



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 8, 2022

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

- 9:00am Bible Classes for all ages
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 10:15am On-Site Worship Service
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops

Upcoming Events

- Jan 9 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 11 Flourishing Families
- Jan 11 Hungry / Thirsty
- Jan 12 Life Group at the Fosters
- Jan 12 Conejo Tutoring
- Jan 20 Moms Better Together
- Jan 21 Hiking Ministry
- Jan 28 Recharge Youth Rally
- Jan 29 Crafty Women
- Jan 31 Fifth Commandment

Birthdays This Week

Wyatt Daringer	1/9
Carrie Wall	1/11
Char Hurley	1/12
Tami Williamson	1/12
Allie Moore	1/13
Dot Holden	1/14
Bonnie Rockey	1/14
Quintt Landis	1/15
Isaiah Matute	1/15

What Are We Doing Here?

Jack Williamson

When Jesus prays, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven," he was sincere and sober in his petition. What we see in the world around us is a clash of kingdoms. The Kingdom of God is contested by the kingdoms of the world and the desires of those who are not aligned with God.

For reasons of free will and factors which I am not wise enough to understand or explain, this world remains broken. History rolls on with human atrocities and pain 2,000 long years after Jesus came to bring the Kingdom of God to us with power. This is what theologians describe as living in the "already but not yet." Part of this is the idea that the Kingdom of God is a grassroots movement of men and women who show true allegiance to Jesus. This kingdom movement cuts across all lines: ethnicity, gender, nationality, and geography. It means that God's kingdom is present in the lives of his people in the midst of the mess of this world. The Kingdom of God is already present among us, but it is not yet fully realized. God has yet to bring judgment on this world and put an end to evil. We trust that he will do this, but for now we are called to live and act in ways that introduce his priorities and his love to a world that so frequently rejects and denies him.

In the midst of a world that is so out of step with the priorities of Christ, what are we doing here? The massive negative effects of the pandemic, which kept us at home and separated from each other, are largely over. So what are we doing now? How are we living differently as the body of Christ in the communities where God has placed us? How are our priorities and Christ-life being lived out in ways that show a different kingdom priority to the community around us?

Part of the answer to these questions rests in the ministry initiatives we have carried on for a long time. Here at Conejo, many of our special programs are designed to continue to tell the only story that matters; the only story that can change lives and bring real hope. When we come together for Good Friday or for Advent activities, we have long tried to approach these days with creativity and passion to make God's love evident to all who would come and see. When our kids enjoy VBS or go to camp or on mission trips, we find fun and memorable ways to tell them that there is hope and life found in Christ that exists in no other way. Every Sunday, we sing songs of faith and praise. We gather and share in earnest prayer for our world. Each Sunday we gather around the table for communion to remember what God has done on our behalf through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the midst of the brokenness and conflict in our world, we hold up a light that shines in the darkness and even this present darkness has not overcome it.

My prayer for each of you, my beloved brothers and sisters, is that you will see that what we do each week has potential to make an eternal difference. Please engage. Please bring others into places and events where they can hear and see. Please take part in what God is doing through his body in these places—through us. Please help answer the prayer of Jesus and help his kingdom come, and his will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. That, my friends, is what we are doing here. To paraphrase authors of Scripture, let us not grow weary or lose heart in doing good.

What's Happening At Conejo



Sermon Series: What Are We Doing Here?

Entering 2023, it seems like a good time to reflect on who we are as a church and what we are doing to partner with God in our community and the world. Part of this reflection is asking the question, "What are we doing here?" Specifically, why do we gather on Sunday morning? There are countless other things we could do with our time at the beginning of each week. Why is coming together as a church important? Does what we do here on Sunday morning still matter? For the next four weeks, our sermon series will attempt to offer at least four good answers to this question. Beginning this week we will consider the priority Jesus gave us of helping the Kingdom of God have influence here on earth as it does in heaven.

