



The Pine Seed

CCSM's Children, Youth, and Family Newsletter



Guest speakers sharing about Islam with the Sunday youth discussion class

Wednesday Program Update

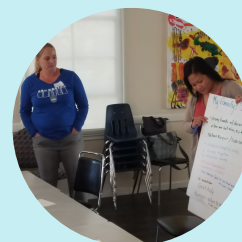
Angel and Ika are initiating new children and youth programs on Wednesday evenings in Kloss Hall - volunteers needed!

We are excited to share that the Wednesday Gathering youth now have their own space and their own program on Wednesdays. The kids will continue to gather in the Buckham Room, but now the youth meet separately for games and discussion of topics that they have chosen, such as climate change. They are also planning a special outing to visit ¡El Movimiento Vivo! Chicano Roots of El Día de los Muertos at the Oakland Museum of California. The children are also moving into a more structured program, led by Mariska (Ika). We are looking for **adult and high school volunteers to support the kids' program** - please speak with Sheryl.

Also, the Wednesday Gathering youth are working hard to prepare a special **Día de los Muertos gathering and service** on Friday, November 1 from 6:30-9:30 in Kloss Hall. All are welcome! There will be fun activities for kids (face painting, crafts, etc.). Please bring pictures of deceased loved ones to place on the altar along with items they owned, food, and drinks they enjoyed.



Preschoolers playing with teenage helpers on Sunday mornings



Michelle and Tara facilitating our first parenting discussion group



Kelly holds bread dough made by the kids' Liturgical Arts class used for communion bread

Sunday Morning Update

We continue to have wonderful programs each Sunday for kids of all ages. Lily offers a caring space for our youngest kids (generally 4 and under) for free play. Families with kids in this age group are invited to our **second Sunday morning play group on Sunday, November 3 from 9:30-10:15 am**. We had over 10 kids (plus adults!) at our first gathering in October!

Although our Godly Play class has been small most weeks, it remains a powerful opportunity for kids to engage with Biblical stories and respond creatively with their reflections, questions, wonderings, and artistic responses. This program really highlights kids' imaginative abilities and gives them a solid base in the rich and diverse stories of the Christian faith.

Our Liturgical Arts class has been busy as well, writing pet blessings for St. Francis Day, creating stained glass art, and learning about and preparing for Día de los Muertos - thinking about altars and sacred spaces.

The Youth Discussion Group had a great month of learning about Islam. We were so lucky to have guest speakers, to learn about the 5 pillars of Islam, prayer, fasting, celebrating, and much more! We hope to fit in a mosque visit soon too. November our focus will be on other Christian churches and denominations.

Finally, in October, 60 Minutes looked at the topic of stress and the youth were very reflective about sources of stress and what can be done. We also discussed a new program! In addition to 60 Minutes on second Sundays, we will have a program for high schoolers on fourth Sundays as well- graciously led by Kibbie! This will be a chance for high schoolers to volunteer and engage in a variety of service projects and social justice initiatives. Thanks so much, Kibbie (and Mike, our 60 Minutes leader!)



Youth Presenters from Safe Space San Mateo

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.

Mid-Winter Retreat: Jan 18-20 (Mid-High) - Community of the Great Commission in Foresthill (Dec 18 is the deadline for early bird registration - \$200, scholarships available)

February Camp: Feb 15-17 (High School) - Monte Toyon in Aptos (Jan 15 is the early bird deadline)

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.

Youth Christmas Collection Drive

Our youth have taken on the ambitious goal this year of collecting items to fill 100 bags for Open Cathedral - which will be distributed at Christmas time to those they serve. The youth are specifically hoping to collect reusable bags, reusable or single use water bottles, rain ponchos, small treats (i.e. granola bars, candy), shampoos/soaps, and other useful items that can go in the bags. Please consider what you could contribute!

If your workplace has “swag” maybe you could bring some extras in for us? If you can’t bring 100 of something that is okay too - not all bags need to be exactly the same. Thank you so much for supporting this initiative.

If your youth would like to take the lead on collecting a particular item, please let me know (they could collect at school, from family, or through another organization!). This could be a great way to earn community service/volunteer hours. I can help them to figure out how to run their own collection drive!

Finally, please let me know if you aren’t getting my texts or e-mails! Another way to stay in touch about youth programming is through Social Media: Facebook (“Youth Group at CCSM”) and Instagram (@ccsm.hi).



YOUTH GROUP IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3: 10:45am - 1:30pm: Mid High Outing to St. Matthew’s Catholic Church and lunch at Charlie’s Taqueria. Our Youth Discussion Class will be learning about different Christian denominations this month and this is our first outing! Mass begins at 10:45 and Fr. John will give us a tour afterward. Then, bring \$10 or so (if you can!) for lunch. More details will come by e-mail! Led by Michelle Oberes-Padre and Michael Allen.

Sunday, November 10: 11:45am-1:30pm: High School post-60 Minutes Lunch Discussion. Continue the 60 Minutes conversation on the nature of evil over lunch and work on our Christmas Collection Drive! With Mike, Angel, and Sheryl.

Sunday, November 17: 11am-1:30pm: Mid-High Outing to St. James AME Zion Church followed by pizza, conversation, and time to connect with their youth! Their service begins at 11am - we will leave to walk from CCSM at 10:45am. More details to come by e-mail. Led by Merle Mason and others.

Sunday, November 24: No youth group programming after church as Sheryl is away at the American Academy of Religion.

PARENTING GATHERING IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 17: 11:45am-1pm: Parents are invited to a presentation on mental health given by Safe Space San Mateo, a new community resource for mental health support. Youth will help to present on topics such as stress, anxiety, social pressure, and how parents can best support their youth. Potluck lunch! Bring a dish to share.

