us live sustainably?

Our church focus for the season of Lent this year is Climate Change. There are many ways that this season connects - the idea of being in the wilderness, of giving up certain things, reflecting inwardly on our lives, living more simply, etc! We will begin this season in worship on Sunday, March 1 with the opportunity for people to place a symbol of their Lent commitment in a special box (i.e. to reduce use of plastics, etc.). Please consider what you might do/bring!

Other ways that we will mark this season include a special time in worship on March 29 where youth will help to lead prayer stations, bike rides and workshops led by Camille Grant, a community clean-up in April, and a Blue Theology retreat for middle schoolers in May. We are so fortunate to live in a gorgeous place where it is easy to get outside and enjoy God's creation all year round. Please consider what you as an individual or together as a family might do this year to live more sustainably this Lent - and beyond!



Kids baking cupcakes and talking about imperfection



Painting images on stoles and learning about symbols



Creating liturgical art using traditional colors and symbols representing Lent

## Youth Update

Our 10:45am youth class continues to learn about a different world religion each month - and March is all about Hinduism! We hope to have some guest speakers and site visits but request your assistance to set these up and make contacts! Do you have any friends or colleagues who might be able to help to teach us? Thank you!

For high schoolers, we are now volunteering at the Samaritan House meal program on 2nd Wednesdays of the month from 4-5:30pm at the Mason's Hall (right near CCSM). This is a great way to serve the community and build your resume! We had a lot of fun doing this in February.

On Wednesdays, our youth continue to discuss current events and play lots of board games, and plan special intergenerational events. We are looking for adult volunteers to help with this program especially. If you are available even infrequently on Wednesdays from about 7-8:30pm, it would be wonderful to have you! It is a great group of youth and the time together concludes with a delicious meal.

## YOUTH GROUP IN FEBRUARY

**Saturday, March 7:** 10am - Dance Workshop at church for all ages - come learn a dance that we will present in worship the next day!

**Sunday, March 8:** High School Youth Group lunch at Los Primos! Stay after 60 Minutes for a casual lunch - please bring \$5 to offset if you can. We'll catch up and hang out while enjoying delicious food! 11:45-1pm

**Wednesday, March 11:** 4pm-5:30pm - High School youth can volunteer to serve a meal at the Mason's Hall. A great way to serve and get volunteer hours!

**Saturday, March 21:** 10am - Banner-making workshop at church for all ages

**Sunday, March 22:** 11:45am-1pm Youth of all ages are invited to learn about bike safety with Camille Grant and Tony Gallo!

**Sunday March 29:** 12pm All youth are invited to participate in a bike ride, led by Camille Grant! Please bring your bike/helmet/water to church. Lunch will be provided first!

## INFANT, TODDLER, AND PRE-SCHOOL GATHERING IN FEBRUARY

**Sunday, March 1: 9:30am-10:20am:** Parents/guardians are invited to come for an informal time before church to enjoy breakfast, coffee/tea, and play (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.

**Blue Theology Retreat** (Mid High): May 15-17 - \$150

**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.