

CCIC-CU LIFE Newsletter

AUTUMN LONGING

by Fred Gilham

Sultry September breeze
Gold on green in the afternoon
The cells of my body remember the colors

Beyond thought the longing
Anticipation
Night celebration
Masks and thanksgiving
Wind and rain and Christmas

Insider Insights

- “Grace” by Fred Gilham
- LIFE Event Photos (Oct 2025)
- November 2025 Events
- Baptism Classes start on Sunday 2 Nov 2025 (Baptism: 5 Dec 2025)
- Prayer Requests



Nov 2025 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Nov 2025: Turn your clocks back 1hr at 2 AM						
2 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #1 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	3	4	5 Cancelled: Music Practice (7:00 PM)	6	7 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)	8 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)
9 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)	10	11	12 Music Practice (7:00 PM)	13	14 Youth Group (7:30 PM)	15
16 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #2 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	17	18	19 Servant Team Mtg (7:00 PM)	20	21 Youth Group (7:30 PM)	22
23 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #3 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	24	25	26 TBD	27 Thanksgiving	28 Cancelled: Youth Group (7:30 PM)	29
30 Impact CF (9:30 AM)	COLOR KEY Youth Bonding ImpactCF AWANA Parents No Youth Group Missions					



Grace

by Fred Gilham (2014)



Too often people see Grace in negative terms: “Since I’m under Grace, it doesn’t matter what I do; I can do whatever I want.” There is an element of truth to this, because Grace really does mean that God loves us apart from our performance. He justifies us for his name’s sake; he accepts us because he has promised that “... whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”

However, the right way to look at Grace is that it opens up possibilities. It is an offer of a relationship that can change our whole lives if we let it.

Consider the analogy of marriage. A spouse who says, “My spouse just promised to love me as long as we both are alive, through whatever happens. Therefore I can just go ahead and do whatever I want” is missing the entire point of marriage. Marriage is not aimed at exalting the solitary will. It is all about plurality, about two becoming one flesh. It’s about a level of intimacy that enables fruitfulness and joy.

Yes, it has an element of unconditionality to it. That is so the husband and wife can be secure in their oneness and so open up to be whom they really are. But that “opening up” is not “I am who I am and you just have to take it whether you like it or not,” but “Know me and let me know you. Let’s get as close as we can and do whatever it takes to make that happen.”

Of course this means “giving up your oneliness.” Of course it means letting go of yourself and your self absorption and will to power. The risk is taken because the reward is a level of satisfaction that only touching the infinite glory of Love can bring.

Even more with God. Grace invites you to a relationship that will pierce to the division of soul and spirit and reveal the thoughts and intentions of your heart. At the same time, as Paul says, “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16). So God makes the same offer: Know me. Let me know you. And the result will be fullness of joy beyond your imagining.

Another way of looking at this is to see the negative attitude of which I spoke above as a way of saying, How far away from God can I get without completely losing touch with him?” How little can I invest in my relationship with ...my friend, my wife, my church, my God, and still get the benefit of it. This is a sad way to look at life. It is reminiscent of the line from T. S. Eliot in “Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”:

“I have measured out my life with coffee spoons....”



Grace (pt. 2)

by Fred Gilham (2014)



But the Bible tells us that " ...he gives his Spirit without measure" (John 3:34). God holds nothing back. Again we read, "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32). If you are holding back with God, if you are protecting yourself from him, if you are living a life as far from him as you can while still hoping he will redeem your "Get Out Of Hell Free" card, you are missing the best of what God has for you. Romans 12:1-2 says:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Give yourself as a living sacrifice; find out what God's will is for you and you will find that it is good, acceptable, and perfect. It is good for you; you will like it; and you will find nothing better.

"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

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Meet the Team

FRED GILHAM **11/12TH COUNSELOR**

Fred has been involved in our youth ministry for the past 2-3 years in various capacities! He is currently helping serve as a counselor for the 11th and 12th grade students alongside Marisa. He also volunteers regularly as a speaker on Friday nights, teacher for Sunday School, and also helps occasionally for Impact Christian Fellowship Sunday services. Fred has been Peter's pastor, mentor, and friend for a long time, and has an incredibly rich understanding and love for God and His Word.



(Graphic: F. Gilham)

WANT TO READ MORE BY FRED?

For more of Fred's writings, check out his blog site, *Looking at God Sideways* (goodnews.homedns.org/)

Recommendations (from Peter) include, "The Sophomore," "Marshawn Lynch," and "Certainty, Feelings, and Faith."

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Our goal is to share monthly reflections and update about our CCIC-CU LIFE youth ministry to encourage and build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-16).

LIFE Event Photos



In October 2025, our youth group continued to learn more about Jesus Christ during Friday nights, including Jesus as “the way, the truth, and the life,” “the servant king,” and “the lion or the lamb.” Our two youth volleyball teams played head to head against each other, and are looking forward to a rematch in the playoffs. Impact CF hosted our annual Missions Conference weekend with missionary Steve Weemes, and our students served in our Halloween “Trunk-or-Treat” outreach event by decorating, leading games and activities, and playing music throughout the night.



