

CCIC-CU LIFE Newsletter



89 people participated in our annual Snow Retreat across three churches. It was a transformative and restful retreat at Camp Chinquapin (Photo: E. Young).

Inside Insights

- Retreat Reflections (Peter H.)
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- **Snow Retreat Photos**
- March Events, featuring **Praise & Prayer Night (3/20)**
- Prayer Requests

March 2026 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday								
1 Sunday Service (9:30 AM)	2	3	4 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	5	6 AWANA Grand Prix (7:30 PM)	7								
8 Sunday Service (9:30 AM)	9	10	11 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	12 Senior Class Monthly (6:00 PM)	13 Youth Group (7:30 PM)	14								
15 Sunday Service (9:30 AM)	16	17	18 Servant Team Mtg (7:00 PM)	19	20 Praise & Prayer @ CCIC-SJ (7:30 PM)	21								
22 Sunday Service (9:30 AM)	23	24	25 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	26	27 Youth Group (7:30 PM)	28								
29 Sunday (9:30 AM) + Music Practice (1:00 PM)	30	31												
<p>COLOR KEY</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> Youth</td> <td> Parents</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Bonding</td> <td> No Youth Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td> ImpactCF</td> <td> Missions / Retreat</td> </tr> <tr> <td> AWANA</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>							 Youth	 Parents	 Bonding	 No Youth Group	 ImpactCF	 Missions / Retreat	 AWANA	
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Reflections On Snow Retreat

by Peter Hwang (Youth Staff)

Anxious, excited, frustrated, hopeful, tired, rejuvenated, stressed, rested – I went through a rollercoaster of emotions (mostly internally) throughout the planning and the retreat (13-16 Feb 2026). I also still have a lingering cough that I can't shake off! Yet I can confidently say that I would do it all over again. Why?

Witnessed encounters with Jesus (in every which way): Our theme highlighted encounters with Jesus from the book of John, and I really felt that most of the youth could relate to those stories. When we experience healing and forgiveness by God, what happens when we don't really care, or don't even want it? When we are caught in our sin and our shame, how does God see us? Do we feel like we can present ourselves before God? Is it even acceptable to come to God in our brokenness and shame? Pastor Dan, Pastor Edwin, and Elanor gave incredible talks that walked us through these questions and emotional states, and pointed us to the truth that God is good, faithful and loving. God "did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17 ESV). The grace and truth of Jesus our Lord and Savior spoke powerfully throughout the retreat, and allowed students to be reminded that God is with us, for us, and also in us by the Holy Spirit.

Encouraged by the youth, especially their love for God and others: Every time I go to Snow Retreat at Camp Chinquapin, I always experience tremendous encouragement from our youth. Personally, I received a lot of encouragement notes, received prayer from some students, and had really open and vulnerable one-on-one discussions with a few students. I also saw how **the youth loved one another**. Hundreds of encouragement notes were written; packed lunches were made for those who went skiing; and luggage and ski/snowboard equipment were moved in and out of buses by our older students during our return trip fiasco. To me, they demonstrated incredible witness to the new life in the Spirit by how they loved each other. As Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Experienced rest in the midst of the storm: There was a moment during the trip where I felt like an airline representative who was dealing with cancelled flights. Everything was truly out of my hands. People asked what was happening, and all I could say was, "We're doing our best," or, "We'll update you as soon as we have more information." At that moment, things felt completely out of my control. And in that very same moment, God gave me and the other leaders a sense of peace and rest. What else could we do but trust Him, lean on Him, and know that His ways are not our ways, and His understanding is not our understanding? I learned that when we do our due diligence, we also need to remember to pray to God, trust in His goodness, and look to Him expectantly for a response and answer. So, we prayed. We rested. We remembered that God was with us. We enjoyed the time together in the snowstorm and in the uncertainty, for we are "being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father" (Col. 1:11-12a). --

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Ps. 23:1-4)

God In Sports

by Erica Lu (7th Grade)

Many of us play sports, or do activities and hobbies. When we do these things, we may compete for first place, like in cheer, dance, racing, team sports, or something else. Sports can really reflect one's relationship with God through how a person faces challenges, and how they treat others.

I've always had a fear of going backwards, but I'm also a gymnast, and those two don't really go well together. Whenever I prepare a skill that requires going backwards, I always tell myself that God is always there, and He will strengthen me mentally in these tough moments, like it says in Isaiah 41:10.

