

BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 26, 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 Service via YouTube, Jack Williamson
- 5:30pm Farewell Dinner in honor of Williamson Family

Upcoming Events

- Nov 27 Men's Bible Study
- Nov 27 Women's Bible Study
- Nov 29 Flourishing Families Group
- Nov 29 Life Group at Reynolds'
- Nov 30 Life Group at Fosters'
- Nov 30 Tutoring Ministry
- Dec 2 Christmas Cookie Exchange
- Dec 3 Jesus' Birthday Party
- Dec 9 YG Christmas Party
- Dec 10 Carols and Candlelight
- Dec 15 Extravagodysey
- Dec 17 All-Church Christmas Party

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| Alyssa Hunnicutt | 11/27 |
| Joy Rhoades | 11/27 |
| Bridget Wooton | 12/1 |

Thanks for the Memories

Jack Williamson

It feels like I have spent half my life as a minister for the Conejo Valley Church...that may be because I have. When my family moved to Thousand Oaks, I was 30 years old, Tami was 29, Brendin was not quite 3, Caleb was soon on the way (but we didn't know it) and Alicia wasn't even a glint in her mother's eye. As I am writing this, I am 60. How did we get here so fast? In many ways I still feel like the same enthusiastic, idealistic youth minister who landed here 30 years ago!

Back then, we just wanted to make a difference for teens. We wanted to come to know the group here, put in a few good years of ministry and see what God had lined up for us next. Little did I know that this place, and our ministry that blossomed into relationships and influence all over Southern California and beyond, would largely be my life's work and one of my greatest joys.

While walking with you, Conejo, God impressed upon me the importance of positive memories. Not just memories that make you smile, but good, positive memories that confirm our value and guide the trajectory of our lives. Great memories of laughter and hard work with friends; memories of holy moments and encounters with Christ; memories of people who have become more than friends as we walk through crises together and come out changed for the better on the other end; these are the stuff of which lasting ministry is made.

Through trial and error, and an ongoing prayer-walk seeking vision for ministry, I learned that effective ministry is about building positive memories and tying those memories to Christ. You, my Christian siblings of Conejo, and the ministry of this church, are the playground and laboratory that God used to teach me the truth of this hypothesis. Once I had the inkling that positive memories might be a key to spiritual disciplines and discipleship, I tested the theory. Through crazy mission trip fundraisers and wild antics at camp, through prayer stations and drive-by donut days, through experiential Advent and Good Friday events, I learned that God is present and makes himself known when we build memories together. He loves to be an integral part of the fabric of our lives. With your help I learned that my greatest skills and my best role lie in helping you come together and build memories that will make you smile and be grateful to God.

I have loved being a minister for this church. My children learned to love God and love others through each of you here who helped us raise them. I am a richly blessed man. My family has a rich legacy. That is all largely due to what God has done in us because of you, Conejo. The richest treasures I take with me into our new adventure in New Mexico are the positive memories of what God allowed us to share with you. Thanks for the memories!



What's Happening at Conejo



Today's Sermon: "Jack and the Rabbit"

Today's message will be a reflection on how God has blessed my family through the thirty years we have been at Conejo. There are far too many stories to tell and too many memories to do this topic justice in the short span of one sermon. Still, God has been so very faithful. We have all been blessed as He guided us to walk together for thirty years. Let's reflect on and celebrate that!

Fall Adult Education Classes

This fall, our auditorium class is studying the book of Psalms in a class titled "Psalms for Every Season." This class, which dovetails with our fall sermon series, explores the rich variety found in the Psalms. This Sunday, Andy Wall is teaching on the hymns of praise in the Psalms.

Our class for those raising kids of all ages at home meets in the north overflow room. The class is titled "Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together." The class is overseen by Bill and Melissa Foster and features Bible-based teachings along with some video curriculum and will include time for prayer and fellowship. The class will also meet occasionally for get-togethers outside of class.

