

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

April 30, 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 and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 12:00pm All-Church In-N-Out Burger Lunch
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 6:00pm Combined Youth Group Meeting at CVCC building

Upcoming Events

- May 1 Monday Guys' Group
- May 2-5 Harbor / Pepperdine Bible Lectures
- May 7 Conejo 50th Anniversary Celebration
- May 19 Moms Better Together
- May 20 Hiking Ministry "Sycamore to the Sea"
- May 29 Memorial Day Picnic

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Bob Falletta | 4/30 |
| Neil Socquet | 5/1 |
| Carly Stephens | 5/2 |
| Alaia Harrington | 5/4 |
| Madi Williams | 5/4 |
| Dylan Scott | 5/5 |
| Emma Scott | 5/5 |
| Joselie Rivera | 5/7 |

Changing the World

Andy Wall

Every year at graduation time, valedictory speakers trot out time-honored platitudes about "making a difference," "changing the world," and "following your dreams." The same is true during election years as candidates make promises and proposals for a better future while lambasting their predecessors for the messes they've made. If only the world could be changed with such speeches.

Consider, on the other hand, the difference Jesus has made. Not during his lifetime, mind you. The impact he had during his brief ministry is minute when compared to what has happened since. On that first Easter, a handful of women came to anoint his corpse and discovered the empty tomb. This past Easter, roughly one third of the world celebrated the empty tomb and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So how has Jesus, along with all who have sought to follow in his ways, changed the world? John Ortberg writes, "[Jesus'] influence has swept over history like the tail of a comet, bringing his inspiration to influence art, science, government, medicine, and education; he has taught humans about dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope." Let me offer three ways that Jesus changed our world, among many.

First, the world is a far better and safer place for children, women, the disabled, and the elderly because of Christ. Christians through the ages have internalized the ethic of the sacredness of human life. In Roman times, Christians rescued infants exposed to die, until a Christian emperor outlawed the practice of infanticide in the fourth century. Early Christians also opposed gladiatorial killings, human sacrifices, pedophilia, and the practice of suicide. Everywhere the gospel has gone, the quality of life for widows, orphans, and the poor has gone up, because Jesus' followers have sought to care for them.

Second, the idea that every person, regardless of gender or social status, should learn how to read and receive an education traces its roots back to Christian faith. The ideas of the university and the library trace their roots to medieval Christianity. Martin Luther made the case that every person needs to be able to read and write in order to study the Bible for themselves. Christians were also at the forefront of early efforts to help educate the deaf and the blind.

Third, the idea of human dignity and worth has been slowly teased out and applied by believers. It was Christians who developed hospitals for the general populace, homes for the mentally challenged, and residences for lepers. It was Christians who cultivated notions of forgiveness, reconciliation, and peacemaking. It was Christians who fought to bring about prison reforms.

Did Christians ever fall short? We know they did. We also know that our work as followers of Jesus is far from done. But were we to remove every trace of Jesus' influence from human history, the world would be a far, far worse place. As we gather to worship this Sunday, may we give thanks to God for Jesus our Lord and his lasting impact on planet Earth! And may we continue to work tirelessly to help bring God's Kingdom reign to fruition in our spheres of influence.

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: Strength In the Building

Philippians 2 talks about Christ being equal with God but choosing to be a humble servant during his life on Earth, giving us a blueprint on how to live as His follower and a part of the Church. The Church is given the charge to be unified in love, purpose, mind, and spirit as we all learn to follow Christ's humble example of service to the world. Hebrews 3 reminds Christ's followers to fix their eyes on Jesus and be reminded that they are helping build God's house because ultimately God is the builder of everything. There is strength in the building of a house as you labor to complete the task. We learn to work together to build a house as we look to the interests of others, as we humble ourselves with hard work, and we get to be used by God as he builds more than just a house for a family in Mexico. As a part of God's family, we are strengthened as we work to build God's house and become more like Christ in our love and service to the world.

MITS Update Class / Today at 9am

This week, we'll have a special combined auditorium class in which Francis Mbuve, director of the Made in the Streets (MITS) ministry in Nairobi, Kenya, will be sharing an update on this important ministry. Our congregation has supported MITS for many years and we're grateful for this opportunity to hear from Mbuve, our beloved friend and brother in the Lord.

2023 University and Grad School Graduates

Congratulations to our recent and upcoming college and graduate school graduates. Please [click here](#) for a full listing of the new graduates.

Thank you from Jessica Wall

A heartfelt thank-you to all those who hosted, prepped delicious dishes, gave such generous gifts, and kindly attended my wedding shower last Sunday! I was showered in support from my beautiful home church. I treasure my relationships with you all and feel deeply grateful to have been raised in such a loving faith community.

With love, Jessica Wall

Harbor / 80th Annual Pepperdine Bible Lectures

May 2-5 are the dates for this year's Harbor, in which six keynote speakers and over 100 workshop facilitators and class teachers (including 8 Conejo Church members) will explore the theme of "God Loves Forever." Director Mike Cope offers this invitation: "Could anything be more important for the church now as it seeks to recapture its true identity in a changing world than to know that we are the beloved of God?...Please join us May 2-5 as we together contemplate the overwhelming love of God-surrounded by the beauty of mountains and ocean and by the warmth of Christian friends." To visit the Harbor website, please [click here](#).

