



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

June 2019

THANK YOU!

Seems ridiculous for *me* to have been honored last Sunday when the reality is...ministry at CCSM depends on hundreds of us giving time, ideas, and guidance. Over forty people regularly contribute to the success of the children and youth program. For example, Dave Olsen, Bill Dunbar and Sarah Block have taught the mid-high class for over a decade. Mike Mullery has no idea how many years he has facilitated the high schoolers' favorite discussion, Sixty Minutes. Pam Hudson continues to organize the huge Shrove Tuesday dinner celebration. The Ministry for Children, Youth and Families weathered several leadership transitions since the stability of Betsy Woodward's remarkable years. Most challenging might have been the last year without a youth director and the months after March when I actually retired. However, Chair Michele Cinq Mars has bravely kept CYF focused, after Holly Allen's term expired. The list of those creating a spiritual environment for our children goes on and on....

Thank you for the opportunity to spend time with your delightful children and energetic youth. I treasure getting to know you parents and advisors. You cannot imagine how much precious these few years have been!



Blessing Sheryl after passing on the CCSM stole

SUMMER IN THE SUN



Once again, our children's summer program will be outdoors in the Memorial Garden—this year to explore the spirituality of ecology, sustainability, and creative re-use of otherwise discarded materials. One person's trash may be another person's treasure—and kids can be great at seeing value and possibility in things like cardboard and bits of plastic that we might otherwise send to the landfill! The planet needs more than recycling to be saved, but small things can be a catalyst toward the broader changes needed.

Each Sunday starting June 23, kids (up to those entering 5th grade in the fall) will gather outside for games, stories, and activities focused on different recyclable materials, including engineering challenges, artistic creations, and more! Kids entering 6th grade in the fall are welcome to join other middle schoolers for a unique program in the Youth Room.

The children need junk this summer—especially tin cans and colorful plastic bags (any of you New York Times subscribers?). One visual we want to create is a pile of all the human garbage found in a whale's stomach. So, could you please bring your tin cans, bags and plastic bottles to church for us? Thank you!



LAST CALL for CAMP CAZ

Already our kids are signing up for Camp Caz in July! Current kindergarteners through second graders can go to Caz **July 5-7**. Then it's time for current sixth through eleventh graders to go, from **July 7-13** (two separate camps during the same week at the same location). And finally, **July 21-27**, current third through fifth graders can go to Junior Camp. Scholarships and transportation are available if needed. Click on <https://ncncucc.org/yomc/>.

← closing circle at junior camp last year

Youth SUMMER CALENDAR

Jim Granucci taking a break when chaperoning a youth retreat →



ALL SUMMER – Mid-High Sunday Mornings

Ever ask your kids, “What did you do?” or “Why do you do that?” Now, over the summer, it's the kids' turn to ask ten interesting members of CCSM those same questions. Up in the Youth Room during church, the youth will meet a park ranger, a techie-turned-teacher, police chief, female engineer for BART, minister with homeless in SF, and more—and get to ask endless questions.

If you are interested in overhearing the conversations, let Sheryl know (sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org). We always need a second adult with the kids, so your presence would be helpful for the program (and also fascinating for you).

JUNE 9 - High School SIXTY MINUTES

Big questions: Is it ever okay to kill another human being? Hmm! The Ten Commandments say “no” but people in the Bible seem to kill others often. Are there any reasons *you* might kill someone?

JUNE 15- High School SERVICE/LEARNING TRIP

For the 75th anniversary of D Day, our youth head for Rosie the Riveter National Park...an extension of our last year's trip to Pearl Harbor. The park honors the historic role of women and California in WW II.

JULY 14 and AUGUST 11 - High School SIXTY MINUTES

Topic will be decided by the high schooler later.

JULY 21 – All Youth PICNIC and HIKE

Celebrate with a picnic and hike at Laurelwood Park *after church*. Climb to the top of the “mountain” for views of the bay and ocean. Eat until you explode, play until your collapse, and enjoy the sunshine.

High schoolers playing volleyball on the lawn (well, sort of)

AUGUST 18 – All Youth SHOW DOWN

CCSM may not have a gym, but it does have space for volleyball, four-square, kickball, basketball, and more. If you are starting middle school or high school in the fall, don't miss **Youth Sports Day**, *after church* Sunday, August 18—to test out all the equipment and prove you are a winner (God already knows you are)! Join the playoffs between high school and middle school students for big prizes. Oh, yeah, also free lunch!

