

CCIC-CU LIFE Newsletter

Sign up for Snow Retreat!

After a five year hiatus, we will finally return to the snow at Camp Chinquapin (Pinecrest, CA) on 13-16 Feb 2026!

At retreat, we join Arise Church & CCIC-SV for God's Word, games, skits, snow, praise music, skiing / snowboarding!

- \$360 or less (early reg. by 28 Jan 2026)
- \$385 (regular registration by 4 Feb 2026)

<http://tinyurl.com/snowretreat2026>



Insider Insights

- Collegian Spotlight (Caron)
- **New** Teaching Series: Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- New Year's Party Photos (12/31)
- January 2026 Events, featuring **Snow Retreat** (13-16 Feb 2026)
- Prayer Requests



Jan 2026 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday Service: Pastor Owen Lee (9:30 AM)	5	6	7 No Music Practice	8	9 Youth Group: Elanor Lin (7:30 PM)	10
11 Sunday Service: Fred Gilham (9:30 AM)	12	13	14 Music Practice (7:00 PM)	15	16 Youth Group: Peter Hwang (7:30 PM)	17
18 Sunday Service: Fred Gilham (9:30 AM)	19	20	21 Music Practice (7:00 PM)	22	23 Youth Group: Fred Gilham (7:30 PM)	24
25 Sunday Service: Pastor Owen Lee (9:30 AM)	26	27	28 Servant Team Mtg (7:00 PM)	29	30 Small Group Bonding (varies by class)	Parent Meeting (Fri 23 Jan 2026, 9:30 PM, Sanc. A)

ATTN FOR 2026 SNOW RETREAT: EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS WED 28 JAN 2026 (\$360 or less) REGULAR REGISTRATION ENDS 4 FEB 2026 (\$385)

COLOR KEY

Youth Bonding	Parents
ImpactCF	No Youth Group
Announcement	Missions

Wed 28 Jan 2026 is last day of early registration for Snow Retreat!!!



My College Life (so far)

by Caron Zheng (Collegian)

Hello! I am Caron Zheng. I am currently in my first year in college in UC San Diego. I am very grateful for everyone who prayed for me, and I wanted to share a few things about my college life. This past quarter has been pretty challenging to me, yet I also have grown a lot during this time.

I noticed how freedom came with responsibilities. I needed to be more independent, doing things on my own like buying groceries and doing laundry. I remembered walking to my dorm in the rain, and then having to wash my clothes and dry them before the next morning. These common chores, though seemingly insignificant, can take a lot of time when they pile up on each other.



On the other hand, I have also enjoyed that very same freedom. I really enjoyed doing things on my own schedule and time. I have been able to keep up a very good sleep schedule throughout my first quarter, and that has helped me study more efficiently. Moreover, I realized college is a time where I really need to decide what I am going to do and what I truly believe in. There are a lot of religious groups on campus who evangelize to college students. Despite a few spreading misinformation, I am happy to see many of the people in Christ are actively doing God's work of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

I am so grateful that people at CCIC Cupertino has been reaching out to me. It is very comforting that there are so many people who still care about me. Specifically, right before my second round of midterms, I was so thankful to receive a collegian care package! It helped me so much since I was stressed out studying for my midterms.

Another good news is that I found a great Christian fellowship in San Diego! The people are very nice, and they have helped me a lot as a community. At first, I felt lonely when I did not really know anyone on campus. However, as I went to the fellowship more, I became more comfortable with the people there. They have been very supportive, and we had a lot of fun together. They have even helped me navigate the transportation system near school, and have studied together with me throughout the quarter.

PRAYER REQUEST (7 Jan 2026): It's just the second day of school, and I've already found this quarter to be so much harder than the last one. There is so much reading, and I am a slow reader. I need prayer for courage to start this quarter and to trust God with my academics.

- Pray that I will always be reminded that God is always with me. By depending on Him, I can do all things, including these challenging courseworks (Phil. 4:13).
- Pray that I won't be overwhelmed by my fear of reading; and focus more on ways to improve.

*Yours Truly,
Caron Zheng*



Sermon on the Mount

New Teaching Series for 2026

In Fall 2025, we went through a series of teaching that focused on different aspects of the person of Jesus Christ – everything from Jesus as the light in the darkness, the Lion or the Lamb, to Jesus as the Mother Hen and the way, the truth, and the life. We even learned about Jesus as our Sabbath. This quarter, we plan to build upon our understanding of Jesus by focusing directly on his teachings in the **Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew 5-7).

According to Fred Gilham, this sermon is Jesus' most complete description of what discipleship looks like. Discipleship is living out God's truth about our new spiritual person in all aspects of daily life. In matters of family and friends, school and career, dating and marriage, life purpose, and more, we can live out our life in the Spirit (instead of the flesh) by abiding in Jesus' word and knowing the truth (John 8:31-32).

Join us in the coming months to hear Jesus' teachings, his proclamations of the arrival and the good news of the kingdom of God, and what it looks like for us to live out our new life in this world.



CCIC-CU LIFE Newsletter

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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).

Counselor Spotlight: Marisa

Marisa Chang has served as a youth group counselor since 2017, and currently helps with 11th and 12th graders. Learn more about her in this Q&A!

Why did you choose to serve in youth ministry?

I grew up in CCIC and I saw how it influenced my faith journey so I wanted to give back to the community that raised me! Also, I guess my grade is pretty cool. 😊

Best gift (besides salvation)? I'm not a big gift person but I'm a sucker for acts of services and words of affirmation! So if you've ever complimented me or done something for me, I remember it for a long time! Most recently, my friends hosted a panda-themed party for me (i.e., dress up in panda costumes and ordered Panda Express) because I use the panda emoji a lot – that was pretty memorable!

