



The Pine Seed

Congregational Church of San Mateo



September Starts for Kids!

The CCSM program year is up and running! Our free play group for our littlest kids is going well - we have been averaging between 4-8 kids. We are excited that our preschool kids and parents' drop-in program will be starting in October - a great time for families to connect. This group will take place on the first Sunday of the month before church, from about 9:30-10:15. Lily will be present to help with childcare and coffee/light breakfast will be served. Mark your calendar!

Our Godly Play group (for approximately K-2, led by Shannon) has been a bit of a smaller group so far, but meaningful nonetheless. This is an amazing program where Shannon tells Bible stories from memory and then the kids can respond to and explore the story through open-ended questions (i.e. "what part of this story is especially about you?") and various media (i.e. art, building blocks, etc.).

The new liturgical arts program (for approximately Gr 3-5, led by Angel/Kelly) has been going really well and has had really strong attendance. So far the kids have talked about what are liturgical arts, how it calls us to be detectives and artists, created a drama based on scripture, and have started work on an art installation for World Wide Communion Sunday.

Congregational Church of San Mateo
Children, Youth, and Family Ministries



Homecoming
Sunday - Gabby
gets henna done on
her hand



Building blocks with
Lily during the
Sunday preschool
group



Angel leading a
visual art project
with the kids'
Liturgical Arts group

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Morning Youth Updates

Our Sunday morning youth discussion group (for grades 6-8, approximately, although slightly older youth are also welcome!) is off to a great start. We are excited that Libby has joined the volunteer leadership rotation with Bill, Dave, and Sarah. After doing some wrap-up related to the summer program that explored the topic of vocation, work, and values, the youth are now focused on exploring world religions. September has focused on Judaism and October's focus will be Islam.



Life Moves Bike Ride to End Homelessness

As part of October's focus on Islam, there will be a special opportunity to attend a Friday prayer service on Friday, October 11 (which is part of the fall break for some schools). Watch for more information by e-mail/contact Sheryl! Our exploration of world religions will involve guest speakers, site visits, celebrating holidays, and reflection on similarities and differences with Christianity in general and our specific church.

60 Minutes is also going well and continues on the 2nd Sundays of the month. In September the focus was on friendship - what does it mean to be a friend, truly, today? There was a lot of great conversation as well about how the youth community at CCSM can extend friendship to one another.

Another way to stay in touch about youth programming is through Facebook ("Youth Group at CCSM") and Instagram (@ccsm.hi) - in addition to e-mail, text, and of course the Pine Seed newsletter!

RETREATS AND CAMPS!

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. I hope to attend many of these!

Mid-Winter Retreat: Jan 18-20 (Mid-High) - location TBD

February Camp: Feb 15-17 (High School) - location TBD

NCNC Camp Cazadero: This is a beautiful camp located near Guernville, 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). This is a wonderful camp that many CCSM families attend.

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.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMS

Our Wednesday programming is going well! Angel and Mariska are working to build relationships with the kids and their parents and will be holding a parent forum soon to develop some plans. Volunteers (high school aged or older) are always welcome!

NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS?

Many of our youth need volunteer hours for school! And we are happy to fill out whatever forms are needed. Please let us know sooner rather than later though so that we don't have to try to remember everything at the end of the year. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Speaking of volunteering, youth have been requested to help with the Bullis Auction at the church on Saturday, October 26 from 4-7pm (approximately). They will be doing electronic bidding for the first time, so youth are particularly needed to help attendees use the app to place their bids! Pizza will be provided. Please contact Sheryl by October 16 if you can help!

Another opportunity is to provide childcare during the Home and Hope Concert on Sunday, Oct 20 from 4-7pm at the church! Please let me know by Oct 14 if you can!

HIGH SCHOOL SUN MORNINGS

On the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month, our high school aged youth serve in a variety of roles! Many help out in our children's classes but others sing in the choir, help to usher, read scripture, etc. Also, we are re-framing our mid-high Sunday morning class as "youth discussion" - to show that 9th graders are still welcome. Please speak with Sheryl if your high schooler would like support as they figure out what to do on the Sundays when 60 Minutes isn't being held.

YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

Sunday, October 6: 11:45am - 1:30pm: High School youth group presentation on mental health from Safe Space San Mateo. Learn compassionate listening, what to do if a friend is in trouble, how to cope with stress, and more. Lunch provided!

Sunday, October 13: 11:45am - 2pm: Mid-High Youth Group bike ride! Bring your bike to church for a ride around the neighborhood. Please BRING: lunch, water, snacks, sunscreen, and your bike! Led by Michael Allen, Camille, and others.

Sunday, October 13: 11:45am - 1:30pm: High School youth group lunch! We've decided to try high school youth group on 2nd Sundays so there is more time to discuss topics raised at 60 Minutes. Lunch will be provided. Led by Mike Mullery and Sheryl.

Sunday, October 20: 11:45am - 1:30pm: Intergenerational Iron Chef Challenge! All are welcome - kids under 12 with a parent/guardian please! Please register with Sheryl by Oct 16 - you'll be placed on a team and then compete to create the best spread with ingredients provided. Lunch for all afterward! No cooking experience required.

Sunday, October 27: 11:45am - 1:30pm: Mid-High School Youth Group lunch and mental health presentation, similar to what will happen with the high school group on Oct 6. Lunch provided!

