

2024 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,

Another year has gone by, and we continue to witness how God is working in our church. In 2024, our youth experienced stepping out of their comfort zones to share their faith with their friends from school and invite them to church. We also gave youth opportunities to reproduce discipleship and be trained to study the Bible on their own. We cannot accomplish these and more without our faithful coworkers who invested much of their time and care in serving and building relationships with the youth. As you read through this year’s report, we invite you to praise God for all that He has done in the Youth Ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Ivan

Youth Fellowship

The Friday Youth Fellowships in 2024 continued with our usual format of games in the MPR, worship, sermon/lesson, and small groups in the English Sanctuary.



Outreach and Evangelism

From January to March, our focus and vision was on evangelism and outreach. We desired for our youth to be open to share the gospel with their friends and invite them to church. This culminated in planning an outreach event. The following sermons were preached and training videos were shown to prepare the youth to share their faith.

- 1/5 – **You are the Light of the World** – Matthew 5:14-16
(We are not to hide as Christians but reflect God as the Light of the world for His glory)
- 1/12 – **Obedience when Faced with Fire** – Daniel 3
(God is with us when we obey Him, even in the face of unfavorable circumstances)
- 1/19 – Training Video: **5 Tips For How to Share Your Faith**
(<http://youtu.be/ymdEyG3DSzo>)
- 1/26 – Training Video: **How to Share the Gospel** (<http://youtu.be/vM1jQMTCZUg>)

3/30 Escape Room Night Outreach Event

The youth came up with the idea to hold an escape room night outreach event on 3/30. Each of the small groups spent Fridays in February and March preparing five escape room puzzles. Twenty-two school friends were invited to the event to try out the escape rooms, share a meal, and build relationships with us. The event concluded with a team of youth giving a gospel presentation and presenting gifts and prizes. Since this event, many youth have continued to invite their friends to come to church. Two students have also started a Christian Club at the Wellesley High School.



Throughout the rest of the year, the youth went through the following topics of sermon series, video series, or lessons:

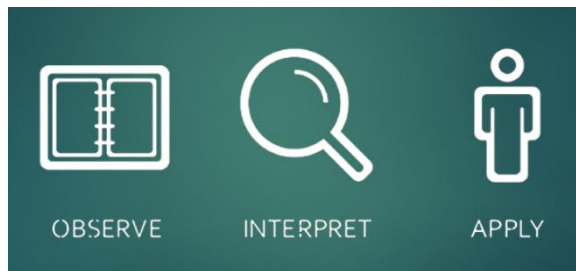
- April to June 2024 – **“What am I Singing?”** – Pastor Ivan shared a seven-part series of messages that focused on the theology and scriptural basis behind common worship songs we sing. The purpose is to understand what we are saying to God by singing these songs so that we can have true worship in our hearts.



4/12	What am I Singing #1 - Worthy of it All
4/26	What am I Singing #2 - Reckless Love
5/3	What am I Singing #3 - Promises
5/17	What am I Singing #4 - Praise
6/14	What am I Singing #5 - Sovereign
6/21	What am I Singing #6 - I Thank God

- September to October 2024 – **“Redeem the Screen”** – A three-part video series by Kyle Idleman. Our screens have power in our lives that can inspire us, but also distract us and make us mindlessly conform to what we see. In this video study, Kyle Idleman taught through Romans 12 and showed us how Jesus can transform our lives instead of our screens and how screens can become a tool to make Jesus known in the world. (<https://bit.ly/3WxU18B>)





- October to December 2024 – **Inductive Bible Study** – We have a vision for our Youth Fellowship to move to a Bible Study format within the small groups beginning in 2025. Pastor Ivan trained the youth to practice the three steps for inductive Bible study: observation, interpretation, and application. Each step of the training was practiced in small

groups by studying John 15:1-11 on separate Fridays. On 12/6, a full study was done with three steps on Mark 4:35-41. Youth were given their own notebooks for the Bible studies and encouraged to start bringing their own Bibles to church. The hope is for our youth to experience the spiritual benefit of studying the Bible on their own.

