



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 29, 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
- 1:00pm Crafty Women
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:30pm MS Pod
- 6:00pm HS Pod

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 30 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 30 Guys' Group
- Jan 31 Fifth Commandment Group
- Feb 1 Flourishing Families Group
- Feb 1 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Feb 2 Life Group at the Fosters
- Feb 2 Conejo Tutoring
- Feb 5 College and Young Professionals Lunch at BJs
- Feb 7 First Fruits Potluck
- Feb 10 Family and Friends Night
- Feb 11 StrengthsFinder Workshop
- Feb 19 Congregational Vision Workshop

## Birthdays This Week

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Jadyn de Bruyn | 1/29 |
| Lauren Kliet   | 1/29 |
| Becky Rocky    | 1/31 |
| Jim Latson     | 2/2  |

## Why Do We Read The Bible?

Jack Williamson

We spend a great deal of time in our classes and services reading the Bible. Have you ever wondered why? Perhaps not, but since I am writing this article, let me tell you what I think anyway. :-)

Scripture carries with it a profound strength and power in my life. It reminds me of who God is and what God has done in history. When we read Scripture together, whether it be on Sunday morning at worship, in the setting of a summer camp or retreat, or just with two or three people together in a home, I find it to be centering and powerful.

Part of the beauty of the Christian Bible, as we read it, is in its composition. It is not a rule book or technical manual for life. Instead, it is a dynamic story, written in at least five parts. You can divide it differently, but I like to think of it in this way. Part one is the story of creation. God decides that our existence is worth his loving effort. God speaks, then we and everything we know of comes to be. Part two is what we call "the Fall." It is about how selfishness and sin come rushing into our story and the perfect relationship we could have had with God and creation is broken. Part three is the story of God setting up the redemption of the world by choosing and guiding Israel. Part four is the life and ministry of Jesus. Jesus comes as God in the flesh to complete the redemption that began through Israel. Through Jesus's message — coupled with his death, burial, and resurrection — God is bringing the world back to what is right. God is making it possible for creation and all people to be back in perfect relationship with him. Part five is the story of the church that Jesus established. It is the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Part five is not yet complete. It is a story waiting to be fulfilled. We have a part in it. We are the current players in this grand story that is shaped and defined by God.

***Within this grand story are multiple smaller stories. Scripture is filled with stories of men and women whose rise and fall depend on whether they honor God with their lives or ignore his instruction. Over and over, we see both good and bad examples of people who have gone on before us. Some are faithful; many are not. Even those who are faithful have near fatal flaws. In reading, we learn to honor God and see that his love truly does endure. Stories like this have the power to make children dream big dreams and empower men and women to walk along the paths of righteousness!***

When I fall, and realize how far I am from perfect, I only need to look to the pages of Scripture to be reminded that I am not alone. In all of Scripture — and history — not one person has ever lived up to perfection. The only perfect character is God who reveals himself to us in many different ways through this grand story. The amazing thing is that God saw our flaws in advance. God believed our existence was worth his pain and loving effort. God has given us the grand story of Scripture to guide us back to himself. That, my friends, is why we should read the Bible.

# 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's answer centers on the Bible. We gather on Sunday morning to read from the word of God and find encouragement for our journey ahead.

## 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 29	Philemon Up Close - Part 2 (Nick Zola)
February 5	Habakkuk Up Close - Part 1 (Rick Marrs)
February 12	Habakkuk Up Close - Part 2 (Rick Marrs)
February 19	Habakkuk Up Close - Part 3 (Rick Marrs)

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:

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. 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](mailto:finance@conejochurch.org). Thank you for being such a generous church in 2022!

## Current Small Groups

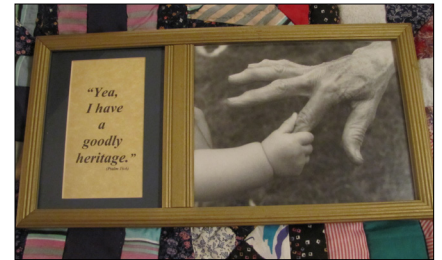
Our small groups have resumed meeting around the Conejo Valley—some in person, some via Zoom. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Please [click here](#) for a detailed description of our small group ministries. If you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

## Crafty Women / January 29

CVCC women are invited to spend the afternoon together at the church building 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](#).

