



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

January 15, 2023

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 On-Site Worship Service and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:30pm MS Pod
- 5:00pm HS Pod

Upcoming Events

- Jan 16 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 16 Monday Night Guys' Group
- Jan 18 Flourishing Families Group
- Jan 18 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Jan 19 Life Group at the Fosters
- Jan 19 Conejo Tutoring
- Jan 20 Moms Better Together
- Jan 21 Hiking Trails Ministry
- Jan 22 YG Parent Meeting
- Jan 28 Recharge Youth Rally
- Jan 29 Crafty Women
- Jan 31 Fifth Commandment

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Quintt Landis | 1/15 |
| Isaiah Matute | 1/15 |
| Allan Argano | 1/18 |
| Kathy Stephens | 1/21 |

The Part In The Middle

Jack Williamson

We have just come out of Advent, the Christmas season, thinking about the birth of Jesus and the great blessings that truth brings to the world. This past Tuesday, in a staff meeting, we took a look at the calendar and began to think about how, in just a few short weeks, we will begin talking about the 40-Day Adventure of Lent and Jesus's journey to the cross. I don't mean to disparage our time and attention given to these very important bookends of the life of Jesus, but sometimes I wonder, "When do we take time to think about all the stuff in the middle?"

All the teaching, and ministry, and miracles that Jesus did between the cradle and the cross, what did that mean to us? This is truly the stuff that the Gospels are made of. They do not simply tell the stories surrounding his birth and then jump to the death, burial, and resurrection. There must be some reason that reading about the middle years of Jesus' life is meaningful.

Pay close attention and you will see that Matthew writes to make it clear that Jesus has fulfilled all that the ancient prophets of Israel had pointed to, longing for the Messiah. Mark writes a fast-paced tale showing Jesus to be a miracle worker, demon slayer, and unexpected Messiah whose mission was to give his life as a ransom for many. He was a very unexpected Messiah indeed! Read Luke's narrative closely and you will see that Jesus is a compassionate Lord, who seeks to bring everyone into a loving relationship with God who deserves to be praised and adored. In the process, Jesus accepts the "unlovely," brings healing to the broken, and breaks down the walls of social injustice. He shows that God raises up the lowly and accepts the outcast. The author of the Gospel of John makes it clear that Jesus is God in the flesh. He tells us that Jesus did many other things that were not recorded on the pages of his narrative, but he has written these things "so that we may believe that Jesus is the son of God, and by believing, have life in his name" (John 20:31). John is also the one who pens Jesus saying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Clearly the stuff in the middle matters. Later on in the New Testament writings, the Apostle Paul makes the memorable statement, "imitate me as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). This would be impossible without all the stuff in the middle. None of us can imitate Christ if that means coming into the world through a virgin birth or dying on a cross for the world's sins and raising up again! The part in the middle is where all the stuff worthy of imitating comes from. That is why Jesus said "I am the way" and "Go into all the world...teaching them all that I have commanded you." Jesus intended his disciples to follow his example, he intends for us to do the same. We'd best first of all get busy learning all the stuff in the middle so we will know exactly what it is we are here to do!

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? This week we will focus on all the things that tend to get in our way in the journey of faith. In the words of Rich Mullins, "The stuff of earth competes for the allegiance I owe only to the giver of all good things." This week the answer to the question "What are we doing here?" is that we come together to remind each other that nothing we could give our lives, time, and attention to is more worthy of our hearts than God.

Adult Bible Class: Scripture Up Close

Last Sunday, our adult education program launched *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 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.

Moms Better Together / January 20

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 20 from 5:45-7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Please [click here](#) to sign up for the event. Since we will share a meal, we need to know how many are coming.



Help Requested: Communion Preparation

For many years Judy Tapper has faithfully prepared communion on a weekly basis. As she recovers from her recent surgery, we need additional volunteers to come forward to help with this important ministry. Please inform Kathia (office@conejochurch.org) or Rene (reneheard@sbcglobal.net) if you can help with this ministry.

New Address

Vincent, Holly, and Evie Chambers recently moved to a new location. Their new address is:

5889 Wheelhouse Lane; Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Hiking Trails Ministry / January 21



The next scheduled hike for the Conejo Hiking Trails Ministry hikes is Saturday, January 21. Hikers of all levels are welcome. The focus is fun, faith, fitness, friendship, and fellowship while enjoying the beautiful

gifts that God has given us in the areas that surround us. For more information please contact Lynn at (805) 273-4565, or Jon at (805) 284-1111. Please [click here](#) for all of the details about the hike planned for this month. See you on the trail!

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

Bowls of Hope Painting Party / February 12

Join us for our annual Bowls of Hope Painting Party Sunday, February 12 from 3-5pm in the church building lobby. This event benefits Many Mansions, a major provider of low-income housing within our immediate community. All supplies will be provided. This is a great service opportunity for young and old alike, and a fun activity to invite friends to participate in. There is a \$30 per bowl charge to help cover the costs of supplies. [Click here](#) to sign up now. There are limited seats available. Please contact Stu Warford (stu@conejochurch.org) or Kellie Van Atta (vanattakellie@gmail.com) with any questions.

High School + Middle School

Parent Meeting / January 22

Parents of kids in middle school and high school are encouraged to attend a parent meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 11:45am in the youth room. This meeting will highlight important changes in the youth ministry and allow for better partnership with parents on the youth ministry goals, calendar, and focus areas.

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://mvcoc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1556301>.



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.

We have returned to 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.

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	Age/sex	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.

Valentines for Seniors

We are excited to be making valentines for senior citizens in our community again this year. We will be making valentines on the playground patio (or classroom if it is raining) after the worship service starting this week and continuing through February 12. All are welcome to come join our children for this special outreach.



Vacation Bible School 2023

Save the date for Vacation Bible School

June 19-22, 2023! More information, including our super fun theme, will be announced soon!

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

Friends and Family of **D'Esta Love** (friend to many at CVCC) – loss of mother, Sammie Hill

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) – recovering from surgery for uterine cancer

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

Jim Norris (father of Carlton Norris) – recovering from broken leg and hip replacement

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recently hospitalized with brain bleed; currently in Los Robles rehab

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

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

City of Children – celebrating 50 years of service!

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 8 Attendance	
On-Site Service	188
Online Viewing	129

January 8 Giving		\$7,880
Weekly Giving Average		\$33,887
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,644,237
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

www.conejochurch.org

Haylie Douglas

Children's Minister
(979) 676-1529 cell
haylie@conejochurch.org
R&R Wednesdays

Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager
(818) 665-8598 cell
reneheard@sbcglobal.net
R&R Tuesdays

Kathia King

Office Manager
(805) 371-1381 office
office@conejochurch.org
R&R Thursdays & Fridays

Travis Moore

Youth & Family Minister
(520) 591-8246 cell
travis.moore926@gmail.com
R&R Mondays

Andy Wall

Preaching Minister
(805) 331-0187 cell
andy@conejochurch.org
R&R Fridays

Jack Williamson

Spiritual Formation Min.
(805) 331-0183 cell
jack@conejochurch.org
R&R Mondays

Elders: Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – elders@conejochurch.org



CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362