

Job Opening: Sunday School Teacher

Sycamore Congregational Church UCC in El Cerrito has an immediate opening for a teacher who can plan and lead Sunday School for 10-12 children each Sunday morning. At Sycamore, we use the term “Tomodachi Time” (meaning, “friendship time”), instead of “Sunday School”, reflecting our historical focus on Japanese speaking and English speaking persons.

Students: Children range in age from 2-8. We understand this is a challenging age range to span, given the differences in attention span, abilities, interests, and knowledge. Currently the only children that attend are from families that attend the 9:45 Japanese Language service. The number of students can range from a couple to 8 or a few more, and is unpredictable. Flexibility is important as each Sunday is different as to the time the kids come down from service and to who comes to Sunday School. If no children arrive by 10:15, the teacher excused for the day and is compensated for the week.

Support: A member of the Preschool Board will be present from 10 - 11 and assist the teacher. There may sometimes be a Japanese speaking parent present during Tomodachi Time. If not, one of the older bilingual students can typically translate more complicated instructions.

Curriculum: The church has previously “one room school house” types of curriculum. We have a budget of several hundred dollars for materials, though most of it is typically not spent. Typically there is a central craft activity, game or activity that ties to a Bible story each week. The church has a number of supplies that can be used for Tomodachi Time. The teacher may need to acquire and bring in teaching materials not already onsite.

Schedule:

- Spend 2 hours of preparation time each week at your convenience
- Sunday: Arrive and set up: 9:30 am
- Class: 10:00 - 10:30 or 10:45
- Playtime: 10:30 or 10:45 - 11 am

Compensation: \$300/month (\$75/week)

Requirements:

- Love of working with small children, patience, and the ability to balance educational and social learning experiences
- Organizational skills: preparing lesson plans, crafts, games, or other activities to accompany the Bible story of the day. It can be helpful to have alternative plans in case the children are seeking something different than the teacher had originally planned.
- Flexibility is important as sometimes children either complete a planned activity more quickly than planned or want/need more time.
- Knowledge of Bible stories and the ability both teach stories and help children explore faith, Christian traditions, and healthy relationships in age-appropriate ways
- Experience is working with young children, preferably from 2 – 8.

- English is the primary language of instruction; ability to communicate verbally in Japanese is a strong plus
- Mobility sufficient to supervise children both in a classroom and playground setting
- Under the church's Safe Sanctuary policy, a background check is required as a condition of employment.
- After 30 days, there will be an opportunity for both the Sunday School teacher and representatives of the Preschool Board to discuss how things are going and assess mutual interest in continuing.

Interview Process:

- Interested candidates should send a resume to sycamoreoffice22@gmail.com or mail one to Sycamore Congregational Church UCC, attention Board of Christian Education, 1111 Navellier Street, El Cerrito, CA 94706.
- Resumes and other materials will be read by a committee, which may decide to interview a candidate or not.
- Leading candidates will be interviewed by a panel consisting of Sycamore's English and Japanese language pastors, one or more representatives from the Board of Christian Education, and one or more current Tomodachi Time teachers.