



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 21, 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
- 5:00pm Combined YG Dinner and Devo at Hayes' Home

## Upcoming Events

- May 22 Women's Bible Study
- May 24 Flourishing Families
- May 25 Life Group at the Fosters'
- May 26 All-Church Game Night
- May 29 Memorial Day Picnic
- Jun 4 Promotion Sunday
- Jun 11 Senior Celebration Sunday
- Jun 11 Baby Shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn Williamson
- Jun 19-22 Vacation Bible School
- Jun 25-30 Mexico Mission Trip

## Birthdays This Week

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Rylan Downey   | 5/22 |
| Joe Cocke      | 5/23 |
| Luke Zola      | 5/24 |
| Jeremy Johnson | 5/27 |
| Rick Marrs     | 5/28 |

## The Keys of Leadership

Travis Moore

When I was a sophomore in college, I got cut from the baseball team. The door that I wanted so desperately to stay wide open, allowing me to walk through to become a professional baseball player, was closed abruptly. I didn't know what to do or even who I was. Although I'd grown up in the church and got baptized when I was 12, so much of my identity was wrapped up in playing the sport I loved. Little did I know that God had other plans for me. Getting cut from the baseball team allowed for more time that I could spend investing in relationships among the family of God that I'd grown up in. My youth minister noticed my change of investment and proceeded to ask if I wanted to step through a different door. He offered me a summer youth ministry internship. He told me there is nothing like serving God and working toward bringing out the best in people.

The summer internship of 1997 at the El Cajon Blvd. Church of Christ changed the trajectory of my life entirely and I am still on that path today. There have been smooth parts of the road, extremely rocky terrain, a few moments when I deliberately tried to find a different path, and just about everything in between. Central to the mission of the family of God is learning to love God, love our neighbors, and help others learn to follow Christ. One of the best ways we can help others grow in faith along their journey is by handing them the keys of leadership. Conejo has always been a church that invests in developing our kids, allowing them to lead and to serve according to their giftedness. Conejo has also used summer youth ministry internships as a way of letting ministry-minded students have more ministry experience as they discern whether or not they want to go into full-time ministry.

We are blessed to have our own Nico Heard join our ministry team as the summer youth ministry intern. Nico just finished his first year at Pepperdine University and is double-majoring in Religion and Music Composition with a Great Books minor. During his time in the youth group, Nico was always faithfully invested. He also took upon himself various leadership opportunities including being an Impact middle school retreat student leader, helping others learn the various tasks of building homes in Mexico, writing group devotionals for our mission trip, and helping me teach class and lead various youth group events. Nico quickly became a trusted friend and someone I could bounce ministry ideas off of. He is led by God's Spirit and someone I am proud to give more leadership opportunities to. Our youth group will be blessed by his leadership, and I pray that he will grow in his faith and understanding of how God seeks to use him in the Kingdom. Here is a little more from Nico about who he is and what his hopes for this summer are.

### What are you currently interested in and what are some things that you love doing?

I am currently invested in reading some of the classic works. I am in the Great Books Colloquium at Pepperdine, and absolutely love it. This summer I am re-reading Dante's *Divine Comedy* for fun. I also love writing music, and am currently writing videogame-esque sounding music inspired by Plato's *The Republic*.

### Why did you choose to come back to Conejo and be a summer youth ministry intern?

Conejo is my home, and it makes sense to come home during the summer. I love the summer programs that are run at Conejo, and wanted to give back to the programs that fostered spiritual growth in me as I grew up.

### What do you hope to take with you from your youth ministry leadership experience?

I hope to take away a better understanding of how to approach people wherever they are in their life right now. So far I have only been a student or a student-leader, so it will be a great experience now to come back in a more ministerial role for the youth group.

### What are you excited for the most this summer?

I am most excited for mid-July through mid-August. Teen Camp, the final lesson of my 4-week Summer Youth Series (which you should come to, if you are a teen!), King's Kamp, and then a trip to Israel with my family and a few other members of my brother's church up in Minnesota.