I always talk to God before, during and after my events. Remembering that God is there gives me confidence when I'm doing something that makes my heart race. Afterwards, I thank him for helping me through the event, including keeping me alive. Overall, it's important to pray constantly, even outside of sports (Ephesians 6:18).

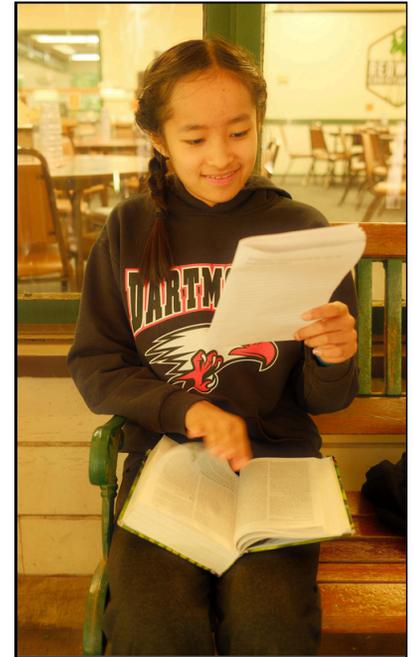
Another thing is that we should always honor God in everything we do (1 Corinthians 10:31). We are taught to never be jealous or prideful, but this is hard for me (if I'm being honest). Oftentimes, many people are more skilled than me, and it's hard not to feel down, or be envious.

This reminds me of Jonathan who was the heir to the throne of King Saul, and also best friends with David, the anointed (and next) king of Israel. In 1 Samuel 18:3-4, Jonathan gave up his robe, armor, sword, bow and belt for David as a way to submit and honor God's appointed king. Jonathan did this not out of jealousy, but out of love for his friend and for his God.

Also, always stay humble. Proverbs 16:18 (ESV) says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Being prideful of your success can not only bring you down, but others down as well.

Personally, I think the point of sports is to show your faith in God, to worship or honor God by showing thanks to him for our talents and abilities, and to reflect Christlike character, like being humble instead of prideful, and showing admiration for others instead of being envious, ashamed or jealous. --

"You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, and I will uphold you with my righteous right hand"
(Isaiah 41:9b-10 ESV)



Erica (7th) at summer retreat to read God's Word for her morning devotional (Photo: E. Young).

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

Johanna Chen Lee: Counselor for Class of 2026

Beginning in February 2026, Johanna Chen Lee has moved back with her husband from the South, and rejoin us as a youth counselor for 12th grade! Here are some Q&As from Johanna! :)

Tell us something about your family. We are all foodies!

What is the strangest job you've ever had?

I'm just your average "Jo." No strange jobs yet.

What is the best gift (besides salvation from God) that you have ever received?

I've been blessed by God to know many generous givers in my life, so choosing one gift is hard. But recently a close friend sacrificed something big for Shin and I. It was a costly gift and I'm very grateful for that friend's selfless heart.

Why did you choose to volunteer in youth ministry?

I really believe how youth are being brought up these days will determine how their future will be like. Middle school and high school are where your personality, character, values, beliefs are formed. I hope I can help the youth see that through everything that comes with life, God is who we can have hope and trust in. He is the ultimate redeemer who will make all things new, starting with us in this broken world.

What is your favorite memory in youth ministry? Why?

It's hard to pick a favorite. A few moments that come to mind are the first day of youth group, deep conversations during retreats/missions, and now when I witness how much the youth has grown in maturity. The first day of youth group was memorable because the boys in my grade were chasing each other around sanctuary B, biting one another, and stealing each other's shoes. I remember going home and thanking my parents for their patience while raising me, haha.

How can people pray for you

right now in your life? Shin's back has been injured for over a year now and it's hard to watch someone you love be in pain. Ultimately prayer for healing, but also for wisdom, hope, and joy during the recovery process.



Johanna (left) and husband Shin (right) pose for a quick, cutie-patootie picture (Photo: J. Lee).



Top: Johanna (left) and Sarah (right) enjoy conversation while hiking around Pinecrest Lake.



Left: Counselors Michelle (left) and Johanna (right) get ready for a hike to Pinecrest Lake (Photos: J. Zhao).

