

Welcoming Students

Christian Education covers a wide range of ages and types of students. We love welcoming these students and their families to First Pres weekly. We have three wonderful Directors: Margie Nunez, Kingdom Kids Children's Ministry; Meagan Bergem, Ignite Jr. High; and Beth Paz, Rooted High School. We are so thankful for all the many volunteers that it takes to make these ministries run. You are all so important in working with and teaching our children. In the next three articles you will hear from our wonderful director and the year of growth, changes and foundation setting that they have done in 2017. All in all I look forward to 2018 with love, faith, and hope for all the students in our church and in our community.



Mike Galbraith
CE Elder

Kingdom Kids

NURSERY (BIRTH-23 MONTHS)

This year Julie Goodale, our Nursery Assistant, coordinated 30 volunteers to staff the care and nurture of our babies up to 23 months. We thank and bless Julie for the stellar job she did of recruiting and juggling the many needed caregivers during both worship services and the education hour, as well as special services and events throughout the year. We LOVE and thank our many volunteer caregivers. We appreciate and need each one of you!

PRESCHOOL (2-5 YEARS)

Thirty volunteers plus our awesome youth helpers job-share throughout the year to teach the two/three year old and four/five year old classes during the education hour and 11:00 am worship service. Each one has a unique and creative way of discipling and loving our preschoolers.

Whitney Aguilar, Preschool Coordinator, did a fine job of working to see that our two to five year olds meet with Jesus each week and our teachers are equipped with their teaching tools. A preschool teacher training was held this fall with Lynn Freeman as our guest speaker. She shared many gems that we can carry into our classrooms.

Some of our volunteers have been teaching in preschool for several years and we dearly love and respect them for sharing their giftedness in this way. We applaud each teacher and assistant, for without you, preschool classes would not happen each Sunday and that would be a huge missed opportunity to join God where He is at work around us.

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ELEMENTARY (KINDER TO 6TH GRADES)

Eleven very talented teachers dedicate themselves to our kinder to 6th graders each week, and five skillful couples take turns once a month teaching our Kids Alive class (K-2nd graders) during the 11 am worship hour. A short time of music, worship and prayer begins the education hour for our kinder to fourth graders with Elizabeth Rooney leading them.

The summer brought us two new Children’s Ministry summer staffers, Jesse Micu and Heidi Buller. We are grateful to have had them among us and the students as they led Weds night swim studies, held weekly girls and boys’ book studies at local frozen yogurt shops, and ran two special fun events.

This summer City Bible Adventure welcomed 135 students. It is a week-long joint venture between FPC and several downtown ministries to reach children of our city with the Gospel and God’s love. Pam Sells and Margie Nunez co-directed and many from FPC and neighborhood ministries joined in God’s work of making disciples. The Holy Spirit moved among us as we joyfully witnessed 50 children give their lives to Jesus Christ –Praise be to God!!

WednesdayNights@FPC ran for ten weeks this fall. Ten leaders and two Bible storytellers led our elementary children. Large group games in the Fellowship Hall were conducted by our very fun duo, Terry Jaurena and Cindy Sterling. Friendships were formed and relationships deepened among the children and adults. It was a sweet time, spiritually and relationally.

We were thrilled to welcome new families this year into Children’s Ministry and into our hearts. Please continue to join us in praying that God will bless us with more children. We LOVE sharing Jesus with them!



Margie Nunez
Director Of Children's Ministries



1 - Wednesday Night Games 2 - Wednesday Night 1-3 Grade Class
3 - Kids Alive Class (K-2nd) During 11am Service 4 & 5 - Kids Winter Camp

Ignite Jr High

Our mission in Junior High ministry is to make disciples of Jesus who IGNITE their faith to pursue deeper relationship with Him and fully surrender their lives to worship God (Heb. 12:28-29). An exciting move in Jr. High this year was establishing a new name and logo.

As a part of the Great Commission Church, Ignite's desire is to equip students in Basic Bible and Discipleship by helping students build a solid foundation of understanding the Bible and learning to discern what truth is in their daily lives. We value being others-focused and challenge the youth toward Outreach and Evangelism. It is our prayer that students will grow in their relationship with Jesus and surrender their whole life to God. Our hope is IGNITE Jr. High is a safe place to belong, be known and ultimately realize you are fully loved by God.

Relational ministry is key to developing the faith of young disciples of Jesus. We continue to be thankful for a team of Youth Leaders who love on youth and live out God's love and hope in their families, workplaces, and in ministry. We walk alongside students and families in their joys and sorrows. The students continue to seek opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus with their friends, which often means finding courage to walk through the messy parts of life. We had monthly outreach events this fall that engaged new students and began to build bridges. We thank God for each one of these students and the team of leaders as they meet, laugh, cry, study, serve and go to camps together.



Meagan Bergem
Director Of Junior High Ministries



- 1 - Christmas Tree Lane Event
- 2 - Fresno United your Prayer & Worship Night
- 3 - Santa Cruz Retreat Chapel Service
- 4 - 11am Worship

Rooted High School

I have just completed a year of ministry here at FPC and it has been a wonderful experience. One word to describe the activities of the year would be foundational. As FPC seeks to rebuild its outreach and discipleship to high school students, I have pressed into developing a foundation that will allow us to grow deep and wide.

Our amazing team of seven volunteer youth leaders was joined by part-time assistant Nate Turner. This team developed a vision for high school students to experience loving community and grow deeply rooted in a relationship with Jesus, in order to bear Gospel fruitfulness for a lifetime!

Our vision foundation strengthened as we prayed for a theme that we could build this ministry on – God confirmed *Colossians 2:6-7*: “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness - excitedly we adopted the name Rooted! Some significant processes of the year were around strategy – our H-3 Discipleship model (Head-Heart-Hands) and six teaching themes (Culture, Relationships, Jesus, Calling, Voices, Service). We launched new ministry models – a student leadership team that meets twice a month and a monthly Book Club. We also clarified the unique purpose of Wednesday nights (topical large group study and fun) from Sunday mornings, which are now inductive Bible study in D-groups (“discipleship groups”).

There are many highlights of the ministry year, places where we saw students actively being challenged in their faith and living it out; “Jesus & Justice – Spring Break in the City” in partnership with 701 United and Teen Night was a powerful experience of unity, service, breaking down stereotypes and learning about the IMAGO DEI. Our Spring Confirmation class saw 12 Jr and SR high youth who take their faith deeper through baptism and/or by joining church membership. Camp Santa Cruz facilitated the launch of D-Groups which we have repeatedly heard has been a safe place of connection and growth for students!



Santa Cruz Retreat, September 2017



Jesus & Justice - Spring Break In The City, April 2017



Confirmation Class, April 2017

All that God has done this year sets us in anticipation for the next, we are working on a new room renovation and a new logo. We anticipate an exciting start to 2018 as the ministry of Teen Night (the Lowell neighborhood-based youth group sponsored by Bethany Inner-City Church) is joining Wednesday night youth group! We sense God is bringing new people to our new space to do a new thing in and through our youth ministry! Grateful for your partnership together for the glory of God.



Beth Paz

Director Of High School Ministries



Top - Jesus & Justice Group Picture, April 2017
Bottom - New Room Remodel