# What's Happening at Conejo

## Conejo 50th Anniversary Celebration Thank You!

Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate our congregation's 50th year of ministry in the Conejo Valley! We're grateful for all who participated in our worship service, helping us remember those who went before us. We're also thankful for all who outdid themselves with the wonderful potluck dishes!



### Sermon: "If The Lord Is With Us, Why Then...?"

Tim Willis will share today's sermon. In it, he will help us consider how God's promise to be with us is not a promise of success without struggle, or happiness without disappointment. It is, instead, a promise of God's presence with us at all times and through every situation. God will walk with us even "through the valley of the shadow of death."

## Thank You from the Williamsons

Dear Elders and Conejo Church Family,

Thank you so much for the tribute of our 30 years of ministry with you. We were truly humbled and surprised by the honor and all the wonderful words of blessing poured over us that day. It has been a joy to serve with you, to raise our children in this village, and to call you friends. Thank you for the wonderful gift of a trip to the Holy Land. We are beyond words on how to express our gratitude for this gift. We will treasure the words shared by so many of you forever and look forward to planning our trip.

With humble hearts,  
Jack and Tami

## Prayer Class

Rodney Smithers is leading a class entitled *Developing a Closer Relationship with God through Prayer*. This discussion-oriented class is taking place in the overflow classroom. Remaining classes include:

May 21 – Prayer Dilemmas

May 28 – The Practice of Prayer

## Scripture Up Close Class / Ruth Mini-Series

In the auditorium, we are continuing our scripture studies series entitled *Scripture Up Close*. In each "mini-series," we're working through a biblical text in order, giving careful attention to its content 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. This week, Rick Marrs will conclude the three-week study of the book of Ruth.

## Memorial Day Picnic / May 29

Monday, May 29, is Conejo's annual Memorial Day picnic at Dover and Hendrix Park in Thousand Oaks. This is a great day for fun, food, fellowship, and games with friends and family. It is also an opportunity to introduce your friends from outside of church to your church family in an atmosphere of light-hearted fun. Activities include softball, volleyball, board games, and the ever-popular crawdad-hunting in the creek. The fun starts around 10am, with grilling at 11am, and lunch around noon. Please plan to bring food or drinks to share according to the initial letter of your last name:

**A-E:** Two or more 2-liter drinks and chips

**F-O:** Dessert

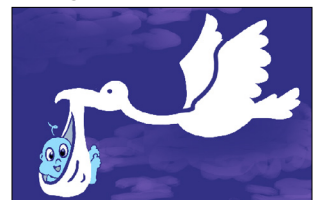
**P-Z:** Side dish or salad

We will need 4 volunteers (with grilling implements) to help with the grilling. If you are interested in helping with the grilling, set up, or clean up, please email Jon Burke at [jon.burke@pepperdine.edu](mailto:jon.burke@pepperdine.edu).

## Baby Shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn / June 11

There will be a baby shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn on Sunday, June 11, at the home of Joy and David Rhoades, 6035 Kerrmoor Drive, Westlake Village. This is a co-ed come-and-go event which begins at 1pm and runs to 4pm.

Baby Registry Link. Click the [Baby Gift Registry](#) to see the items that Brendin and Kaitlyn have selected for their coming baby.



## 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 [mrkwdvs@gmail.com](mailto:mrkwdvs@gmail.com).

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Class

Throughout the month of May, YG is studying a series called "Reasonable Doubt." [Click here](#) to learn more about 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 and 6pm each Sunday.

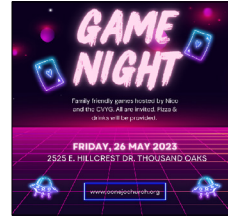
## Mexico Mission Team Meeting / Today at 1pm

Today, all mission trip team members will gather at 1pm for our third mission team meeting. This year's mission trip theme is "Strength in the Building." There is strength in the building of a house as you labor to complete the task. We learn to work together to build the 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.