Adult Bible Class: Scripture Up Close

On January 8, our adult education program launches Scripture Up Close, a "meta-series" of detailed scripture studies. We'll start with short books or discrete texts (like individual psalms), and work our way up to longer texts. In each "mini-series," we'll work through a biblical text in order, giving careful attention to its content, context, genre, style, and more in an effort to hear more clearly what the biblical authors were trying to tell their readers, and what those messages might mean for us today.

- January 8 Scripture Up Close: An Overview (Chris Heard)
January 15 Psalm 29 Up Close (Chris Heard)
January 22 Philemon Up Close - Part 1 (Nick Zola)
January 29 Philemon Up Close - Part 2 (Nick Zola)

If there's a particular (short) book of the Bible you'd like to see taught in this format, please communicate that to Andy Wall or Chris Heard.

Welcome to our Guests!

We are so glad to have people visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or have just chosen to visit with us today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning worshipping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that information enables us to share information with you about the upcoming events and ministry of this church. At the end of each week, the church sends out an email with the electronic



version of the Family News to all CVCC members. We are happy to share this electronic bulletin with our guests as well.

Thank you!

Thank you doesn't seem like enough for the kindness you've shown to my mom, sister, and me through Jacob. Helping us fly to the funeral was unexpected and very generous!

I teach 5th and 6th grade at my church in Amarillo, Texas. We are studying Acts and looking at the ways it translates to today. We talk about baby showers food to those who have had surgery, but this will be a whole new level of example in my class.

I am constantly amazed and wonder how people survive without a church family and I hope to pay your kindness forward one day.

Love in Christ,

Susan Hackett, Kathy Lopez, and Mary Hinds

City of Children

For many years, the Conejo Church has supported the City of Children, a home for kids without parents to care for them. The City of Children, located near Ensenada, Mexico, will celebrate 50 years of service in 2023. Conejo members are invited to attend the celebration at the home on January 15, 2023. For more information, please contact Mark at (310) 892-9986 or mrkwdvs@gmail.com.



Current Small Groups

After a couple of weeks hiatus during the Christmas holidays, our small groups have or will soon resume meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond—some in person, some via Zoom. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Some groups include children, some are for teens, some are for adults, and some include all generations. Please [click here](#) for a detailed description of our small group ministries. If you have questions, please contact Andy Wall or Jack Williamson.

Weekly

Sunday Afternoon Hoops	Sundays 2pm
Middle School Pod	Sundays 3:30-5pm
High School Pod	Sundays 6-7:30pm
Women's Bible Study	Mondays 7-8:30pm
Monday Guys' Group	Mondays 6:30-8pm
Flourishing Families	Wednesdays 6:15-7:30pm
Hungry / Thirsty	Wednesdays 6:45-8pm
Conejo Tutoring	Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm
Life Group at Fosters' Home	Thursdays 7-8:30pm
Saturday Guys' Golf Outing	Saturdays early am

Monthly

Crafty Women	Sunday TBA 1-7pm
Fifth Commandment	Fourth Tuesday 7-8:30pm
Moms Better Together	Third Friday 5:45-7:45pm
Hiking Trails Ministry	Third Saturday time varies

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class



Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The combined group (middle and high school) gathers at 9am each Sunday.

Today, we return to normal separated Sunday afternoon / evening pods. The middle school meets at the church building from 3:30-5pm and the high school meets from 6-7:30pm each Sunday.

Throughout the month of January YG will be studying a series called "Distinct." Please [click here](#) to learn more about this month's theme.

Recharge Youth Rally / January 28

On Saturday, January 28, we encourage all youth group members to participate in "Recharge," the annual one-day youth rally hosted by Mission Viejo Church of Christ. This event, which takes place from 9:30am to 4pm, gathers multiple youth groups for worship, spiritual recharging, and fun together. This year's theme is "Anchored." *Won By One* will lead worship and there



will be a few lessons from the book of Hebrews. There is a registration fee of \$15 per student, which covers the costs of (1) the event T-shirt, (2) a lunch from Chick-Fil-A, and (3) a reserved spot for our special excursion off campus! We need some adult chaperones who may attend at no charge. Students and adults may sign up at this link: <https://mvmcc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1556301>.