Envisioning the Blessing

Conejo elders and ministers thank all who participated in the church's Envisioning the Blessing meeting, held November 12, 2023. Though our time was constructive and informative around the Be the Blessing project of 2017, we want to give those who attended—as well as those who could not—an opportunity to provide additional input. Click [Envisioning the Blessing Response Form](#) to share additional feedback that will tie Conejo's vision with dreams for future ministries and facilities that will support them.

You may submit this form multiple times or send additional feedback to elders@conejochurch.org.

Armloads of Love Thank You

Thank you for your participation in providing and distributing food to twenty-one families in our neighborhood last week. We're grateful for every opportunity we have to reflect God's goodness and generosity to us within our local community.



Farewell to the Williamsons / Today at 5:30pm



After 30 years of ministry with the Conejo Church, Jack and Tami Williamson will begin a new chapter of ministry with the Montgomery Boulevard Church of Christ in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While we all have a mix of bittersweet emotions

concerning their departure, we want to truly honor and celebrate their three decades of service at Conejo. Please plan to join us for a farewell dinner in their honor today at 5:30pm. The church will provide the meal; we do ask that members bring wonderful desserts to share. The evening will include a time to share favorite memories and words of appreciation for Jack and Tami, as well as Brendin, Caleb, and Alicia.

Meals for the West Family

We have the opportunity to provide a meal for Rob, Alyssa, and Philomena West as they adjust to life with little Josie. One of Alyssa's friends has created a meal train for the West family. Please [click here](#) to access the meal delivery sign up.

Christmas Cookie Exchange / December 2

Ladies, you are invited to the Foster Residence on Saturday, December 2, from 2-4pm for a Christmas Cookie Exchange. Bring an appetizer to share, 6 dozen cookies, and a container to take your cookies home in.

Carols and Candlelight / December 10

You are invited to our annual Carols and Candlelight Service at 6pm on Sunday, December 10. This special service will feature the singing of favorite holiday carols, the lighting of candles, the reading of the birth narratives of Christ, and the renewing experience of the wonder of Christ's radiant coming. We will enjoy cookies and fellowship following the service. Be sure to invite friends and loved ones to this favorite holiday tradition as we enjoy the season of Advent together.



All-Church Christmas Party / December 17



The congregation is invited to a very special Conejo holiday gathering on Sunday, December 17 at the home of Rick and Paula Marrs. Make plans

now to come share in a delightful evening filled with warm holiday fellowship, Christmas carols, and tasty treats. Please bring substantial hors d'oeuvres or a favorite dessert to share. Come enjoy this thick multi-generational community event!

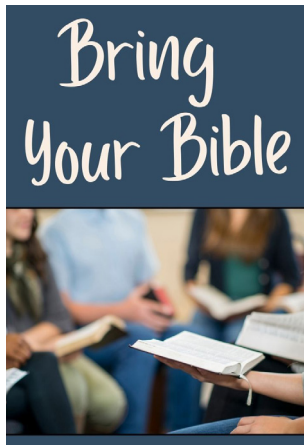
High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class and Activities / Today

On Sunday mornings in November we are doing a short series called "Dining with Jesus: Kingdom Living From the Parables." 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 with tasty treats at the beginning of each class. **Our current memory verse:**

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another, forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

This week, our teens will meet at the church building beginning at 5:30 for the Farewell Celebration for the Williamson Family. Dinner will be provided. Don't miss this awesome time to be with your entire church family as we share an evening of fun memories and blessings during this transition.



Youth Group Christmas Party / December 9

On Saturday night, December 9, the middle school group is invited to the Daringers' home for a youth group Christmas party. The party will be from 5-8pm, will include a catered dinner, games, prizes, and festive fun! We will also be collecting toys to donate to Raising Hope. More information on that will be sent via email.

Extravagodysey 2023 / December 15

Extravagodysey is an extraordinary lock-in hosted by the Conejo Valley youth group. Come and enjoy an all-nighter filled with friends from other churches, worship, a devotional, games, prizes, and an epic scavenger hunt! The fun begins at 7pm Friday, December 15 and lasts until 7am, Saturday, December 16. Cost is \$20 per person.