(**Inductive Bible Study Handout:** <https://bit.ly/4fOYhr6>)



Sunday School

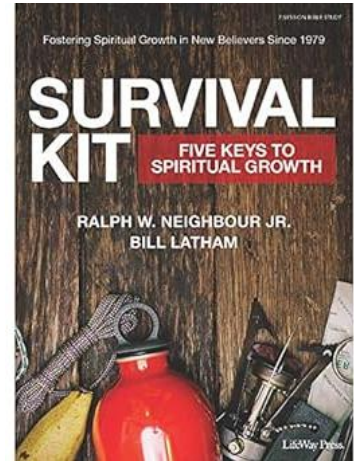
Winter Semester (1/14-4/7) and Spring Semester (4/21-6/30)

Three classes continued from the 2023 Fall Semester:

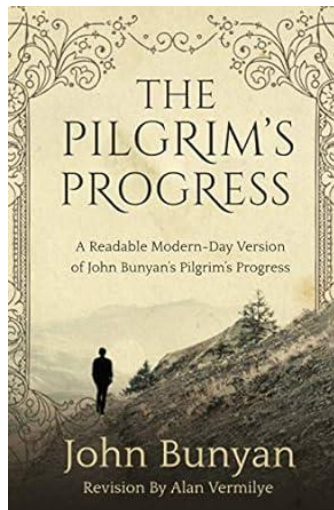
- Middle School: **Gospel of John Bible Study** – Taught by Joyce Tseng & Zhai Pei
- High School: **Gospel of John Bible Study** – Taught by Xiaochun Huang, Angela Shek, & Fu Li
- Baptized: **“Discipleship Essentials”** – Taught by Pastor Ivan Yu & Jonathan Shek

Fall Semester (9/8-12/15)

- 6th-7th Grade: **“Survival Kit: Five Keys to Spiritual Growth”**
– Pastor Ivan Yu, Jingyang Wu, and Fu Li
 - A study that helped students understand five truths from the Bible that help with their spiritual growth. This semester focused on the first two truths: *The Indwelling Christ Controlling All* (the importance of quiet time, Bible, prayer, and worship) and *One Body* (the importance of the church made up of different members with different gifts of service).



- 8th-12th Grade: **Christian Living** – **“The Pilgrim’s Progress”** – Joyce Tseng, Angela Shek, & Zhai Pei

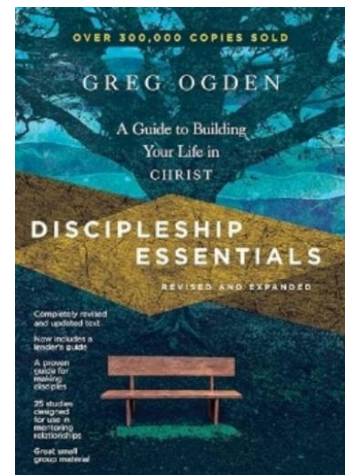


○ A book and movie study on John Bunyan’s *“The Pilgrim’s Progress”* that illustrates the spiritual life of a Christian from the beginning to the end. We discussed about how to receive salvation and what happens after that, including the temptations and trials a Christian will face on the pilgrim journey. Youth acted out scenes from the book and applied the lessons to their lives. Finally, we talked about the end of the journey - how to face death - the inevitable end for all mankind. For faithful Christians, death is just the beginning of the joyful union with the King in His Kingdom. For pilgrims who did not enter the journey in the right way and did not stay on the right path, destruction awaits. We were challenged to examine our spiritual lives and where we stand with God. There is the need to trust in Jesus as our only way to salvation.

