

From the Desk of Reverend Dr. Debra Murray,

*Aloha members and friends,*

*It gives me great pleasure to announce to you that Hope Crockett is our new Children and Youth Director. Join me in welcoming her in this position, and pray for her success. Below is a letter from Hope to you.*



Hello! I am so excited for the opportunity to be the new Children and Youth Director. I cannot wait to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. I look forward to re-energizing the youth activities and engaging with children both in our church and in the greater community. My goal is to provide a loving, nurturing, and safe environment for exploration, fellowship (and community involvement).

For those of you who do not know me, I grew up in FUMCPA. I was both baptized and confirmed here, and grew up going to Sunday School and Youth Group in this church. I have fond memories of Vacation Bible School, Christmas Pageants, and the Sierra Service Project. I have also spent most of my life going to Family Camp and am so grateful for the extended community and best friends it has given me. After 18 years in Palo Alto and graduating from Palo Alto High

School, I attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2018, I graduated with a degree in Exercise and Sport Science, with a minor in Hispanic Studies. Following a summer spent working in upstate New York, I returned to Palo Alto in the Fall of 2018.

I have experience working with children and youth in a variety of environments. I spent four summers employed at various summer camps, with the latest adventure being this past summer. I was one of 13 counselors responsible for 53 teen campers as we traveled for four weeks from New York to national parks and cities in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California. In addition, this past year I was an instructional aide in two different 2nd/3rd grade Palo Alto elementary school classrooms, with an emphasis on cultivating relationships with students with severe behavioral issues and learning limitations. I have coached youth sports teams, and also worked with young children at the Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto. I have a passion for working with children and youth, and feel blessed by the opportunity to engage in this here, at FUMCPA.

I look forward to meeting you and discussing with you what the future of the Children and Youth Program can look like! After the service on Sunday, October 6th, I will be hosting a photobooth

for families to take fun photos (with silly props!), and come say hello so that I can introduce myself. Additionally, on Sunday, October 13th, from 12-2pm Pastor Debra and I and the Hospitality and Nurture Committee will host a Meet & Greet. Here's to a great rest of 2019 and beyond