

Dear Conejo Family,

It feels like it's been a long, long, *long* time since mid-March—the last time we met in person for services at the physical building of the Conejo Valley Church of Christ. Since then, it has been hard to keep track of time, but we have been blessed to continue to worship together virtually. Our online worship services have been enhanced and enriched by the creativity and work of Stan Thomas, Jacob Michael, Chris Stivers, Jeremy and Amber Johnson, Brittany and Matt Joyner, our ministers, our Conejo staff, and other volunteers. We **cannot** offer sufficient praise for **all** of our Conejo members and all you have done to sustain us through this pandemic shutdown. Until this global matter came to our front door, we had no idea how well our body could pull together in such circumstances. ***Praise be to God and thanks to ALL of you!***

Although we do not yet have a firm date for when we will resume live services, we want you to know that the elders and ministers have been meeting and praying throughout our shutdown to determine how and when we can safely reconvene. We are blessed with medical professionals in our Conejo family and have been consulting with several of them as well as with other members experienced in the logistical details of offering worship services in person and online. In our discussions, we focused on these key elements:

- Returning to worship together safely while continuing to provide online worship and fellowship.
- Respect for and responsibility to our more vulnerable members, physically and spiritually.
- The need to adjust as circumstances change.
- Compliance with guidelines and recommendations from local, county, state, and federal authorities.
- Safety protocols to minimize risk for reopening our physical facility.
- Proper equipment and internet capacity to livestream our service.

As much as we've talked and listened and planned, no reopening plan can accommodate every member's preferences or anticipate every change in circumstances. We can reduce but not eliminate risk. As we take steps to reopen, we seek prayers for wisdom and discretion, and we ask for your patience and perseverance with new and unfamiliar requests and routines. We also ask that you continue to pray for those who are suffering from this pandemic, directly and indirectly, and for those who continue to care heroically for others in the front-line fights against this disease. We are very grateful to be able to lean on each other, to honor each other, and to work together for the body of Christ at Conejo!

Although we have worked to keep in touch for the past several months, we have missed you all and have missed being able to gather in person more than words can say. We pray that this season of quarantine has deepened our appreciation for being together while fortifying us in ways that will make us stronger ambassadors for Christ and for each other. We've certainly come to appreciate fellowship, hospitality, and caretaking more! And we are immensely grateful for the suffering servanthood and lordship of Jesus Christ. He knows us. He comforts us. He leads us in all and through all.

The recent uptick of COVID-19 infections both nationally and locally has delayed our plans to reopen and has reminded us how important it is to keep close eyes on trends and to heed advice from health authorities—*please continue to stay masked and socially distanced, to wash your hands frequently, and to remain constant in prayer.* When we feel that we are better prepared, we will announce a target date for resuming worship services at the building. There will be instructions and information about procedures and expectations at that time. We are planning on a "staged-in" process while we continue to livestream Sunday morning services.

In the meantime, trust in the Lord and seek ways to love your neighbor as yourself! As always, let us know of any questions or concerns. Contact the church office or any of the ministers by email or phone.

Blessings to you all,
The Conejo Ministers and Elders