

# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

May 28, 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
- 5:30pm Combined YG Gathering at CVCC Building

### Upcoming Events

- May 29 Memorial Day Picnic
- May 30 Fifth Commandment Group
- May 31 Flourishing Families
- May 31 Reynolds' Life Group (Dinner and Movie Night) at Burkes' home
- Jun 1 Life Group at the Fosters'
- 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

- |               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Rick Marrs    | 5/28 |
| Mark Davis    | 5/30 |
| Katie Charles | 6/4  |

## Talk With Me

Andy Wall

It's hard to absorb the steady stream of negative local, regional, national, and international news and not feel powerless in a world of seemingly endless despair, corruption, violence, and war. We have to work overtime to resist the twin temptations of hopeless cynicism and self-focused escapism. Even if we realistically accept our limits to effect world-wide changes, what can we do as we think locally about global challenges? I'd like to overview one line of positive action that we can all pursue.

Since 1938, the Harvard Grant Study, the longest running research study ever conducted, has attempted to answer the question, "What is the single most contributing factor to a happy life?" The results of 85 years of data, in a nutshell: warm, intimate relationships are the best predictor of human happiness and flourishing. To paraphrase Genesis 2:18, "It is not good for humans to be alone."

Your response to this 85-year-study may be, "Well, duh!" But you probably also realize that sustaining warm, caring relationships is much harder than it looks. We all know the importance of good relationships and yet according to a 2018 Cigna health study, 46% of survey respondents often or always felt alone or left out, 43% felt sometimes or always isolated from others, and 47% admitted to not having meaningful daily interactions. I seriously doubt these numbers improved during the pandemic!

So what's our response to such loneliness as followers of Jesus? I would remind us that we are called to be the *church*! We are called to embody and practice God's love and kindness in our homes and communities. We are called to bear one another's burdens, to confess our sins to one another, to forgive one another, to encourage and build each other up. We are called to care for the poor, the hurting, and the needy near us.

***One of the most practical ways in which we can show love for each other is through the practice of caring conversations. During the next four weeks, we'll share in a sermon series titled "Talk With Me," in which we reflect on how to engage in meaningful conversations in which we value one another, listen well, and express genuine friendship. I believe that practicing loving conversations is deeply rooted in the life of Jesus and the New Testament writings and am looking forward to sharing together in this practical and very timely series!***



# What's Happening At Conejo

## Welcome to Our Guests!

We are so glad to have you visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or have just chosen to visit with us today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning worshipping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that information enables us to share information with you about the upcoming events and ministry of this church.



## "Talk With Me: Connecting More Deeply in a World of Isolation"

This Sunday we're beginning a four-part sermon series in which we'll explore the art of caring conversations. We, as Jesus' followers, have much to offer in a time when people are reporting feelings of loneliness and isolation at high levels (see article on page 1). As a church, we understand the importance of connecting with others and are committed to doing so as we gather regularly for worship, small groups, community service, and fellowship. Today we'll begin by considering the loneliness epidemic and how caring conversations can make a huge difference in people's lives.

## 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 28 – Prayer Dilemmas

June 11 – The Practice of Prayer

## Scripture Up Close Class / Moses 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, Tim Willis will teach on the (first) "song of Moses" in Exodus 15.

## Memorial Day Picnic / May 29



Tomorrow 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).

## Fifth Commandment Group / May 30

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](#).

## Promotion Sunday / June 4

Please join us on June 4 for our annual promotion Sunday class in the auditorium. This is a time to celebrate the growth of our children as they move from one grade to the next, recognize their teachers, and celebrate with our fifth graders as they move from the Children's Ministry into the Youth Group. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and recommit to partner with parents in our congregation as together we seek to grow in God's grace and love.

## Women's Bible Study Dinner / June 5

Ladies, there will be no Women's Bible Study on Monday, May 29; however, please mark your calendars for the next Monday, June 5. The Women's Bible Study group will meet at BJs in Thousand Oaks on June 5 at 6pm to share a meal together.

## Baby Shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn / June 11

There will be a baby shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn Williamson 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 Classes and Event Calendar

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 times together. The YG gathers at 9am and 6pm each Sunday.

Also, teens and parents of teens, there are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in our faith this coming summer. [YG Summer Events Calendar](#).

## Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse / June 2

We have 25 tickets for the 6:30pm showing of Spider-Man: Across the Spider Verse at AMC Thousand Oaks on Friday, June 2. Those who wish can meet at Chipotle next to the theater at 5:30 to eat dinner together before going to the movie. This event is for those in Conejo's youth group. Please reserve your ticket by placing your name on this Google Doc: [Spider-Man Ticket RSVP](#).

## Promotion Sunday CVYG Parent Meeting / June 4

Following service and our welcome of the new 6th graders into the youth group, there will be a parent meeting for all youth group parents. Pizza will be provided for lunch. For existing youth group parents, this will be information on summer activities and fall sabbatical plans. For parents new to the youth group, this will be a "welcome to the youth group and here's what you can expect" meeting.



## Senior Sunday and Graduate Banquet / June 11

It's almost time to honor our 2023 high school graduates! This is a special Sunday. We will have a "web of love" during Bible class where we will share memories and things that we appreciate about each senior. During the service, they will be presented with Bibles filled with encouraging messages from members of their Conejo church family. Then, at 6pm, we come back to celebrate with the seniors and their families, enjoy dinner together, games, and family blessings. Parents, please make sure your kids are involved in this important day for our seniors! The Bibles will be available in the foyer, beginning today, for you to write messages in for our graduates. These messages can be a word of encouragement, a favorite scripture, or nuggets of wisdom for this next chapter of life.

## Summer Camps: On-Time Registration Open

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. Learn more 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 green sign-in pages are on a table as you head back toward 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.

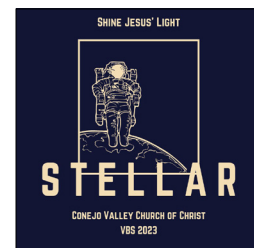
## Memory Verse

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://tinyurl.com/stellarhelp): [tinyurl.com/stellarhelp](https://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

**Andrew Clark** – loss of mother, Kerrie Clark

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) – her 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 21 Attendance	
On-Site Service	143
Online Viewing	73

May 21 Giving		\$7,813
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,119
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,648,855
Property Settlement		\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## CHURCH

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