

2020 Year Theme:
Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

Worship Theme:
Thanksgiving Sunday –
God's invincible love & Spirit's Assisted Intercession
Rom 8:26-39; Mark 10:17-22; Psalm 105:1, 7-11



During the holiday period, it is timely to remember Paul and his confidence that God is for us, making love known to humankind through the sacrifice of the Son and the help of the Spirit. The Spirit pleads with God for us when words fail.

We learn that God works for good with those called according to God's purpose. Nothing, therefore, can separate us from the love of God who gave us His divine Son. Neither mortal distress nor supernatural power can separate us from such love.

So, like the psalmist, we ought to praise and give thanks to God and celebrate God's forming of a people through the generation.

EVENTS

27 December 2020
Thanksgiving Service
Sunday

3 January 2021
New members welcome
will be shown after
announcements

9 January (Sat) Focus Day
Time: 1:30pm - 3pm
Meeting ID: 862 7931 1247
Passcode: FaithBuild

27 December
Gems Celebration
online viewing @ ppcoc.org
available from 8am

11.00 am Live Stream
Worship
God's invincible love &
Spirit's Assisted
Intercession – Simon Goh

30 Dec No Wednesday
Bible Class
6 Jan resume Wed BC
Who may come to God
- Vincent Lim

Zoom Prayer Warriors
8.00 pm Every 2nd & 4th Tue
Lim Lian Chye

Gladiolus Place
Devotions
7.30 pm Every 2nd & 4th Mon
Catherine / Lucy

TRACETOGETHER REQUIRED for SafeEntry check in and check out. Use of TraceTogether app or token mandatory by end December. In-person Congregational Worship Service continues today (up to 100 persons maximum). Members who intend to worship in the church premises on Sunday are to register and submit the online form on the PPCOC website each week. You may also use the QR code on back of this FOCUS Newsletter.

You can join us in worship by going to www.ppcoc.org and click on our Online Worship under Resources tab or Quick Links. You can also check the Donate tab on how to make bank transfers to the church for tithes and offerings.

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Please address all correspondence to Pasir Panjang P.O.Box 74, Singapore 911123.

Thanksgiving and Prayer Requests

Praise is the direct address to God that lets him know we recognize Him for who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing.

However, more than informing God of His greatness, praise is rejoicing before him in his greatness and recognizing

that not only is His grace without comparison, His majesty, might, holiness, faithfulness, righteousness, mercy, love, forgiveness, justice are without comparison.

Great and Gracious God without compare, you are truly worthy of my best words, best thoughts and best imaginings. I not only worship and submit to You, but I rejoice that You are who You are, I celebrate what You have done, and I long for what You are yet to do. You are magnificent, my Father and my God. Through Jesus, I praise you. Amen.

Please join the GEMS Celebration.

There will be no Bible classes for this Sunday 27th December.



Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.
1 Chronicles 29:11



SUNDAY GIVING

FACTS  FIGURES

20 December

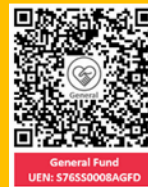
GF - \$12,297.80

MF YTD - \$103,466.51

WAYS TO GIVE

(C) Donate via PayNow (QRCode)

1. Scan the QR code using your mobile banking app
2. Verify that it shows:
Church of Christ PPG,
S76SS0008AGFD
3. Indicate your name in the
"Reference No." (optional)
4. Enter the amount you wish
to contribute
5. Click next, verify the details
and confirm.



General Fund
UEN: S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund
UEN: S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund
UEN: S76SS0008ABFD

Church of Christ Pasir Panjang Sunday Worship Attendance

Starting today, a maximum of 100 persons is allowed for the In-person Congregational Worship Service every Sunday. Members who intend to worship in the church premises must register before Friday noon for successful balloting.

Registration is open from **Monday** and the cut-off date/time for submission is **Friday, 12 noon**, for the coming Sunday Worship Service.



<http://bit.ly/2Wk8Qg8>

No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.
Romans 2:29

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.
Romans 12:9-10 (NLT)



FEEDBACKon
Church Matters



<https://bit.ly/39JLB6L>

Pledge & Building Fund Committee
Peter Lim
Jim Kawi
Grace Mariaraja

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YOUTH CAMP 2020

COMING HOME

We believe that our faith and fellowship is so vital, so indispensable, that we will do whatever it takes to make it happen.