Youth Ministry Parent Meeting / December 3

Next Sunday, immediately following service there will be a parent meeting in the youth room for youth group families. Pizza will be provided for the kids for lunch. We will meet to catch up after Travis' sabbatical, discuss upcoming events, and future plans/parent partnership in 2024.

YG Calendar

Teens, there are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in our faith. Please [click here](#) to see the calendar of events for the coming weeks.

Children's Ministry

Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.

2s/3s/4s - _____ and Sarah G.

Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - Amy M. and Sarah G.

Elementary - Noel T.



Jesus' Birthday Party

We are super excited to announce that our advent event this year is a birthday party for Jesus on Sunday, December 3 from 4-6pm. We'll have lots of fun stations, pizza dinner, and a sweet treat. We're asking that each family bring a gift for a child in the age range of infant through age 21 to be donated to [Raising Hope](#). The gifts will be placed in Raising Hope's toy shop where older siblings who live at Raising Hope can go to pick a gift for their younger sibling. Please do not wrap the gift. (If you want

to place it in a gift bag because it's a birthday party, that would be fine.) Raising Hope has suggested a price range of \$20-25 for each gift. RSVP to haylie@conejochurch.org so we can have an accurate count for food. We can't wait to see you at Jesus' birthday party!

Memory Verse

"The Word became a human being.

He made his home with us.

We have seen his glory.

It is the glory of the one and only Son."

John 1:14



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Jodi Davis** (February); **Eliza Erickson** (March); **Cassie Horton** (March); **Chloe Sutherland** (April)

Recent wedding of **John Stephens** to Ellie Cirillo

BIRTHS: **Nolan Reynolds** (grandson of TJ and Suzanne) was born to Scott and Claire Reynolds

Josephine "Josie" Marie West was born to **Rob and Alyssa West** on November 14

THOSE GRIEVING

Smithers Family – loss of cousin of Brian / nephew of Rodney, Jason Knight

Pepperdine Community and families – of Deslyn, Asha, Niamh, and Payton following their tragic deaths

Kay Falletta – loss of brother-in-law, Bill McQuillan

Tim Willis – loss of father, John Willis

Loree Hunnicutt – loss of mother, Judy Long

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) Rivera

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Jerry Jerabek (father of Christopher Jerabek) – neuroendocrine carcinoma

David Green – fighting two types of cancer cell lines; recovering from recent surgery

Joe Watts (friend of Rene Heard) – cancer in leg, spine, and lungs

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

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 Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Griffin McAfee – (grandson of Maxi McAfee, brother of Freya) – blockage in kidney; currently on antibiotics; upcoming surgery

Amy and Kevin Stalbaum (niece and nephew of Kay Falletta) – serious injuries from hit-and-run bicycle accident

Peace and safety for all in Israel and the Middle East

Marty Lince (brother of Suzanne

Scarberry) – congestive heart failure; difficulty with peripheral circulation; severe kidney infections

Marilyn Aurand – nodules discovered in lungs; also dealing with spinal stenosis

Carol McNutt – recovery from knee replacement surgery

Susan Kenny (sister of Kimberly Thomson) – fighting babesiosis

Reilly Phillips (son of Phil and Heather Phillips) – type I diabetes

Jerry Roby (grandfather of Bonnie Rockey) – dealing with heart issues

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire; pray for healing and hope as he recovers at home

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – severely burned, many complications

Andy Long (father of Loree Hunnicutt) – as he grieves the loss of his wife, Judy

Carina Grant (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – Carina's cast was removed; prayers that her hip bone will stay in the socket

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

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

Raul and Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Baja Missions – Baja California, Mexico

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center (BEST) in Cambodia

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Made in the Streets – Nairobi, Kenya

Medical Clinic Mission Support – Ghana

Daniel and Karly Napier – Thessaloniki, Greece

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

David and Danna Willis and family (brother of Tim Willis) – mission work in Samoa

MILITARY SERVICE

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

Derek Willis (nephew of Tim Willis) – serving in PA in the Army

Attendance
+ Giving

November 19 Attendance		November 19 Giving	
On-Site Service	139	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,409
Online Viewing	84	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,656,358
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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