CCIC-CU LIFE Newsletter





Five (5) CCIC youth groups joined together in mid-October for a praise and prayer night to sing together, fellowship together, learn from God's Word, and to pray for one another. Praise God for any incredible event together as a body of Christ across 200+ attendees, 160+ youth (Photos: E. Chen).

November 2026 Youth Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Sun School (11 AM)	2	3	4 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	5	6 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)	7 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)
8 Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)	9	10	11 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	12	13 Youth Group (7:30 PM)	14
15 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #1 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	16	17	18 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	19	20 Jesus Night Live (7:30 PM)	21
22 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #2 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	23	24	25 Bible Reading Club (7:30 PM)	26 Thanksgiving	27 No Youth Group	28
29 Impact CF (9:30 AM); Baptism Class #3 (12:30 PM, Rm 142)	30	COLOR KEY: Youth, Bonding, ImpactCF, AWANA, Parents, No Youth Group, Missions				

How do you measure success?

by Peter Hwang (Youth Minister)

Recently, I had a few conversations and heard a few podcasts that gave me a *reality check* about **success**, especially from the perspective of a follower of Christ. Everything started when I heard about how a middle school student went to his dad with his head down, dropped shoulders, and downcast eyes and quietly expressed that they do not think they will ever become a successful person: **"Dad, I don't think I'm going to be a successful person."**

They looked around at all of their peers at school, in their extracurricular activities, and came to a realization that they are just not as good as everyone else. Now, this might be surprising for a parent in the Bay Area to hear, Christian or not. However, to this Christ-following family and dad, this was especially difficult! So, this made me think of a **few questions**:

- How does *your family* think about success? How do *you* measure success?
- Do *you* think about success in temporary or eternal terms?
- Does our gift of eternal life, and our hope in the coming of Jesus Christ make a difference in our every day life?

For my family, I think we are still wrestling between the ways of the world and the ways of the Spirit. For the longest time, my parents thought that my achievements, and my job at a highly sought after tech company were the pinnacles of success. I earned a six-figure salary, worked with brilliant people, had great health care, and benefits that were unheard of at the time such as free shuttles, three meals a day, and dogs in the office. As my journey with that company continued, I felt like I was stuck in a "golden prison" that did NOT have a lock. I was free to leave anytime, but I felt safe, comfortable, and unsure about what life would look like if I did leave this job.

Now, I am still wrestling with this idea of success. Right now, I measure success by how well I am living out the eternal life that comes from my relationship with Jesus Christ. For me, success is not focused on the material things that I can collect and gather and even achieve. Instead, success is more about how well I am living out my new life in the Spirit through Christ. I already have the gift of eternal life through what Christ did for me on the cross and by His resurrection. So, how well am I now living from the abundance of that new life, or from my relationship with Christ?

It has been almost two and a half years since I left that company. I have been asked countless times whether I ever want to go back; if I have any regrets. I can emphatically and honestly say that I have no regrets for leaving and choosing youth ministry at CCIC. Yes, there are many differences between the two, and I do miss my former co-workers. But the main reason I have no regrets is the joy and the impact of living out my love for God and others through serving at this church. This joy in the Lord not only outweighs my time at the tech company, it completely crushes it.

I see success as being something that many already possess! For those of us who have professed our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we have eternal life! We have the ultimate gift of all, an eternal life that can never get destroyed, rust or perish, but that we have each received by grace through faith in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

So, are we successful? As believers, YES, we have eternity through our hope and faith in Jesus. As non-believers, YOU CAN HAVE IT, if you receive Jesus into your life as your Lord and Savior. More than any grade, test result, university acceptance, job offer, and even relationship with others, all of us who follow Christ have a new life, a new identity, and a new name in the Spirit. We are born of the Spirit, children of the Spirit, and co-heirs with Christ. We are brothers and sisters, and we are the family of Christ the Lord Most High.

Now, brothers and sisters, let's live out this life by going forth in love, caring for others first, and sharing the good news of Jesus so that others can also be successful. ---

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, ... and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Eph. 2:1-5 ESV).

