

2021 Youth Ministry Annual Report

Pastor Ivan Yu

Mission: *“To live life as disciples of Christ in four unique ways: Know, Grow, Show, Go”*

Dear CGCM family,

It is with great excitement and humility that we can look back and see what God has done in the Youth Ministry this past year. Despite the challenges that the pandemic continues to bring, we praise God for His faithfulness and grace, as we saw opportunities for the youth to fellowship and serve in-person. Thank you to the faithful coworkers and leaders who continue to serve in the church!

In Christ,
Pastor Ivan

Youth Fellowship

Due to the pandemic, from January to May, the Friday Youth Fellowships continued to meet online via Zoom. We followed the format of having icebreaker games, worship, sermon, small group discussions, and prayer.



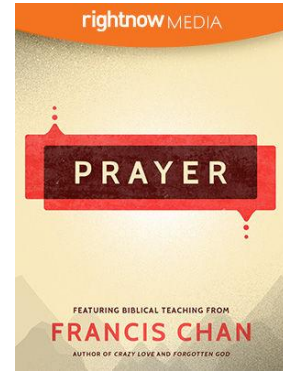
During this time, Pastor Ivan preached two sermon series:

- January to March – **“Follow Me”** – A seven-part series about discipleship. To follow Jesus means to be His disciple in every aspect of our lives as Christians. This series covered how to grow in our personal relationship with God and influence one another to follow Jesus as His disciples. (<https://bit.ly/3ey9NKe>)



- April to June – **“Faithful Service”** – A six-part series about serving God that includes an introduction about spiritual gifts, how we are to use them to serve in the church, how to discern our call to serve, and how to be a faithful servant. Prior to this series, the youth took a spiritual gifts survey to discover what God may have given them to serve in the church. After this series, Pastor Ivan introduced Student Ministry Teams for the youth to serve in. (<https://bit.ly/3pDOuxk>)

Beginning in June, we were excited to open the opportunity for students to join the Youth Fellowship in-person while still giving online as an option. Meeting in-person helped the youth reconnect in church and build stronger relationships not only with one another, but with God as well.



- July to August – **“Prayer”** – During the summer, we went through a four-part video series by Francis Chan on prayer and had discussions in small groups. (<https://bit.ly/349kjG4>)

Other sermons:

- 8/13 – **“Prideful Planning”** – James 4:13-17 – Pastor Ivan Yu (<https://bit.ly/3mETKiw>)
- 8/20 – **“Trust Jesus in our Storms”** – Mark 4:35-41- Pastor Ivan Yu

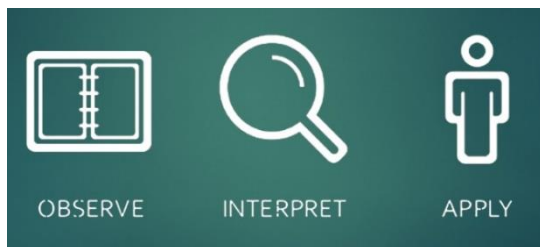
We are very thankful to Denise Zhong, a college student who committed her time to help lead small groups for the girls from January to July! Starting the new school year in September, we began a new format for the fellowship involving Bible Study through the book of Mark which will continue into 2022. Throughout the year, we had other special fellowship activities and events which are listed in a later section of this report.

Sunday School

This year, we had the following Sunday School classes for the youth.

Winter Semester (1/10-3/28)

- **Discussion about C.S. Lewis’ *The Chronicles of Narnia*** (Middle School Girls) – Zhai Pei and Leona Leighton.
- **How to Study the Bible** (Middle School Boys and High School) – Pastor Ivan Yu
 - A class on how to study the Bible using the Inductive Bible Study Method.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>
1/10	Introduction and Overview of Inductive Bible Study Method
1/17	Observation - Bible Study: Isaiah 6:1-5
1/24	Interpretation - Bible Study: Isaiah 6:1-5
1/31	Application - Bible Study: Isaiah 6:1-5
2/7	Bible Study: Luke 10:38-42
2/14	No Sunday School (Winter Teen Conference)
2/21	Bible Study: Galatians 5:13-15
2/28	No Sunday School (Congregation Meeting)
3/7	Bible Study: 1 Peter 4:12-19
3/14	How to Study Biblical Narrative - Bible Study: Genesis 22:1-19
3/21	Bible Study: Mark 4:35-41
3/28	Bible Study: Numbers 21:4-9