In late November, Chen Yi (Youth Bible Class coordinator) approached me with an idea: make Youth Camp happen in December 2020.

Naturally, I had my concerns. *Youth Camp*?! That big event that takes us months to plan? That event where 30 young people come together to worship, study Scripture, and have fellowship over late-night McDonalds deliveries and card games? How are we supposed to plan that in less than a month, especially when we've been so used to *avoiding* meeting together?

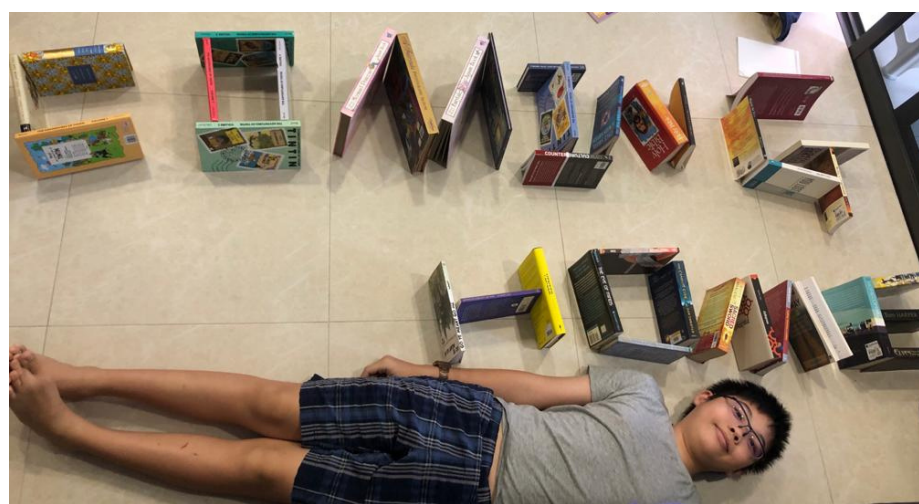
Still, Chen Yi had me convinced. Blessed by God's grace and his gifts of youthful creativity and energy, the Youth Leaders heroically made this camp happen. Within three weeks, we had a working plan, activity schedule, locations, groupings, and lessons. What eventually took place on 20th to 22nd December 2020 will probably go down as the most unusual and unique Youth Camp in PPCOC's history.

The Theme

I chose the theme "Coming Home" for two reasons. The first was practical: Phase 2 restrictions meant we could only meet in groups of five. So meeting in the homes of church families made perfect sense.

We could have up to six youth together – one who actually lived there and five visitors.

Furthermore, adults and parents get to be fully involved in Youth Camp. Beyond dropping off potato chips & bubble tea for calorie-dependent teenagers, they could be fully present through the rhythms of life in a Christian household. In my home, my parents (Swee Aun and Lai Fun) sat with the youth during mealtimes, sharing life together over *mookata* and homemade pasta and chicken drumlets. They involved us in their nightly habit of praying before bedtime. They even joined in several of our many card games!



The second reason behind the theme of "Coming Home" was that we wanted our Youth to come back to the things that are truly important in life. If we're honest about how we lived during COVID-19, we've allowed worries and concerns to crowd out our love for God. We may have even used COVID-stress as an excuse to neglect our spiritual walk.

This camp is about Coming Home after that long and tiresome sojourn through the world of worry. We come home to a place where we know we are loved by God and by one another. A place to rest from our cares, to heal from our hurts, and to grow deeper in love with God.

The Camp Itself

In the end, four families* opened their homes to host five youth each for the 3D2N period. We structured the camp around four mass Zoom sessions where every household logged on for a time of worship, games, and teaching as one Youth body.

Outside those sessions, the time was given to the Youth and their hosts to do whatever they wanted to do. We cycled at Coney Island, learned to make homemade dumplings, and went bowling and swimming. Of course, there were many, many, *many* rounds of card games like *Nerts* (basically Solitaire on steroids), *Uno Flip* (have you ever seen a "+10" card?), and the somewhat morbid but hilarious *Exploding Kittens*.

**A total of five families offered their homes, though we ended up using four. Thank you also to uncle Beng Chuan and aunty Woon Ching!*



A Passover dinner courtesy of Chen Yi and Eunice (and Hosanna)!