Strengths Finder Workshop - February 11

Those who are a part of a mentor group should know that the Strengths Finder Workshop previously scheduled for Saturday, November 19, has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 11, 2023. This is an opportunity for us to assess our personal strengths so that we can grow in our understanding of how God has gifted us, how we can envision using our gifts for God's glory, and how we can work better with others who are different from us. Stay tuned for more information on filling out an online questionnaire before the workshop.

High School Winter Retreat / February 24-26

Current 8th graders and the high school group are invited to a weekend in Big Bear for rest, group building, and spiritual refreshment. Stay tuned for more details and we hope you will make it a priority to attend. Please reach out to Travis if you have questions!



Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please be sure to sign in your kiddos for Bible class and worship time. This will help Haylie be able to best prepare for future classes. The sign-in pages are placed on a table in the entry way which leads to the Children's Ministry area.

CVCC Children				
Name	Allergies	Signed in By	Class	Worship

Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9:00-10:00am

2s/3s - Leslie S., Sarah G.
Age 4-5th grade - Paula M., Patti F.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C., Staci D., and Cheryl A.
2s/3s - Staci D., Amy M., Kari O., and Sarah G.
Age 4-5th grade - Mark D., Dwayne H.



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: **Holly Chambers** (May)

NEW MEMBERS: **Maxi McAfee, Joanna White, Rodney Smithers, Susan Giboney, Chris Chesnutt**

Thanksgivings for the recent rain and the life and refreshment it brings!

ENGAGEMENT: **Jessica Wall** and **Richard Smith**

THOSE GRIEVING

Rene Heard – loss of mother, Joan Nicholas

Jacob, Ella, Kate, Tess Michael – loss of wife and mother, Joella Michael

Jose Rivera – loss of father, Cecilio (Chilo) Rivero

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Friends and family of **Stella Sale** (former member) – Stella passed in August 2022 after a long decline

Sam Jackson – loss of mother, Maudie Brown

Brittany Joyner – loss of uncle, Robin Miller

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Mildred Eckstein

Tim Willis – loss of mother, Evelyn Willis

Jim White – loss of father, Donovan White

Maureen Thomas – loss of mother, Barbara Lewis

Tim Rockey – loss of father,

Steve Rockey

Christian Socquet – loss of father, Johnny Cowan

Phil Daringer – loss of mother, Joyce Daringer

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Lucia Campbell (mother of Guy Patenaude) – home recuperating from recent uterine cancer surgery

Ted McAllister (former member) – prayers that new treatment will be effective

Lucinda Hodges (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis

Jim Bishop (friend of Lisa Scott) – cardiac issues and leukemia

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Marlene Michaels (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recently hospitalized with brain bleed

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – hospitalized following car accident; severely burned, many complications

Judy Tapper – recovering from intestinal surgery

John Aurand (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) – recovering from surgery for aortic aneurysm

Judy Long (mother of Loree Hunnicutt) – receiving hospice care; in end-stage heart failure

Andy Long (father of Loree Hunnicutt) – tremendous stress as he cares for Judy

Cathy Kiel (sister of Connie Horton) – recovering following additional brain surgery

Carina Grant (infant granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – prayers for health, comfort, peace, and stamina

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

For **moderate rain** to give **relief from drought**

Barb Suhr (friend of Char Hurley) – dealing with memory loss issues

Barbara Schlosser - recovery from a serious illness

Jonathan Meador (brother of Judy Tapper) – having variety of health issues

Sonia Smithers – safety for friends and family in Ukraine

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

Marilyn Aurand – no cancer was found during lung biopsy! Still dealing with spinal stenosis and seeking to improve mobility

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) – depression

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

MISSION EFFORTS

Raul & Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Tom Bonner – retiring from mission work in Albania; prayers for his transition to life stateside

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

Made In The Streets – ministry to street kids in Nairobi, Kenya

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – stationed in HI with the Navy

Michael Warford – stationed in FL with the Navy

Derek Willis (nephew of Tim Willis) – serving in PA in the Army

Attendance
+ Giving

January 1 Attendance	
On-Site Service	88
Online Viewing	69

January 1 Giving	
Weekly Giving Average	\$59,893
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,644,237
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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