- **The Pilgrim’s Progress movie:** https://youtu.be/XPB_GDg9qnk

- Others: **“Discipleship Essentials”**

- During the 2023-2024 school year, Pastor Ivan trained some baptized youth leaders in the discipleship group.
- To reproduce discipleship, some of these youth leaders started and led two new discipleship groups for their peers, which began this fall semester.
- Those involved in these discipleship groups learned about practicing spiritual disciplines, Bible Study, and important doctrines to grow in their faith, while keeping one another accountable in their commitments to God.



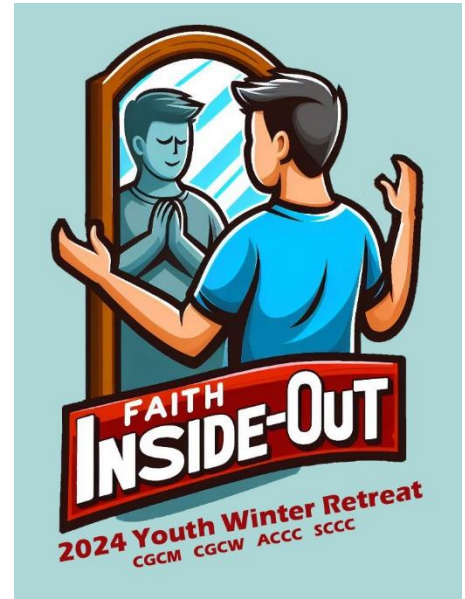
2024 Youth Winter Retreat



Since the Winter Teen Conference partnership between 8 Chinese churches was discontinued last year, we decided to have a one-day retreat on 2/17 during the youth's February break held in Worcester. This retreat was planned by leaders from CGCM, CGCW (Worcester), ACCC (Amherst), and SCCC (Springfield). 45 youth from these churches attended.

Our guest speaker was Minister Kirklin Lee from the Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Boston in Quincy. Kirklin preached on the theme "Faith Inside-Out" which is about what it means to have genuine faith that starts from the inside and is expressed on the outside. He compared the life of King David and King Saul from 1 Samuel 14 and 2 Samuel 1.

- **Minister Kirklin's sermons** may be streamed or downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/4h7F7y2>
- **Photos:** <https://bit.ly/3PosaUH>



2024 WorkCampNE



WorkCampNE was held this year at a high school in Derry, NH from July 7-13, 2024. CGCM participated with 24 youths and 5 adults alongside CGCW and other churches from different states. We thank

God that this year, we were able to provide at least one adult for every five youth we bring. Youths were placed in crews to work on a resident's home including interior/exterior painting, deck building/staining, roofing, and yardwork. For our church day trip, we went to Canobie Lake Park!

The theme for this year is "Still". Through the devotionals based on Psalm 62, youth learned how to be still and quiet before God to listen to Him amidst the trials of this life. Our memory verse was Psalm 62:1-2: *"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken."*



Like in past years, our church group meetings each evening gave us an opportunity to have serious spiritual conversations in a different setting. It was a blessing to see older students share and encourage the younger ones. Thank you to Lanting Huang-Truong, Jun Qi, and Mingxiang Xu, and Qin Zhang for serving the youth on this trip.



Photos: <https://bit.ly/4h0UCYi>

Workcamp videos:
<https://youtu.be/oDw44TJX8ro>

2024 Vacation Bible School – Scuba

VBS was held at CGCM from June 24-28, 2024. This year’s theme was called “Scuba” and taught children that God is a true friend who loves forever. We had a total of 41 children served by 30 youth and at least 20 adults during the VBS and afternoon program. Our church has a goal to reach families outside of our church with the gospel. To accomplish this, our VBS this year focused on training coworkers to share the gospel starting with the children who regularly attend our church. Pastor Ivan gave a training session on how to share the gospel with children prior to VBS (<https://youtu.be/s1xODQFHxyY>).

We implemented one-on-one meetings during the VBS in which crew leaders had the opportunity to take aside some of the children in their crew during snack and lunch time to share the gospel with them. We hope we can be ready for a future VBS to reach out to more children who do not go to our church. Thank you to Ganfeng Wu, Luo Pan, Weijun Huang, and Kang Rui for organizing VBS!

