



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

January 22, 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
- 11:45am YG Parent Meeting
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:30pm MS Pod
- 6:00pm HS Pod

Upcoming Events

- Jan 23 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 23 Monday Night Guys' Group
- Jan 25 Flourishing Families Group
- Jan 25 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Jan 26 Life Group at the Fosters
- Jan 26 Conejo Tutoring
- Jan 28 Recharge Youth Rally
- Jan 29 Crafty Women
- Jan 31 Fifth Commandment
- Feb 7 First Fruits Potluck

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Rodney Smithers | 1/24 |
| Rick Furino | 1/26 |
| Penny White | 1/27 |
| Jadyn de Bruyn | 1/29 |
| Lauren Kliet | 1/29 |

The Place of Blessing

Jack Williamson

Over the past couple of years I have heard a lot of talk, and been a part of many conversations about how difficult these past few years have been. While reflecting on our current sermon series and how God is present with us always, I was reminded this week about the following quote from Dallas Willard:

God has yet to bless anyone except where they actually are, and if we faithlessly discard situation after situation, moment after moment, as not being "right," we will simply have no place to receive his kingdom into our life." – **Dallas Willard**

My situation, location or stage in life may not be the easiest or as comfortable as I would prefer. I may not feel like everything — or anything — is really going my way. Still this admonition from Dallas Willard calls me to remember that God has always been present amid the struggles of his people. Think of any person you consider a hero of the faith from the pages of Scripture, and you will find someone who did not have everything go smoothly or always "go their way."

If God is ever going to bless you, it will have to happen in the place where you are — even or perhaps especially — in a place of disappointment or pain. Remembering that God is for us is the first step to developing the eyes to see how he is in process, working to bring blessing out of any — yes every — situation we face in life.

When Paul writes in Romans 8 that God works in all things for the good of those who love him, Paul never said that all things are good. Some things are tough. Some days are hard. Some periods of life seem to be one struggle after another. It is in these times that our memory is so important. It is during these periods that our trust in God is tested. It is for these days that God gives us the stories of scripture and memories of his faithfulness in our lives and the lives of others. Knowledge of his deliverance for his people throughout history and faith in his goodness are vital lifelines in our ability to hold on. Where is the place of blessing? It is always going to be right where you are. Trust and look for the support you need from God. He who is faithful will never leave you unblessed, all the way to your eternity with him.

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 think about Passover and God's long history of caring for his people. This week we remember all that God has done for us. This week, and every week, we do all of these things by remembering Jesus. The exodus from Egypt; God's great deliverance of Israel, stands as an example of God's great care for us. We too were slaves, not to another nation, but to sin. We too had blood shed on our behalf, not of a sheep but of God himself, in the flesh. Through his sacrifice as the lamb of God, Jesus makes the way for all of us to have an exodus from death to life. May we never forget. What are we doing here?... Remembering Jesus!

Adult Bible Classes

Our adult education program recently began a "meta-series" of detailed scripture studies entitled *Scripture Up Close*. This class meets weekly in the auditorium. We've started with short books and discrete texts (like individual psalms), and will work our way up to longer texts. In each "mini-series," we're working 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 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.

During the month of February, we'll begin an additional four-week class in the south overflow room titled, *One Body, Many Parts: Appreciating Our Differences in the Body of Christ*. God created us with different personalities, styles, and gifts. Understanding ourselves and others helps us live into our giftedness and calling while appreciating and encouraging our Christian brothers and sisters, spouses, children, and friends. This class will include an introduction of biblical and psychological constructs around difference and then have three weeks in which we reflect on various tools to help with these concepts. Those who sign up for the class will be given instructions to complete the measures in advance so they are fully prepared to engage in the discussion. The class schedule is as follows:

February 5 Class introduction (Connie Horton)

February 12 Myers Briggs Type Indicator (Connie Horton)

February 19 Enneagram (Brittany Joyner)

February 26 StrengthsFinder (Doug Hurley)

Your CVCC 2022 Statement

The 2022 contribution statements have been emailed to donors this week. Paper statements will not be mailed unless specifically requested. Please be sure to check your inbox or spam folder for your statement. It should be sent with the subject "Your CVCC 2022 Statement". If you have any questions please email finance@conejochurch.org. Thank you for being such a generous church in 2022!

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 help with this important ministry. Please inform [Kathia](#) or [Rene](#) if you can help with this ministry.

Current Small Groups

Our small groups have resumed meeting around the Conejo Valley—some in person, some via Zoom. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Please [click here](#) for a detailed description of our small group ministries. If you have questions, please contact Andy Wall or Jack Williamson.

Crafty Women / January 29

CVCC women are invited to spend the afternoon together on January 29 from 1pm-6pm making progress on their crafts or hobbies while deepening friendships with other women from the congregation. Please contact Rene if you plan to come.

Fifth Commandment Group / January 31

The fifth commandment tells us to "Honor your father and mother."

How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and live hundreds or even

thousands of miles away? Join us this Tuesday at 7pm as we share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).



First Fruits Potluck / February 7

Stu and Co Warford invite all levels of food gardeners to participate in a potluck at Warford Farms on Tuesday, February 7 from 6:30-8:30pm. Watch for additional details in next week's Family News.

Bowls of Hope Painting Party / February 26

Because of another important "Bowl" activity on February 12 (i.e. Super Bowl), the Bowls of Hope Painting Party has been moved to Sunday, February 26, from 3pm-5pm in the church building lobby and will take place on the same day as the February Crafty Women event. The Bowls of Hope event benefits Many Mansions, a major provider of low-income housing within our immediate community. More details along with links to sign up for the party will be provided soon.

High School + Middle School

Parent Meeting / January 22

Parents of kids in middle school and high school are encouraged to attend a parent meeting this 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.

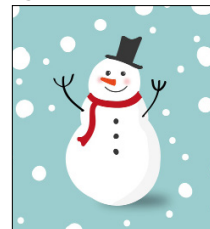
Throughout the month of January YG will be studying a series called "Distinct." Please [click here](#) to learn more about this month's theme.

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

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 through February 12. All are welcome to come join our children for this special outreach.

Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9-10am

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.

2s/3s - Shaya B., Amy M., Kari O., Tami W., and Sarah G.

Age 4-5th grade - Mark D., Dwayne H., and Penny W.

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.

Vacation Bible School 2023

Save the date for Vacation Bible School

June 19-22, 2023! We are excited to share that our theme for this year will be "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!" Mark your calendars for your kids and for you! It's going to be out of this world!



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

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

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast 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

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

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

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

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 15 Attendance	
On-Site Service	143
Online Viewing	87

January 15 Giving		\$8,578
Weekly Giving Average		\$25,450
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,644,437
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