Guest speaker Steve Weemes tells the youth group to follow Jesus' way by looking at the heart instead of at the outward appearance (Photo: E. Chen).



R to L: Zachary (11th), Matthew (9th), Garvin (9th), Johnny (10th), Josh (8th), Peter (and Joseph (11th)) helped lead music at the Trunk-or-Treat (Photo: E. Chen).



Left: Ryan (9th) works alongside his mom and Lucia's dad to host a Pumpkin Mystery game (Photos: E. Chen).



Right: Three sumos (Vicky, Charisse, and Cindy) were spotted at our Trunk-or-Treat event passing out flyers for Impact CF (Photos: E. Chen).



Our CCIC youth volleyball teams faced off against each other on Sunday 12 Oct 2025 in our church volleyball league, as both teams sit at the top of their division. To check out the match highlights, check out this link: <https://youtu.be/hQsod3QCn3g> (Photo: J. Zhang).



November 2025 Events

BAPTISM (FRI 5 DEC 2025); BAPTISM CLASSES ON SUNDAYS, 12:30 PM (RM 142) 11/2, 11/16, 11/23



Starting on Sunday 2 Nov 2025, we will host baptism classes for students who are interested in better understanding baptism, what is the significance of baptism, and what life looks like after baptism. Students are highly encouraged to join the first class to better understand if baptism is right for them. For any questions or concerns or make-up classes, contact Peter (peter.hwang@cciccu.org).



WINTER RETREAT 7-9 NOVEMBER 2025

CCIC Cupertino will have a church-wide retreat at Mission Springs Camps and Conference Center in Scotts Valley, CA. Both Chinese and English ministries will attend and host their respective retreat activities. We will NOT have Friday night Youth Group and Sunday morning English service that week (7-9 Nov 2025).

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND NO YOUTH GROUP (11/28)

For Thanksgiving weekend, youth group (Fri 28 Nov 2025) will be cancelled so families can spend the long weekend together. Give thanks for one another, and enjoy eating, shopping, football and more!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: INFLUENCE A CHILD'S ETERNITY



Join us in filling shoeboxes with toys and gifts so underprivileged kids can celebrate Christmas and receive the good news of Jesus Christ! Shoeboxes are available in the main lobby; families will be responsible for their own drop-off (between 17-24 Nov 2025).

SERVANT TEAM MEETING WED 19 NOV 2025, 7 PM



Youth: Join our 2nd Servant Team Meeting (Room 104) to talk through ministry updates, work on 2025 projects for each ministry, and to read the Bible and pray together! See you all there! :)

IMPORTANT!

- **Fri 19 Dec 2025:** Youth Group Christmas Party (Sanctuary B)
- **13-16 Feb 2026:** Snow Retreat (Camp Chiquapin)
- **16-23 Jun 2026:** Mexico Missions (Ensenada, MX with YWAM San Diego / Baja)
- **31 Jul to 3 Aug 2026:** All-CCIC Summer Youth Retreat (Mount Gilead)



Prayer Requests

Seniors + College Apps

Pray for the high school seniors as they continue working on their college applications. Pray that they know that God is actively with them in this process and that this would be a time where they feel supported, loved and encouraged daily as they work on these applications.

Female Youth Staff

Pray that our church find a female youth staff that can support and minister to the young women in our youth group. Pray that we would find someone that works well alongside our church staff, volunteers and parents. Pray that this person is like David, someone after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).

Upcoming Baptism

Pray for our youth students who are interested in getting baptized, that they would desire to know more about baptism, trust Jesus as their Savior, and follow Jesus as their Lord. Pray for boldness and courage to consider baptism in December 2025 to declare their faith in God publicly to others.

Winter Retreat (7-9 Nov 2025)

Pray for the preparations for the upcoming all-church Winter Retreat, that God would use those efforts mightily for the building up and encouragement of the church for both English and Chinese ministries. Pray for good weather, encouraging sharing from God's Word from our guest speakers (Elliot Sands for Impact Christian Fellowship), and deepening of relationships with God and fellowship with one another.

Youth Leaders and Volunteers

Pray for our leaders / volunteers as they continue to faithfully serve these students. Pray for opportunities to know the students more, and for gospel-centered and transforming conversations. Pray for Peter that he continues to abide in Christ, spend time in God's Word, and find opportunities for gospel-centered transformation with our youth.

Heart to Learn About Jesus

Pray that our students would continue to have open hearts and minds to learn about Jesus over the next couple months. Pray that this enables them to experience true freedom and joy in the midst of their daily activities, so that they can go forth in faith every day. Pray that they find rest, comfort, purpose, and newness of life in their daily life with Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Youth Servant Team Ministry

Pray for the students who have expressed a desire to serve our youth ministry and our community. Pray that these service opportunities would help them share God's love through their leadership in various ministries such as inreach, outreach, prayer, music, A/V and communications. Pray for willing hearts and flexible attitudes as we decide how to best serve one another.