

2023 Recap of Young Adults

Luchi Jiang, YA/TLC Officer

Journey's Young Adult Fellowship, also known as **True Light Community (TLC)**, enjoyed a year of positive growth and change. We started off the year studying how to defend our faith through an apologetic series, *"Stand to Reason"*. It taught us how to stand firm in our beliefs and to guide others to seek the truth through thought-provoking questions and conversations. During our last session of the study, we had the unique opportunity to collaborate with a fellow Journey HUG group and held riveting mock debates.

Our group then dove into the book of Ephesians through an inductive study, challenging us to probe and uncover what God's Word really says. Through the process of reading passages, making observations, and asking questions, God revealed to us even deeper the riches of His wonderful gifts, our roles as members of one church body, and how to live out the Christian walk in a manner worthy of our calling.

Later this year, TLC drove up to Big Bear for our Labor Day retreat. There, Brother Ted Kau led us in an enriching forum on "Maturity in Christ". The verse *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways"* (1 Corinthians 13:11), served as our core theme. We covered an array of topics such as maturing in our spiritual walk, mental and physical health, relationships, finances, and more. We learned that growing up meant giving up our childish ways and learning how to do difficult things in all aspects of life.

One challenge our group faced this year was a change in leadership when Marty & Audrey, who had lovingly sponsored and served TLC for eight years, stepped down after the retreat. This gave us the opportunity as a fellowship to practice self-sufficient leadership. We now have a core leadership team consisting of three members, as well as leaders for dinner preparation, worship, birthday celebrations, and more.

We are also thankful for Brother Ewin Grace who has stepped up to oversee TLC activities. Our year culminated in a short series of "Bible Stories 101", giving all of our members a chance to share their favorite Bible stories in any format they liked. It was an exciting treat to watch how each member retold the stories of Samuel, Joseph, Elijah, Daniel, and Esther with their own creative twists. Interwoven throughout the year, our group has also grown in praying for one another, participating in community outreach events, and hanging out outside of church to form lasting friendships. We thank God for guiding us through every up and down of 2023 and look forward to the exciting things 2024 has to offer. Thank you Journey family for supporting and keeping us in your prayers; we couldn't have done all of this without you!

Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Youth Ministry Presenting *A Christmas Reader's Theater*

Photo credit: AM



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Order of Service

December 31st, 2023

Welcome & Call To Worship.....Rick

Worship.....Ted & Congregation

Sermon.. **The Way On: Yesterday, Today, and Forever** Ewin

Song of Response.....Ted & Congregation

Benediction.....Phil Y.

Sermon Outline

Ewin Grace

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me... Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." John 14:6; Hebrews 13:8

How to Get the Best of Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow—and Forever

1. For yesterday, _____ your failures, foibles, and flops.
Forgetting what is behind, and straining toward what is ahead—Philippians 3:13
2. For today, _____ and be _____, and _____ to the _____. *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. — Psalm 118:24*
3. For tomorrow and forever, _____ in the _____ of the _____. *The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms—Deuteronomy 33:27*

At the close of 2023 and the start of 2024, things to forget include:

Blunders; Losses; Injuries; Sorrows; Disappointments; Sins; (Other:_____).

For reflection and application:

- What from your past is crippling your present & tainting your future?
- As for now, how can we "start from here and go anywhere?"
- Can you name a specific blunder, loss, injury, sorrow, disappointment or sin that seems impossible for you to forget? What can help you forget it?
- How does the gift of everlasting life through Jesus Christ shape not only our today but also all of our tomorrows?
- How will you exercise the three points above to confront 2024?



Thank you Ryan C. For saving the building from burning down last week!

Ways to get involved:

12/31: On this last day of 2023, consider reflecting with your family or friends upon this past year, and pray together that God will clearly lead you in 2024.

1/1: Bible Reading: start a Bible reading program in 2024. Here's a **3 year, no guilt plan** (~1 chapter a day): tinyurl.com/3-year-plan. If you'd like to join our Bible Club, email amy@journeyec.org. If you are already on a Bible reading plan, please feel free to continue!

1/7: We will commission our **new officers** and thank our leaders who have faithfully completed their term of service.

1/9-11: Parking Lot Refurbishment, No Table Tennis: pray for warm sun and no rain on those days so that we can repair and resurface the lot.

1/12: Youth Ministry Outreach (7-9pm): we will enjoy a special "forward" dinner night out. Please invite all middle and high school friends.

1/14: Parents of Youth Mtg (after service, 30 minutes). We will discuss our upcoming calendar, Winter Retreat, as well as host an open forum.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy New Year's!

Servant Leaders:

Deacons

Allie Wong

Anne Chou

Dave McLendon

Joshua Cain

Pat Leung

Paulah Wong

Teresa Jue

Wesley Lin

Elders

Cliff Char—Young Adults, Worship Music

Devin Wong—GO Team, Website

Hiro Kono—Cong. Dev., Pastoral Care, Women's Ministry

Peter Leung—Children, Welcome

Phil Jen Kin—Facilities, Cantonese, Security, Personnel

Rick Chou—Nominations, Multimedia, Small Groups

Ron Jue—Growth & Legacy, Deacons Liaison, CLT Chair

Victor Wong—Campus, Finance, Hospitality, SERVE, Vietnamese

Staff

Ted Kau—Senior Pastor

Paul Eng—Chinese Pastor

Ewin Grace—Connections Pastor

Phil Yoder—Youth Pastor

Peter Leung—Children's Director

Linzey Sun—Youth Intern

Sammie Sun—Youth Intern

Roger Yee—Business Administrator

Amy Mu—Office & Ministry Assistant