Spring Semester (4/11-6/27)

- **Questions and Answers** – Pastor Ivan Yu
 - A class that addresses and invites discussions about the hard questions students anonymously submitted about Christianity, the Bible, and living the Christian life.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Topics</u>
4/11	Introduction: A Theology of Asking Questions
4/18	What is the Trinity?
4/25	The Truthfulness and Accuracy of Scripture
5/2	The Existence and Deity of Jesus
5/9	The Existence of God
5/16	Knowing God's Will
5/23	The Age of the Earth – Evolution/Creationism
5/30	No Sunday School (Memorial Day Weekend)
6/6	Halloween/Angels/Demons
6/13	Pleasing God and Dealing with Sin
6/20	No Sunday School (Outdoor Worship)
6/27	How to Pray

Fall Semester (9/19-12/12)

- **Relationships** – Pastor Ivan Yu
 - A class that explores why we are made to be in relationships, how we can honor God in the different relationships of our lives, and how we are to view ourselves in these relationships.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>
9/19	Trinity: Relational God, Relational Beings
9/26	Identity: View of the Self
10/3	God and Us: Vertical Relationship
10/10	Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Horizontal Relationships (Part 1)
10/17	No Sunday School (Outdoor Worship)
10/24	No Sunday School (Annual Congregation Meeting)
10/31	Origin of Halloween and Reformation Day
11/7	Christians and Non-Believers: Horizontal Relationships (Part 2)
11/14	No Sunday School
11/21	Parents and Children
11/28	No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)
12/5	Dating Relationships
12/12	No Sunday School (Packing for Friendship Baskets)

Student Ministry Teams

Student Ministry Teams (SMT) were officially introduced in September. These teams exist for youths who are believers of Christ to grow in love and service to God, other believers in the church, and those who do not know Christ yet. Qualified youths commit to serve on one of five

teams during the school year from September to June. Each team is led by an adult leader with monthly meetings for ministry planning and discipleship.

2021-2022 Teams

Creatives Team

- Leaders: Winnie Hua, Lichun Xu
 - Members: Jana Chan, Joanna Jiao, Andrew Wang, Katherine Zhang
- Designed various logos, flyers, and Instagram posts for promoting special church events and activities.
 - Changed the seasonal decorations in the English Sanctuary.

Programming Team

- Leader: Pastor Ivan
 - Members: Gary Chang, Terry Chang, Aaron Liu, Anthony Lu, Alex Wang
- Prepared and led games and activities for Friday Youth Fellowships.
 - Planned potential 2022 events.



Shepherding Team

- Leader: Pastor Ivan
 - Members: Viola Li, Eric Sun, Katherine Wu, Rachael Yuan
- Prepared welcome care packages for new 7th graders.

Tech Team

- Leader: Jonathan Shek
 - Members: Alex Qi, Max Qi, Vincent Zhang, Jeromy Zhong
- Run the A/V for Sunday English Worship Services and Friday Youth Fellowships.

Worship Team

- Leader: Pastor Ivan
 - Members: Coco Jiang, Sonia Kang, Ethan Liu, Elliot Xu, Dorothy Zhang
- Lead worship songs for Friday Youth Fellowships.



Winter Teen Conference 2021

Winter Teen Conference was held from February 12-15, 2021 with other participating churches including Boston Chinese Evangelical Church, Chinese Bible Church of Greater Lowell, and Christian Gospel Church in Worcester. Due to the pandemic, the conference this year was online via Zoom. A total of 136 youths participated including 49 from CGCM.