## FREE LUNCH! / February 5

Any "college-aged" or "young professional" people worshipping with us are invited to a free lunch at BJ's Restaurant in Westlake next Sunday, February 5. We will have lunch and talk about ways that the Conejo church can better serve you or help you get connected. If you are interested, please contact [Jack Williamson](#) or [Haylie Douglas](#) for more details. In this case, there really is such a thing as a free lunch!

## First Fruits Potluck / February 7

Our next First Fruits food growers meeting will be a potluck hosted at the home of Stu and Co Warford (AKA Warford Farms) on Tuesday, February 7, from 6 to 8pm. Our theme will be "Planning a Summer Vegetable Garden." All levels of food gardeners are invited.

The Warfords will provide a main dish, and attendees are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Please let [Stu](#) or [Co](#) know if you plan to attend.

## 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

## 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.

## Family & Friends Night / February 10

It's time to reconnect with our friends from outside of Conejo. Friday night, February 10, we will head back to **Dave & Busters** in Thousand Oaks for a meal together and some video game fun! The event will be from 5-8pm and will include dinner and a game card for each family member. Our desire is to keep working toward creating a culture that continues to invite friends to Conejo events. The event is free for Conejo families who invite a friend/family who aren't members of CVCC. The event is free for the friends you invite as well. Families in the children's and youth ministries are encouraged to attend and invite friends.

## StrengthsFinder Workshop - February 11

Those who signed up for the StrengthsFinder Workshop with Malika Begin should complete their online questionnaire and be ready for some self-discovery from 9am-noon on 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.

## HS Winter Retreat — "Higher Love" / 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. The 1980s brought us some of the most amazing love songs and romantic movie scenes the world has ever known. Kids of the 80s grew up learning all about love through big on-screen gestures and rock bands with amazing hair, but several decades later we still don't have a full grasp on what exactly we mean when we talk about love. The word love itself might bring up a different idea or memory for each person who hears it – so what exactly is love? The retreat will focus on God's deep love for us and how we can love others. More details about travel and schedules coming soon. The cost per person is \$85.



# 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.

## 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.

## 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.



## Valentine's Day Childcare

We are offering a few hours of childcare on Valentine's Day from 5-7pm in the Children's Worship area. Ages 2-5th grade are welcome to join. We will watch a movie, work on crafts, and play with toys. Feel free to come in your PJs! Please email [Haylie](#) to RSVP.

## Memory Verse

Our new memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

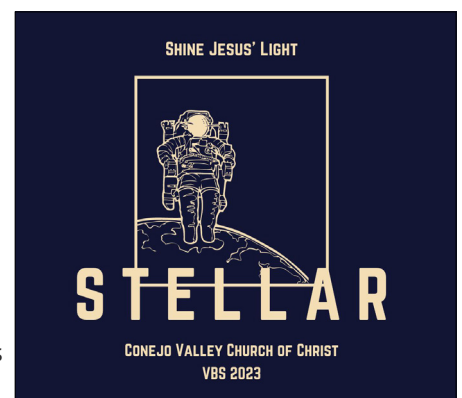
"Set your mind on things above,  
not on earthly things."

## 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**

**Cathy Kiel** (sister of Connie Horton) – is doing well following brain surgeries; able to resume travel and normal routines

## 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

**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 Rocky** – loss of father, Steve Rocky

**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

**Charlie Smith** (brother-in-law of the Arganos) – recovering from recent surgery for colon cancer; starting chemo soon

**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

**Sharon Box** (mother of Amy Moore) – undergoing tests to determine cause of confusion

**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

**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 22 Attendance	
On-Site Service	131
Online Viewing	65

January 22 Giving		\$7,145
Weekly Giving Average		\$20,847
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,644,537
Property Settlement		\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

[www.conejochurch.org](http://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](mailto:elders@conejochurch.org)



## CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362