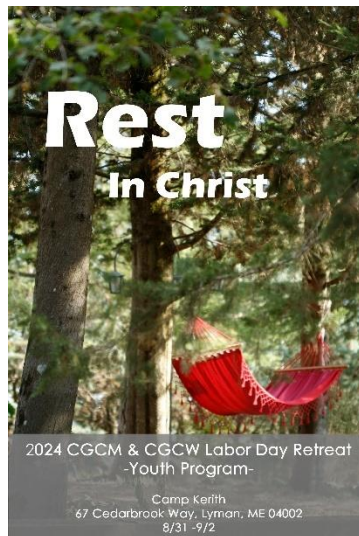


Photos: <https://bit.ly/3E6hrvG>

Slideshow Video: https://youtu.be/DjIS_Ao-fKM

VBS Newsletters: <https://bit.ly/40LeqJZ>

2024 CGCM & CGCW Labor Day Retreat (Youth)



Since the last church-wide retreat CGCM had been in 2017, we were excited to have one this year at Camp Kerith from August 31 to September 2. What made this retreat special was the partnership with the Worcester church in planning four different tracks: Chinese, English, Youth, and Children.

The retreat theme for the youth was called “Rest in Christ” which focused on how practicing spiritual disciplines can lead to spiritual rest. Since the youth had two other retreats this year, Pastor Ivan and Minister Sam took a different approach from our usual retreats and



did not invite a guest speaker. Instead, they shared

short messages about the spiritual disciplines of worship, prayer, and Scripture reading, journaling, meditation, and memorization. Each session included a practical activity as an application to the messages including art, skits, dances, music composition, Bible study, and prayer meetings.

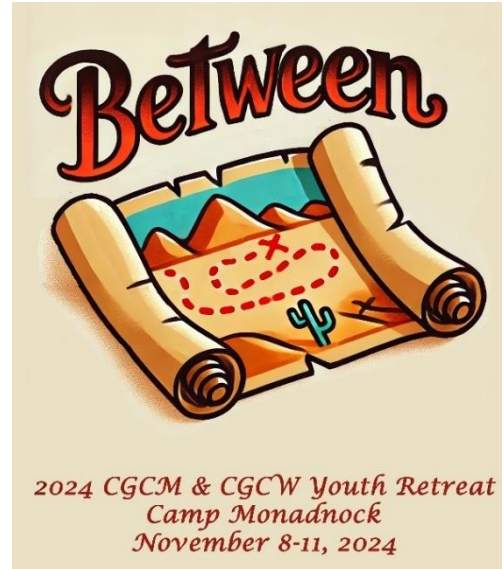
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3CI0BbI>

Retreat Handbook: <https://bit.ly/3PJgpZ9>

2024 CGCM & CGCW Youth Retreat

This year marked the third Youth Retreat CGCM held. After our experience with CGCW last year, we continued our partnership. Although this retreat usually is held during the Columbus Day weekend, due to the church-wide Labor Day retreat this year, we held the 2024 Youth Retreat from November 8-11 at Camp Monadnock. We had a total of 61 people attend, including 47 youth.

Pastor Justin Young from the Chinese Community Church of Indianapolis was our guest speaker who shared messages on the retreat theme “Between”, based on the Book of Numbers. We live between two glorious realities:



Redemption at the cross of Christ and glorification at the return of Christ. Pastor Justin spoke of how we are to live in between, through the spiritual highs and lows by showing the example of the Israelites as they were between God’s dramatic deliverance from slavery in the exodus and God’s glorious blessing of the Promised Land.

Instead of inviting college students to serve as small group leaders, we implemented small groups and church family groups during this retreat. The latter were our usual Friday small groups and focused on seeing how we can practically apply what we learned from the retreat, back in our own church ministries.



