

Tree of Life Kids' Connections
Sunday Class Schedule at a Glance
with All-Ages Worship: Sept. 29 and Nov. 3

and Saturday Family Treks:
Sept. 7, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 14

August 18, 9:30 am: Two Stories of Creation: Genesis 1 and a Cherokee Tale / Trees within Creation

Scripture: "And God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

August 25, 9:30 am: Trees of Life / Provisions for Life from Trees

Scripture: Wisdom is a Tree of Life: "She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy." (Proverbs 3:18)

September 1, 9:30 am: The Joy in Creation / Features of Trees

Scripture: Is. 55:12. "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you; and the trees of the field will clap their hands."

Saturday, September 7:

10:30 am - 12 pm: Oakland Botanical Garden with palmetum and Bonsai Garden; Lake Merritt Estuary with water birds

12 pm – 1 pm: Family picnic or lunch in local eatery. Climb on the Green Monster.

1 pm: Meet up at Fairyland

September 8 (Welcoming Sunday): Growth of God's Word / What do seeds need to grow?

Scripture: Parable of the Sower (Godly Play parable: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20)

September 15: Stewardship of Creation / Seeds, Planting, and Growth

Scripture: Jewish Oral Tradition

Midrash: Story of Naamah (Naamaah, the wife of Noah, collected seeds while Noah brought the animals onto the ark; Naamah planted the seeds when the waters of the flood receded.)

Saturday, September 21:

10:30 am – 12 pm: Briones Hike

12 – 1 pm: Picnic or lunch in local eatery.

1 pm: Meet up at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience

September 22: Hospitality in Nature and the Kingdom of God

Scripture: Parable of the Mustard Seed (Godly Play: Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19)

September 29: St. Francis/Blessing of the Animals. Community Eucharist.

Children attend worship at 10:15. Children will have a Godly Play-style lesson in the service.

Tree of Life Kids' Connections

October 6: Creaturely Relations within Creation/Trees as Habitats for Critters of All Sizes

Scripture: "O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures" (Ps. 104:25)

October 13: Breathing Prayers and Praise / Trees: Photosynthesis*Respiration*Water Cycle

Scripture: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah!" (Ps. 151:6)

Saturday, October 19:

10:30 – 12 pm: Roberts Park: Redwoods forest hike

12 – 1 pm: Picnic lunch

1 pm: Meet up at the Chabot Space and Science Center

October 20: Divine Mystery: Death in the Cycle of Life

Scripture: "Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains much alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24).

October 27: Halloween and All Saints

Church and cultural histories: Origins of All Saints (the rededication of the Pantheon) and All Hallows' Eve (celebrations in different countries and at different historical times)

Classroom fun: Carve pumpkins to take home.

November 3, All Saints: Community Eucharist with Children's Story/Sermon

Children attend worship at 10:15 am.

November 10: God's Purposeful Word / Communication of Trees and the "Wood Wide Web"

Scripture: "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Saturday, November 16: Harry Potter Day, Grace Cathedral (all day diocesan event for children)

November 17: Interconnectedness of all Life and Our Lives with God

Scripture: "I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15: 1-8)

November 24: Harvest and Thanksgiving/Blessings of Bounty and Peace

Scripture: Vision of peace: Micah 4:1-4 with focus: "Many nations shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his way and we may walk in his paths.' ...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks...they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid..."

* * *

***Save the Date: Family Trek for Advent/Christmas**

Saturday, December 14, 6:30 pm: "Bethlehem, A.D." at the Santa Clara First Baptist Church:

<http://www.scfbc.org/bethlehem/>