Snow Retreat (February 13-16)

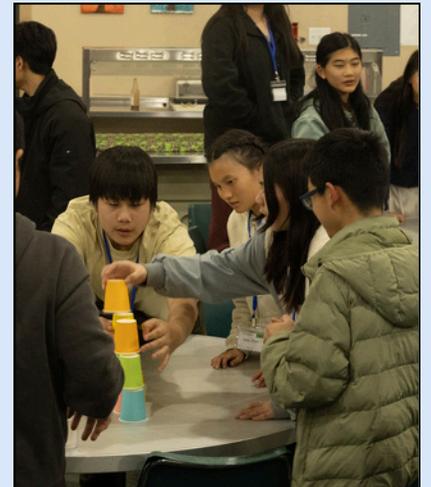
From February 13-16, our church joined Arise Church and CCIC South Valley at Camp Chinquapin for our annual February retreat. We returned back to the snow, and enjoyed incredible food, silly icebreakers, a day at the lake, student-led music, creative skits, and most importantly, encounters with Jesus. Enjoy some photos! --



Pastor Dan speaks about the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus for the first session of retreat (Photo: E. Young).



Counselor Irene shares a French phrase for Zhiling (6th) for a team icebreaker of international telephone (Photo: E. Young).



Josh (8th), Kate (8th), Junie (4th), Derek (7th) collaborate to build their cup tower in the correct order (Photo: E. Young).



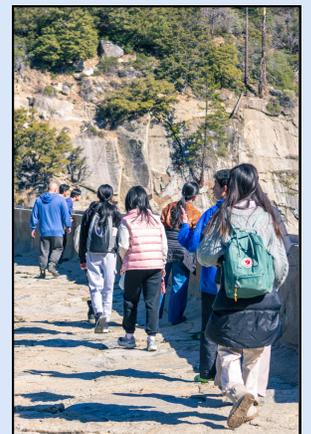
Top: Zach (11th), Josh (8th), Joseph (11th), Hope (12th) lead music on Monday morning (Photo: E. Young).

Bottom: Royal (6th) and Zaien (7th) enjoying the snowfall in the afternoon (Photo: J. Zhao).

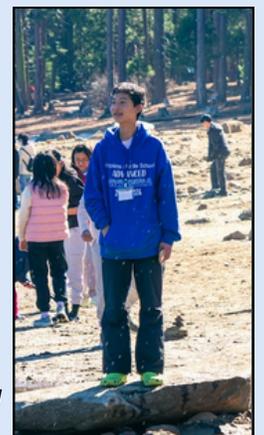


Top: Johnny (10th), Kate (8th), Nicole (12th) performed a skit of Jesus healing a man born blind (Photo: E. Young).

Right: A group of students venture on a four mile hike around Pinecrest Lake on Sunday (Photo: J. Zhao).



Hello, from Hsuaning (10th) (Photo: J. Zhao).



Right-Top: Roger (8th) enjoying the view at Pinecrest Lake (Photo: J. Zhao).

Left: 10-person pyramid from the group game winner Team 8 (Photo: S. Htin).

March 2026 Events

BIBLE READING CLUB (BYOB) WEDNESDAYS 7:30 PM, ROOM 142

Starting in March 2026, we will begin a weekly Bible Reading Club on Wednesday nights (7:30 PM, Room 142). We believe the word of God is alive and active (Heb. 4:12), and those who read God's Word and obey it will be blessed (Luke 11:28). Let's read God's Word together. Currently, we are starting at the "very end." Lastly, BYOB (Bring Your Own Bible).

SERVANT TEAM MTG WED 18 MAR 2026, 7 PM

Join us at our monthly servant team meeting on Wed 18 Mar 2026, 7 PM (dinner is provided). We will talk about our preparation for the Praise & Prayer night, share updates from current ministry activities, and plan for Good Friday! Serve your fellow youth. Join servant team!