Two highlights of the retreat included the moving worship led by a senior, Elliot Xu, and our Prayse Fire which lasted for over 2 hours. God was moving in the youths' hearts to emotionally share about their struggles and pain. This experience brought everyone closer as youth prayed for one another and we sang worship songs that emphasized on the name of Jesus and the power to heal and overcome.

- **Pastor Justin's sermons** may be streamed or downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/4h8rGye>
- **Photos:** <https://bit.ly/4htwpdz> • **Video Slideshow:** https://youtu.be/_l4FFXb-Xrg
- **Retreat Handbook:** <https://bit.ly/4ht7NBI>

2024 Events and Fellowship Activities

- **1/1** – New Year's Fellowship at Sun Family's home.
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3WvtMzU>
- **2/3** – Chinese New Year Celebration Fellowship at Qi Family's home
Photos: <https://bit.ly/40n7xNv>
- **2/17** – Youth Winter Retreat with CGCW, ACCC, SCCC, and CGCM.
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3PosaUH>
- **3/30** – Escape Room Night Outreach Event
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3Cjb9YY>
- **5/31** – Senior Celebration
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4aqetOw>
- **6/15** – Ablaze Worship Night at CBCGL
Photos: <https://bit.ly/40GCfm4>
- **6/19** – VBS Decorating
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4h2s8hm>
- **6/24-28** – Vacation Bible School
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3E6hrvG>
Video Slideshow:
https://youtu.be/DjIS_Ao-fKM
- **7/7-13** – WorkcampNE
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4h0UCYi>
Videos:
<https://youtu.be/oDw44TJX8ro>
- **7/26** – Fellowship at Auntie Lanting's House
Photos: <https://bit.ly/40Hh7fs>
- **8/2** – Movie Night – Sight (Dr. Ming Wang)
- **8/31-9/2** – CGCM & CGCW Labor Day Retreat
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3Cl0BbI>
- **9/13** – 6th Grade Welcome Event
- **10/11** – “Feed My Starving Children” Community Service
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4jCE6A2>

- 11/8-11 – CGCM & CGCW Youth Retreat
Photos: <https://bit.ly/4htwpdz>
- 12/13- Christmas Decorating in the church
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3EiLlao>
- 12/13 – Secret Santa Gift Exchange
Photos: <https://bit.ly/3EiLlao>

Video Slideshow:
https://youtu.be/_14FFXb-Xrg

Miscellaneous

- **Baptisms:**

Congratulations to Aaron Liu, Jadon Shek, Katherine Shan, and Kane Chen who were baptized on March 31, 2024!

Photos: <https://bit.ly/3Cg203t>



- **Graduation:**



7 seniors from the Class of 2024 graduated High School.

Congratulations to Angela An, Emily Jiang, Joyce Li, Mariam Shi, Eric Sun, Katherine Wu, and Amanda Xie!

Photos: <https://bit.ly/4aqetOw>

Class of 2024 - Video Slideshow:

<https://youtu.be/q4o-Zor4mBU>

- **Farewell to Auntie Xiaochun:**

After 20 years of faithful service to God and His people in many ministries at CGCM, God led Auntie Xiaochun Huang to begin serving the international college student ministry at the Worcester church as of September 2024. The youth had a surprise appreciation and celebration for her on 6/23 to show how much she had been an influence on them since they were in Children Ministry. May God continue to bless and use Auntie Xiaochun wherever He leads!



Selected Photos



New Year's Fellowship at Sun Family's



Washing one another's feet during Sunday School



Preparing Children's lunch



Playing Games during Youth Fellowship



End of Semester John Bible Study Jeopardy Review



Ablaze Worship Night at the Lowell Church (CBCGL)



Making Decorations for VBS



Laying Hands and Praying over Auntie Xiaochun



Group Photo at Auntie Lanting's home for fellowship



Practicing for Daniel 3 Skit during the Labor Day Retreat



Acting out a scene from "The Pilgrim's Progress" during Sunday School



Playing "Hungry, Hungry Hippos" during Youth Fellowship