How can people pray for you? For wisdom and discernment. There are potential changes happening in my life this year, and I want to clearly discern God's will, trust His guidance, and remain obedient to His plan.

New Year's Party (31 Dec 2025)

On the last day of 2025, our youth group joined CCIC-SJ and CCIC-Central SJ for a New Year's Overnight Party. It began with intense rounds of Nerf Gun wars, followed by all sorts of board games, video games, card games, a new year's toast to kick off 2026, and a high octane hide-and-seek tag. All in all, it was an incredible way to kick off the new year, and here are some photos to remember it!



[Left] Jonathan (10th) takes aim at one of the opponents of the other team. [Middle] Victor (11th), Nathan (10th), Ada (6th), and Kate (8th) work together to help revive their fallen teammates. [Right] Gabriel (10th) bravely steps into the front lines of battle (Photos: J. Wu).



LEFT: L to R: Kate (8th), Jonathan (10th), Victor (11th), Joseph (11th), Tommy (12th), and Peter line up next to the "piano jail" in hopes that one of their Nerf Warz teammates will revive them (Photo: J. Wu).



Ada (6th), Naomi (9th), Kate (8th), Colin (12th), Tommy (12th), Ryan (12th), and Garvin (9th) competing in a Nertz Game (Photo: J. Wu).



BOTTOM: A few students setup a make-shift volleyball net with a sleeping pad, and played their own version of volleyball, featuring Gabriel (10th), Jonathan (10th) (Photo: J. Wu).

January 2026 Events

SNOW RETREAT: 13-16 FEB 2026 (CAMP CHINQUAPIN) EARLY REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

Join us (and Arise Church + CCIC-South Valley) for snow retreat this year at in Pinecrest, CA. Come relax, play, hear God's Word, and ski/snowboard?! Spots are limited this year due to bus capacity, so please sign up ASAP (**Early Reg. by 1/28/26 for \$360**; Normal Reg. by 2/4/26 for \$385)! More in the link: <http://tinyurl.com/snowretreat2026>



PARENT MEETING FOR YOUTH FRI 23 JAN 2026, 9:30 PM

@Parents: Please join Peter Hwang (Staff) and Yaling Lee (Parent Coordinator) for a parent meeting in Sanctuary A! We'll discuss the upcoming teaching schedule, Feb 2026 Snow Retreat, and host a Q&A session to conclude. See you all there!

SERVANT TEAM MEETING WED 28 JAN 2026, 7:00 PM

We will resume our Servant Team Meetings on Wed 28 Jan 2026 (7 PM) in Room 104. If your youth is interested in serving others in their youth group, please ask them to attend. We help plan Friday nights, inreach, outreach, and more!

SENIOR CLASS MONTHLIES STARTING MON 2 FEB 2026

Starting in February, we will host senior class get-togethers at church or at 12th grade family's home on the first Monday of every month. Peter and Johanna will host a meal / snacks, and then spend time with the 12th graders and with God either by chatting, reading God's Word, etc.

If you're a 12th grade family and want more info for your youth, reach out to Peter Hwang (peter.hwang@cciccu.org) for more details.

SMALL GROUP BONDING FRI 30 JAN 2026

Each small group will take the last Friday of January 2026 to hangout with each other (movies, escape room, cooking, game night, etc.). Please reach out to your small group parent rep and counselor for more details.

IMPORTANT!

- **23 Jan 2026, 9:30 PM:** Youth Parent Meeting (Sanctuary A)
- **13-16 Feb 2026:** Snow Retreat (Camp Chinquapin) tinyurl.com/snowretreat2026
- **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



Transitioning to 2026

Pray for our students that they would be well rested from break, and move forward into 2026 knowing that God has provided for them everything they need to face this upcoming year and school season head on. Pray that they recognize and experience God's peace, joy, and victory in their daily life.

Female Youth Staff

Pray that our church finds 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).

Pray for the MIA

Pray (by name) for the youth and youth families who are mission in action (MIA). More than wanting them to participate in our events at church, we hope that they know that God is faithful and true to them, and will never abandon or forsaken, and will always be their light and salvation (Psalm 27).

Snow Retreat Planning & Prep

Pray for the planning and preparation for our upcoming snow retreat. It has been quite a few years since we've gone to the snow, and the planning has proven difficult due to scheduling and logistics across three churches. Pray for wisdom in the planning, obedience to God's leading and guiding, and encouragement and blessings throughout the whole planning process for both students and leaders.

Youth Leaders and Volunteers

Praise God for our youth leaders and volunteers, and pray that God continues to protect and provide abundantly for them in their work, studies, ministry focus, and youth group involvement. Pray for opportunities to talk about God, prioritization of prayer, and a daily life walked in step with the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the Youth to Live Life In the Spirit

Pray for our students as they continue this 2025-2026 year that they would continue to choose to live out their daily lives in the Spirit and the kingdom of Light instead of in the flesh and in the dominion of darkness. Pray that they choose love before all else. Pray that they choose to serve than to be served. Pray that they choose Jesus as their hero, instead of trying to be the hero for themselves and for others. Pray that they desire to know more about God because of how He has impacted and influenced their life (in small and big ways). Pray for our youth to see how God loves them, cherishes them, and desires what is best for them in every part of life.

Praise the Lord! :)

Praise God for a wonderful new years lock-in / sleepover with CCIC-SJ and CCIC-CSJ. **Praise God** for an incredible 2025 filled with tremendous spiritual growth for many of our students. **Praise God** for something that you think about today, and give God thanks and glory for His leading in your life!