Conejo 50th Anniversary Celebration / May 7

Please mark your calendars for a very special Sunday on May 7, when we celebrate our congregation's 50th year of ministry in the Conejo Valley! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to give praise for God's care, provision, and blessing of this congregation through the years. Rick and Paula Marrs will be sharing memories of our congregational story while also reflecting on its significance going forward. After the worship service, we'll share in a luncheon together—dust off those beloved recipes of yesteryear and let's have an old-fashioned potluck, complete with such timeless classics as crushed potato chip chicken and rice casserole, green bean dish with crispy onions, and banana pudding with Nilla Wafers. Please help us spread the word by inviting former Conejo members you're still in touch with and posting the news on social media. [Click for CVCC 50th flyer.](#)



Prayer Class / Starting May 7

Rodney Smithers will be leading a class titled, "Developing a Closer Relationship with God through Prayer," starting on Sunday, May 7. This discussion-oriented class will take place in the overflow classroom.

May 7 – Keeping Company with God

May 14 – The Language of Prayer

May 21 – Prayer Dilemmas

May 28 – The Practice of Prayer

Moms Better Together / May 19

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, May 19, from 5:45 to 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.

Spring Sycamore to the Sea Hike / May 20

Save the date! For those of you who remember the Hike and Bike from a decade ago, you won't want to miss next month's hike which begins in Newbury Park and ends in Malibu. In August, this hike was beautiful, but very hot and dry. Following the wet winter, we are hopeful to see beautiful green hills and babbling brooks. We'd love to invite more teens, families, and young professionals to join us on this 8 mile (virtually all downhill) hike which will end with a picnic on the beach.

Annual Pismo Beach Trip, July 5-8, 2023

For more than 20 years, a group from our church has enjoyed an annual trip to Pismo Beach where we camp right on the beach (or some stay at a local hotel) and spend time visiting around the campfire, playing on the beach, and riding in the dunes. It's a very casual outing, and it's fine to come up for the day or bring your own tent or trailer and stay the whole time. For details and how to make your required online reservation at Pismo Beach, please contact Mark Davis at (310) 892-9986 or mrkwtdvs@gmail.com.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class

Throughout the month of April YG is studying a series called "Plot Twist." [Click here](#) to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme. Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The group gathers at 9am each Sunday.

Harley's Simi Bowl / May 13

The next family & friends event is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. We have 10 lanes reserved at Harley's Simi Bowl from 5:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$24 per person which pays for 2 hours of bowling, shoes, and pizza/soda for dinner. If you bring a friend/family from outside of CVCC, it is free for your family and those you invited. This event is for families and friends of Conejo's youth and children's ministry. Please [click here](#) to sign up now!

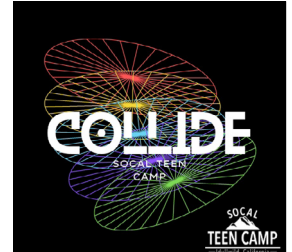


Summer Camps: Early-Bird Registration...Now

Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids. If you desire for your child to grow closer to God, camp is one of the greatest assets we have in helping that become a reality. Websites for each camp are listed for each camp below so that you can learn more about these great opportunities.

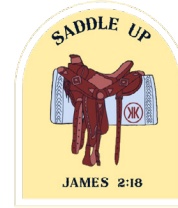
SoCal Teen Camp 2023 "Collide"

Teen Camp, July 9-15, is for students who have finished 8th-12th grades before camp. You can see more info about [Teen Camp](#) and complete the [early-bird registration](#) by connecting to the links. *Early-bird prices end May 1, so please register now.*



King's Kamp 2023 "Saddle Up"

King's Kamp, July 23-29, is for students who have finished 3rd-7th grades before camp. To learn more, please check out the [King's Kamp website](#). Early-bird registration is open through May 1 and forms are accessible on the website.



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.

Memory Verse

But I trust in your faithful love.
My heart is filled with joy because you save me.
I will sing to the Lord.
He has been so good to me.
Psalm 13:5-6

Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9-10am

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

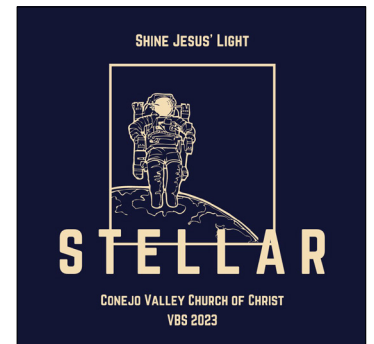
Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C., Kelsey B., Harmony H.
2s/3s - Shaya B., Sarah G., Amy M., Kari O, Tami W.
Age 4-5th grade - Mark D., Dwayne H., Penny W., and Amber J.



Vacation Bible School 2023 / Volunteers Needed

Please save the date for VBS 2023. The theme this year is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light." Mark your calendars for June 19 through June 22. It's going to be out of this world! If you would like to help with VBS this year, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/stellarhelp to let Haylie know of your interest.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Holly Chambers (May)

BIRTHS: Martin Donald Joseph Sanders, son of Brian and Molly Sanders and grandson of **Ed and Sheryl Sanders** was born on April 21

NEW MEMBER: Kim Milanovich

THOSE GRIEVING

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Dena, Elissa, Luke McAllister – loss of husband and father, Ted

Rene Heard – loss of mother, Joan Nicholas

Jacob, Ella, Kate, Tess Michael

– loss of wife and mother, Joella
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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – cancer has returned

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

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

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

Mary Goodner (aunt of Chris Heard) – in ICU following stroke

Tammy Roby (mother of Bonnie Rocky) – recovering from hand surgery

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire at work

Judy Tapper – recovery from most recent abdominal surgery

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

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recovering from recent

surgeries for brain bleed

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

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 (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – prayers for health, comfort, peace, and caregiving 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 – 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; transitioning 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

April 23 Attendance	
On-Site Service	144
Online Viewing	71

April 23 Giving		\$6,522
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,888
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,647,763
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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