



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

April 2018

SUPPORT OUR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Right after church on May 6, the fourteen high schoolers going to the UCC Western Regional Youth Event this summer will serve you lunch on real china plates with table service—the works! They will make high quality pasta and sauces from scratch, with the guidance of gourmet Jay Cornwall of *Pasta Pasta*. Salad, bread and dessert will complete the feast. Proceeds will help pay for the high schoolers’ flights. Tickets for the fabulous lunch are \$15/individual and \$40/family. Of course, extra donations are also welcomed!



← Camille, Chelsea and Olivia decorate eggs on Easter

PICK UP YOUR MESS!!!

How many times have you said that? Now is a chance to make it fun. Right after church on April 22, join the San Mateo’s TeamUp to Clean-Up lunch and then walk around the neighborhood to collect trash on our sidewalks. The city supplies bags and trash grabbers. A unique way to celebrate Earth Day Sunday!



Paige, Charlotte and Henry think Nicole’s Easter cookies are finger-licking good (with a ½ inch of frosting of course!) →

WHAT’S HAPPENING NEXT

EVERYONE

Earth Day Celebration and Team Up to Clean-Up,
April 22 (fun trash pick-up around our block)
Youth Fundraising Lunch, May 6 after church

MID-HIGH

Youth Group, first and third Sunday nights
6-7:30PM in the new Youth Room
Mid-High Class starts after the youth leave worship,
except on the first Sundays (stay in church)

April Kids’ Collection:

Flashlights, good batteries and extension
cords for LifeMoves’ homeless



HIGH SCHOOL

Sixty Minutes, May 6 during church
Confirmation Retreat, April 21-22
Western Regional Youth Event in Honolulu, June 24-June 30

CAMP CAZ

July 6-8, Caz “You and Me” Camp for entering 1-3rd 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



← Clean Camille, James, Lily, Arely, and Mateo before their muddy Coming of Age mountain top experience

A MUST-READ FOR EVERY PARENT!

On the first day of the month that he is getting married, PATRICK PREACHED his first (and maybe last ever) sermon. Here is some of what he said:



Easter is just full of metaphors. Endings, new beginnings, all that good stuff. And after spending most of this past week in bed with pneumonia, the rising from the dead thing feels particularly relevant...

I know I'm at church and we aren't exactly supposed to say this, but I like the decorations in stores this time of year. They're brightly colored and Fun, and the candy is really good, except for marshmallow peeps which are just totally disgusting...

I love Easter ... because it's messy and weird and hard to wrap your head around, really. In order to get to Easter, the church drags us through Lent first. We start by remembering that we are all dust and to dust we shall return, then we spend 40 days talking about giving things up, focusing on Jesus, and our faith, and each other, and the things that really matter. Then we go through Holy Week, knowing at the end of it is a big Easter party; but first we spend a bunch of days focused on death. A particularly ugly and unpleasant death, a teacher executed by the state... That's... a lot. It's a mess. ... (I)n my ministry with the youth program here at CCSM, and in the Conference's youth and camping programs, I have become really enamored with the idea that to get to something good, you have to do a lot of hard, messy, ugly work first.

The practice of marking Lent and Holy Week, and then celebrating Easter, of focusing on death and resurrection every year, is incredibly powerful to me. It's something I see echoed all the time in how our young people live their lives. Our youths struggle with difficult to manage home and family lives. They go to school, get beyond stressed out with countless hours of homework and extracurricular activities, then still have to confront bullying and peer-pressure. They wrestle with the same things adults wrestle with—whether it is safe for them to come out or not, learning the differences between healthy and abusive relationships, living with anxiety, depression, and other mental health struggles. It's really hard.

I see in them, all the time, the echoes of what we talk about every Easter. The way of moving forward through a death of self, letting a way of who you were die to the world, and be resurrected as a new person, someone who is loved and seen, and heard. They are constantly reexamining and reevaluating themselves, letting go of parts of themselves that weren't who the really were, and letting their true selves into the world. And they don't skip the hard work of getting there. It's a struggle, and they do the hard work of building new life out of hardship.



The story of Easter, the story of death and resurrection, gives us the opportunity each year to take stock of our lives, of the world around us, and realize that there is always the opportunity to bring about a better way. That change is possible, and that the promise of the Gospel isn't some far off thing way down the road, it's the chance here and now to take resurrection seriously, to renew our lives, and to be the people that we are called to be.

We could ... take after our young people and to follow their lead in recreating ourselves!