SENIOR MONTHLY MEETS THU 12 MAR 2026, 6 PM

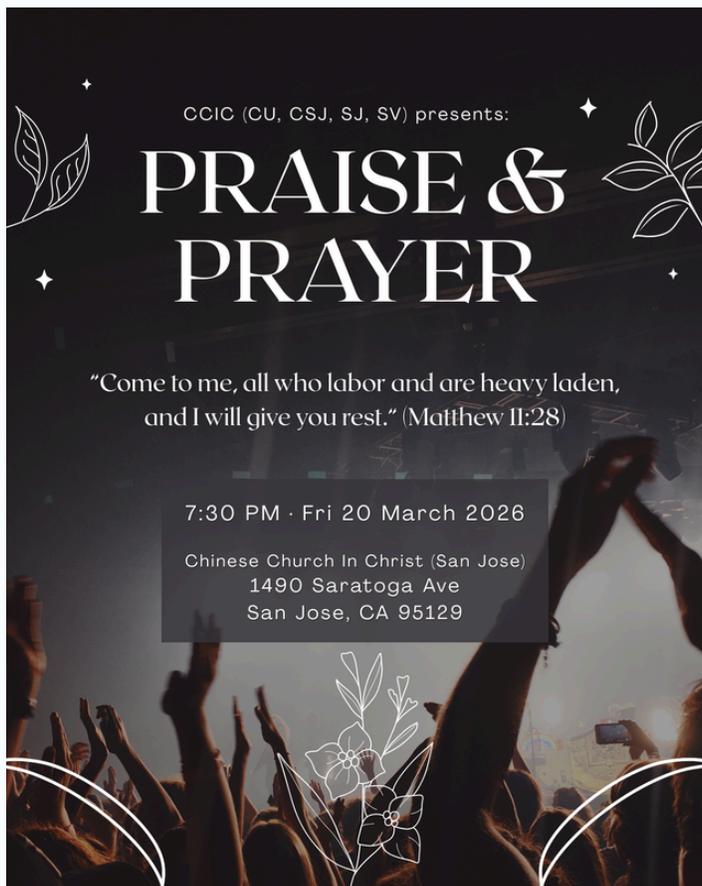
This month, the senior class will get together to learn how to cook some simple meals so they will not starve in college. They will also do another AMA (Ask Me Anything) for the leads. If you're a 12th grader and want more info, contact Johanna (johannachen77@gmail.com).



Our Mexico Missions team is at capacity (24 ppl)! PTL! We will begin interviews with each candidate, trainings, and fundraising.

MEXICO MISSIONS

16-23 JUNE 2026 · ENSENADA, MX
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YWAM



CCIC (CU, CSJ, SJ, SV) presents:

PRAISE & PRAYER

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

7:30 PM · Fri 20 March 2026

Chinese Church In Christ (San Jose)
1490 Saratoga Ave
San Jose, CA 95129

IMPORTANT!

- **20 Mar 2026, 7:30 PM:** Praise & Prayer Night (CCIC San Jose)
- **3-5 Apr 2026:** Good Friday and Easter Sunday
- **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

PRAISE GOD FOR AN AMAZING RETREAT!

Let's continue to praise God for how He watched over our youth during the retreat. God not only provided safe passage for our students there and back, he also provided 18 young adult volunteers who joined all the retreat activities and sacrificed a long weekend in order to support the students, have spiritual conversations, and serve our students out of their love for God and others. I also want to praise God for how easily it was to work alongside the two other churches. The students were open to meeting new people, and were all able to see how God works across different communities, cities, and even cultural context.

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).

Praise & Prayer Night Preparations

Pray for the planning for leaders across four (4) CCIC churches as they prepare for a night of praise music and prayer. Pray that students who attend this night will build relationships across churches, enjoy a night where they can find rest in Jesus Christ who said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matt. 11:29 ESV). Pray for rest as we put on the easy yoke of Jesus Christ.

NEW Bible Reading Club

Pray for the newly launched Bible Reading Club on Wednesday nights (7:30 PM in Room 108), that the students who attend will be blessed by reading the Word of God aloud together. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides the conversation as we read through the book of Revelations to begin this weekly meeting.

Pray for the Youth to Live Life In the Spirit

Pray for our students that they continue to desire a relationship with God through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Pray that they have opportunities to ask questions and receive answers from the Holy Spirit through classmates, counselors, leaders, and parents. Pray that students understand that trusting in God with their daily life is a true alternative to trusting in the world and in themselves. Pray that our students encounter Jesus, and desire to know Him more by reading and loving the Word of God. Pray that our youth would be a beacon of light to those around them, and would be givers of life.

Praise the Lord! :)

Praise God for such an amazing AWANA Grand Prix event! Praise God that there were so many visitors who came to our church and engaged with our leaders, families, and youth. Praise God that the whole church came together to serve and love our church and the neighboring community, demonstrating a life worthy of the gospel of Christ!