Cameron Lim, *Uno Flip Master*, prepares to make his move.

The point was that each group got to do what was most meaningful for them. We forged many relationships through those casual activities. Who knew that Darren simply can't stand cats, or that Fun Min has an uncanny ability to identify fish species at SEA Aquarium, or that Cameron is an absolute *whiz* at Rubik's Cubes (of multiple sizes!)? We pray that these relationships will grow into spiritual and eternal friendships.



You may have noticed that we've structured a lot of "unstructured chill time" into this camp – time to eat, play, rest, chit chat, rest, etc. One might wonder, "Was there enough spiritual feeding? Was there enough Bible study?" Admittedly, we kept the lessons shorter this year because this camp was meant as a spiritual "touchpoint." This is an experience where our Youth get to witness faith in action; how we live out Scripture in our homes beyond just talking about it. We demonstrate that we can glorify God through our waking and sleeping, our playing and our quiet time, doing chores and taking turns for the bathroom. For the home is the genesis of spiritual formation.

“ The home is the genesis of spiritual formation. ”

Takeaways

I write this with two questions in mind: (1) what have we achieved and (2) where are we going from here? It is so easy to just organize an event, get it done, and move on with life. But we here in the Youth Ministry are not in the business of *organizing events*. We are in the business of *transforming lives* so that the glory of God may shine through each young person.

I think of this Youth Camp as a milestone – just one, but an important one – in a young person's spiritual life. Just as the prophet Samuel set up the Stone of Help to remind Israel of God's faithfulness, Youth Camp 2020 is a milestone that will guide us as we live out 2021. Three days of camp won't change one's entire life. But our prayer is that this experience sparks our Youths' imagination and desire for a different, better lifestyle.



To take part in a Youth Camp in the middle of a pandemic isn't just a bunch of teenagers hanging out with one another. It is a statement of faith. We believe that our faith and our fellowship together is so vital, so indispensable, that we will do whatever it takes to make it happen. We did so while observing safe distancing, mask-wearing, hand-sanitizing, temperature-taking and so forth. Here in the Youth Ministry, every young person's spiritual health matters just as much as, if not more than, their physical health.

We observe a plethora of practices to keep our bodies safe during the pandemic; how much more must we engage in spiritual practices to guard our souls and the salvation of our children!

We pray that the experience of dinner table conversations will make us put away our phones and tablets and enjoy the company (and food!) after a long day of school. We pray that the spiritual practices of prayer we experimented with – praying by kneeling, being silent, reflecting – will become daily rhythms of life when school gets busy again. We pray that just being *present* with other youth in the flesh will make us hunger for more intentional and frequent fellowship in 2021. And we pray that our Youth will be so positively formed by this camp that those who didn't get to join this year will see and want to join next year.



A Call For Help

Here's the thing: if we really want all that to happen, the Youth Ministry can't do it alone. We need the help of the whole church. We could not have had Camp without families opening their homes. We could not have had Camp without the parents driving their kids back and forth to be a part of the activities. And we could not have had it at all without the prayers of the whole church.

What I'm trying to say is, Youth Camp 2020 was just the starting point. We need the whole church even more to come alongside our young people and love them into spiritual maturity. It's easier to do it during the holidays when everyone is festive, but this just trains us for the real deal when school and work start again in all their busyness. The spiritual 'high' of Youth Camp will not last beyond January unless we pour out all the love that they can contain – and then some.



You may be a parent of a Youth, fighting valiantly to anchor your children in the faith. You may be an older member who is concerned for the future of the church and the next generation that will lead it. Or you might be a member who isn't sure why we're spending so many words to talk about one small part of the church.

Well, this one small part matters. We need your help, even though we're not sure how. I myself write this as a young person without the wisdom and experiences that you probably do. We are praying for adults who will spend time with Youth and their families; to be older mentors, teachers, and friends who will walk with them through joy and sorrow; to be prayer warriors who will fight on their knees for the souls of the next generation.

John Lim

On behalf of the Youth Camp 2020
Organizing Committee



Young chefs at work!
Parents, if you want your kids to learn to cook, send them to Youth Camp!

“ We observe a plethora of practices to keep our bodies safe during the pandemic; how much more must we engage in spiritual practices to guard our souls and the salvation of our children! ”