The guest speaker this year was Pastor Cristobal Tong from New York Chinese Alliance Church. He shared four messages under the theme of “Reconnecting...” Following the life of the Apostle Paul, we learned about reconnecting with yourself, God, the Church, and community.



WorkCampNE

Like last year, WorkCampNE was held locally in Westborough at the Chapel of the Cross from July 25-30, 2021. There were 26 youths and 3 adults from CGCM who participated alongside with three other local churches. Youths were placed in one of fifteen crews to work on a residence’s home including interior/exterior painting, deck building/staining and yardwork.



This year's theme is "Hope" based on Hebrews 6:19 to remind ourselves of the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Our own Pastor Eric was the speaker for that week!

Photos from WorkcampNE: <https://bit.ly/3zmS2Hm>



2021 Events and Fellowship Activities

- 2/12-15 - Winter Teen Conference (Online)
- 2/16 - High School Girls Online Baking Party to make lemon bars
- 3/19 – Game Night (Jackbox Games)
- 3/26 - Online Joint Fellowship with CBCGL (Lowell)
Hosanna – Joint Worship Recording: <https://youtu.be/QQgOpf-5BxM>
- 4/10 – Help Pastor Ivan move
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3JCV1v>
- 4/19 - Fellowship at Ellsworth McAfee Park (Northborough)
Photos: <https://bit.ly/32BeyAJ>
- 4/21 - Board Games at Church
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3HuassF>
- 4/23 - Help neighbor in need move.
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3pO4P2q>
- 4/23 – Prepare for Mother's Day Video (5/9): <https://youtu.be/DJOaNi7QzX8>

- **6/18** - Senior Graduation Celebration
- **7/20** - Make Bubble Tea at church and deliver to new 7th graders
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3eLjGVm>
- **7/24** - Passion Night with CBCGL (Lowell)
- **7/25-30** – WorkcampNE
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3zmS2Hm>
- **8/3** - Paint Pastor Ivan’s Fence and lunch
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3eLoGsR>
- **8/10** - Make Edible Arrangements at church
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3pPzNY6>
- **8/24** - Church Clean-up and Movie (The Case for Christ)
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3FRQXKm>
- **8/27** – Game Night (Board Games and Jackbox Games)
- **10/1** – Organized Game Night
- **10/11** - Hiking Fellowship with CGCW (Worcester) at 911 Memorial Trail/Field
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3ETPxh0>
- **11/12** - Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing event
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3pMFFBt>
 - Twenty youths participated during event. A total of 51 shoeboxes were packed by the church and delivered to children in Cote d’Ivoire and Mali.
- **12/10** – Christmas Decorating in MPR and Lunch Room
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3mQVO73>
- **12/12** – Help Pack donated items for Friendship Baskets with the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center
Photos: <https://bit.ly/31lLhJr>
- **12/17** – Gingerbread House Building and Secret Santa Gift Exchange
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3Hx96O0>

Miscellaneous

- **Baptism:** Emily Wu and Rachael Yuan were baptized on 4/3!

Photos: <https://bit.ly/34ale97>



- **Graduation:** 11 seniors from the Class of 2021 graduated High School. Congratulations to Alston Lin, Kevin Huang, Emma Shek, Audrea Song, Anthony Wang, Ryan Wong, Emily Wu, Mabel Xu, Casey Zhang, Thomas Zhang, and Allen Zou!

Senior Celebration Slideshow Video: <https://youtu.be/2L4Wo4zD33A>



- Thank you to **Leona Leighton** for her faithful service in the Youth Ministry since 2018. May God bless her as she moves to Chicago and begin a new chapter of her life!
- This year, we unveiled a new design for the youth website! <http://cgcm.org/youth>

Selected Photos



Bubble Tea Fellowship!



Lunch at Pastor Ivan's home



Making Edible Arrangements!



Weeding the playground area



Telephone Charades



Four on a Couch Game



Leading Sunday Worship



Tech Team



Hiking Fellowship with CGCW!



Playing One Night Ultimate Werewolf



Watching Operation Christmas Child video



Packing Shoeboxes



Setting up Christmas Decorations



Gingerbread House Building