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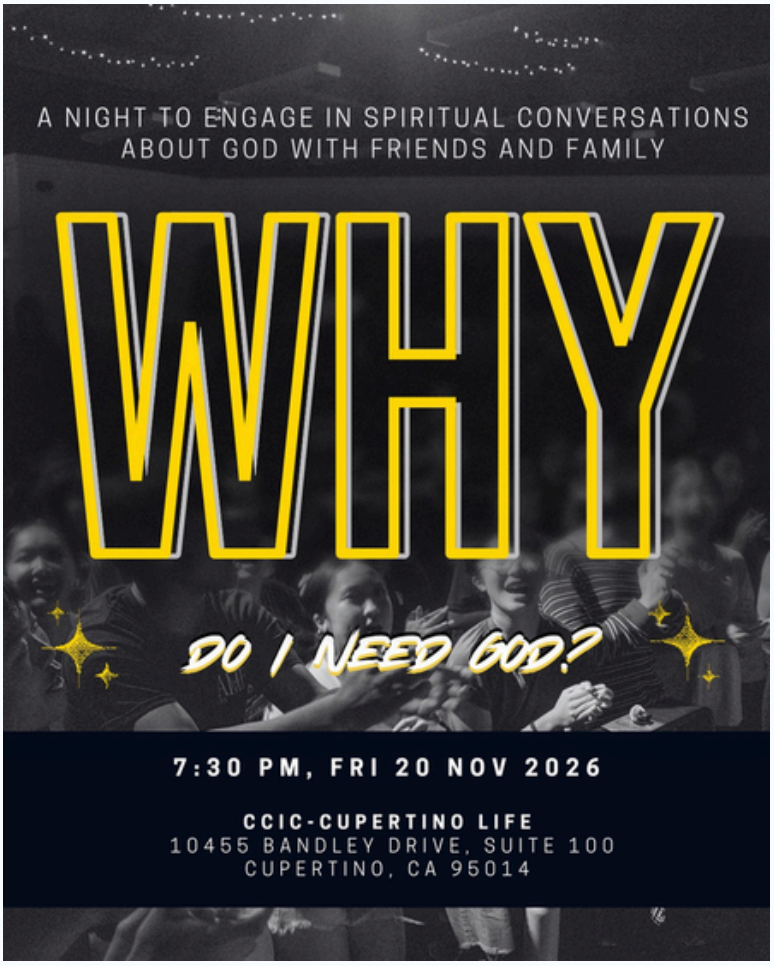
Our goal is to share monthly reflections and update about our CCIC-CU LIFE youth ministry to encourage and build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-16 ESV).

November 2026 Events

BIBLE READING CLUB
EVERY WED AT 7:30 PM

Join us for our weekly Bible Reading Club on Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM, in classroom 104, as we continue our adventures reading Ephesians and learning how to live out our faith daily!







IMPORTANT!

- **6-8 Nov 2026:** Winter Retreat (Mission Springs)
- **4 Dec 2026:** Baptism Service
- **13-16 Feb 2027:** Snow Retreat (Camp Chinquapin)
- **15-22 Jun 2027:** Mexico Missions (YWAM Ensenada)
- **30 Jul to 2 Aug 2027:** Summer Retreat (Mt. Gilead)

Praise & Prayer Night

by Joseph Zhao (11th grade) and P. Hwang

On Friday 2 Oct 2026, CCIC San Jose hosted one of many joint events across the CCIC youth groups: Praise & Prayer Night. 200+ youth and adult volunteers joined together in Sanctuary B to play icebreakers, sing praise songs, hear from God's Word, and to receive prayers and give prayers to one another. Our churches have begun to host events together more and more because many of our students go to the same schools, participate in similar extracurricular events, and have built relationships over the years of retreats and joint events together. Pastor Joe encouraged the students with his sharing on walking in faith, and approaching God confidently because we have the Holy Spirit living within us. Students encouraged each other by singing together and praying for one another, and it was a night filled with joy and laughter! ---



Top: *At the event, students had opportunities to pray.* ***Michelle*** *(counselor),* ***Amber*** *(11th), and* ***Nayul*** *(11th) joined to pray for one another (Photo: E. Chen).*



Deborah *(counselor) and* ***Russell*** *(counselor) lead music with counselors from CU, SJ, and SV (Photo: E. Chen).*



Andrew *(counselor) praying and singing to God (Photo: E. Chen).*



Over 160 youth across five (5) CCIC churches gathered together for a night of praise and prayer (Photo: E. Chen).