## Dinner, Worship, and Devotional / Today 5pm

This evening is our monthly middle school and high school gathering for dinner, worship, and devotional. Tonight, we will gather from 5-7pm at the home of Seth and Jolyn Hays (1733 Classic Rose Ct., Westlake Village, CA). Dinner will be provided by the Hays. Swimming will also be available. So, any who want some pool time should bring their swimsuits and a towel. Look forward to another night of worshiping together and being involved in one another's lives. Hope that you will take time to come, encourage, and be encouraged.

## Game Night hosted by Nico and the CVYG



Friday night, May 26, our summer intern, Nico, and some of the youth group will host a family game night at the church from 7-9pm. Pizza and drinks will be provided. All ages are invited and encouraged to bring friends. [Game Night RSVP click here.](#)

## Summer Camps: Registration Open

It's time to sign up for summer camps! Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids and is a place in which we continue to



see God work in powerful ways in our kids' lives. 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. On-time prices end on June 4, so please register now!

## 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 registration by connecting to the links on the website.

## 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](#) and register there.

# Children's Ministry

## Sign In, Please!

Parents, please be sure to sign in your kiddos for Bible class and worship time. 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., 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.

## 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.

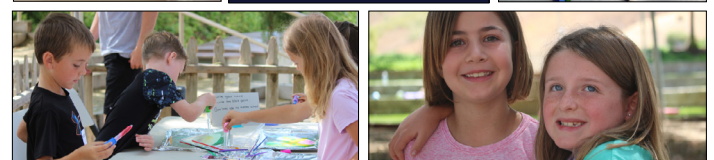
**Psalm 13:5-6**

## Vacation Bible School 2023 / Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun! VBS registration begins today! Stop by the table outside or fill out the google form below to sign up the kids. Our four day VBS runs Monday, June 19 through Thursday, June 22, from 9am-12pm. Invite your friends and family to join us, just make sure to register for them too!

[Stellar VBS Registration form](https://forms.gle/JDMDdcSZ1EjAjDJNA): <https://forms.gle/JDMDdcSZ1EjAjDJNA>

[Volunteer form \(adult and teen\)](https://www.tinyurl.com/stellarhelp): [tinyurl.com/stellarhelp](https://www.tinyurl.com/stellarhelp)





# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**PREGNANCIES:** **Holly Chambers** (May), **Morgan Williamson** (July), **Kaitlyn Williamson** (September)

**ENGAGEMENT:** **John Stephens** and **Ellie Cirillo** were engaged on May 17; they are planning to marry in November 2023

For a wonderful **50th anniversary celebration** of our Conejo Church family

## THOSE GRIEVING

Friends and family of **Barbara Schlosser** (former member)

**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

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

**Justice Howard** (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

## VARIOUS CONCERNS

**Jerry Roby** (grandfather of Bonnie Rocky; father of Brett Roby) – in hospital with heart issues

**Mary Goodner** (aunt of Chris Heard) – recovering at home from recent stroke

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

**Jack Horn** (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire; prayers requested for his physical, emotional, spiritual healing and hope as well as for

his wife and 3 small children

**Joe Reynolds** (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

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

**Kathy Williams** (mother of Lynn Burke) – recovering from recent surgeries for brain bleed

**Calvin Hill** (friend of Haylie Douglas) – 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

**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

**Caleb Rodriguez** (son of

Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

**Carol McNutt** – neuropathy

## MISSION EFFORTS

**African Mission Hospital** – support to Mobile Medical Mission Clinics in Ghana

**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

May 14 Attendance	
On-Site Service	142
Online Viewing	56

May 14 Giving		\$7,375
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,384
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,405
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,648,655
Property Settlement		\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## CHURCH

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