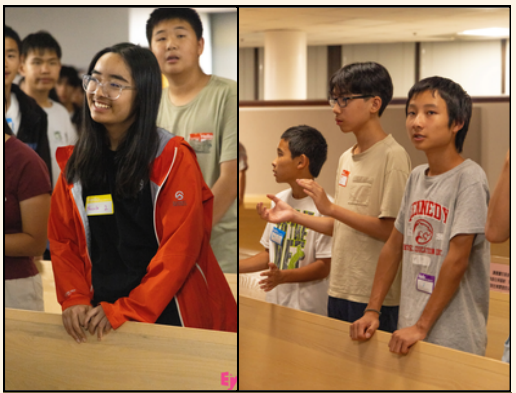


Students make sounds and actions to imitate animals they were assigned to during the ice breaker in hopes of finding fellow youth with the same (Photo: E. Chen).





Top: Jonathan *(11th),* ***Daniel*** *(10th),* ***Bryan*** *(9th),* ***Aaron*** *(9th),* ***Victor*** *(12th) sing worship songs.* ***Left: Zachary*** *(12th) shares a testimony about what it looked like to trust in God in difficult times (Photos: E. Chen).*



L: Nicole *(12th) smiles along;* ***R: Ben*** *(6th),* ***Zaien*** *(8th), and* ***Brad*** *(8th) clap together (Photos: E. Chen).*



Prayer Requests

Take 5-10 minutes to pray!

As you read through these prayer requests, use this time to also pray through 2-3 of these request. Prayer is one of the most powerful things we can do as a church body for one another, as demonstrated by Paul in his prayer for the Ephesians (Eph. 1:15-23). Thank you for your heart and time to pray for us!

For youth baptism

Pray for students and their families as our upcoming bi-annual baptism service is coming up on Fri 4 Dec 2026. Pray that students would desire to get baptized as an external physical sign of their internal transformation and new life through their faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that youth who trust in God would desire to get baptized, and that those who are unsure about their faith in Jesus would be willing to attend the classes in November 2026.

For opportunities to share the good news

Pray that our youth, parents, young adult volunteers, and staff would continue to seek out opportunities to share the good news of Jesus to our friends and family, our community, our schools, and our cities. Pray for students who are inviting their friends to join us for the outreach event, for youth who are part of Christian clubs that desire to share the eternal gift of life through knowing Jesus, for our young adult volunteers who encounter non-believers in their schools and workplaces every day. Pray for our parents to demonstrate God's love to their family and friends, and for opportunities to talk about who God is, why we believe in Him, and why God matters to us now and forevermore.

For Winter Retreat (6-8 Nov 2026)

Pray for the upcoming Winter Retreat, that our English ministry could come together as one group across youth, young adults, and also youth from CCIC Tri-Valley, and be encouraged by God's Word spoken through YWAM Ensenada's mission lead Josh and Corrin Michaelis. Pray that it would be a time of rest and refreshment in the Lord for everyone who attends, and that we would be spurred on to continue walking in faith and abiding in God's Word in our daily lives.

For student-led outreach event

Pray for the upcoming outreach event, "WHY do I need God?" (Fri 20 Nov 2026), as our students lead that event in collaboration with Peter and guest speaker Elanor. Pray that the evening would serve to welcome newcomers warmly, and provide a glimpse into the kingdom of heaven through our community, music, sharing, and fellowship as a church body. Pray that non-believers would be interested in having spiritual conversations about their background, and about God. Pray for wisdom about how to share God's love through our words and actions that night.

Praise God for faithfulness

Praise God for continuing to faithfully demonstrate to our church that in spite of changes in leadership, new beginnings with the school year and new students, etc., God has continued to use His church to build one another up for the common good. Praise God that people are still coming to know Jesus, that newcomers continue to get a chance to hear the good news of Jesus in spite of everything. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25 ESV).

"I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:16-17 ESV).