



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 7, 2024

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 Christmas Celebration Service via YouTube
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

Upcoming Events

- Jan 8 Monday Guys' Group
- Jan 8 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 9 Fifth Commandment Group
- Jan 10 Flourishing Families
- Jan 11 Playdate with Haylie
- Jan 11 Fosters' Life Group
- Jan 11 Conejo Tutoring Resumes
- Jan 12 Dave & Buster's Event
- Jan 14 Crafty Women
- Jan 19 Moms Better Together
- Jan 20 Hiking Ministry
- Jan 21 Bowls of Hope Painting Party

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Daelan Blankfein | 1/1 |
| Emersyn Starkey | 1/2 |
| George de Bruyn | 1/5 |
| Rob West | 1/7 |
| Wyatt Daringer | 1/9 |
| Carrie Wall | 1/11 |
| Char Hurley | 1/11 |
| Allie Moore | 1/13 |
| Dot Holden | 1/14 |
| Bonnie Rocky | 1/14 |

Beware of Certainty Projects

Andy Wall

In times of fear and uncertainty, we tend to reach for time-tested and well-worn truths that bring us comfort and assurance. I think many of our favorite Bible verses fit this scenario. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters."

So far, so good, right? When we get to feeling off-balance, we reach for what helps us find our center of gravity. And in our faith, this can involve beloved Scriptures.

But here's where we can get into trouble. When we're flooded with fears or ambushed by anxieties, we tend to search for comfort in what is most familiar. In such a restricted frame of mind, we can easily fall prey to our prejudices and biases, seeing what we already wanted to see or falling prey to the manipulations of others. When fear and anxiety are "driving the bus," we can get sucked into what I've come to call Certainty Projects.

Certainty Projects offer false assurance based on reducing complex and multi-sided realities into oversimplified verities, all-or-nothing dichotomies, or clear "good guys" and "bad guys." Consider the fears that some books are built upon and how they proffer certainty with titles like: Three Steps to a Great Marriage, Five Secrets To Raising Great Kids, Seven Sure-Fire Ways to Achieve Financial Security. To be sure, there's nothing wrong with pursuing a solid marriage, or seeking to raise good kids, or saving for retirement. But what's often on offer is actually a Certainly Project that in reality cannot be reduced to three, five, or seven easy steps. In our fear and anxiety, we'd love to believe that someone has it all figured out, that one book can give us the solution we crave, which makes us susceptible to faux quick fixes that don't work in reality. If anyone offers you three steps to deal with anything that terrifies you, you should immediately suspect you're being offered the fool's gold of a Certainty Project.

When it comes to our Christian faith, we understand with Hebrews 11:1 that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." We certainly have our assurances and convictions, but our faith was never meant to be a Certainty Project that works out like a simple mathematical equation. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:12, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." As we live in this new year, may we walk confidently, trusting steadily in Jesus, while at the same time refusing to buy into Certainty Projects that have everything to do with managing our fears and little to do with placing our faith in the Lord.

What's Happening At Conejo



Today's Sermon: "Remember Page One!"

As we enter a new year together, where should we begin? While contemplating many good options, it occurs to me that one helpful place to start is page one, at the very beginning of the story of our faith. In light of this, I'd invite us to remember page one of Scripture and to reflect on the teaching that we humans have been created in the image of God. By divine grace, we humans bear the image of God and thus have been given both dominion over and shared responsibility for God's good creation! We have been given agency and called to be good stewards of what God has created. May we begin the new year empowered by the notion that because we bear God's image, we have capabilities and responsibilities to live out and embody in the year of our Lord 2024.

New Year's Class

On Sunday, January 7, Jacqueline Dillion will be teaching a class titled, "Can We Feel Eternity?" The class is based on Augustine's reflections on time in his classic work, *The Confessions*, and will explore this concept more broadly.

Adult Education this Winter

Starting January 14, Christina Littlefield Eng will lead the adult auditorium class through a 12-week church history series using Mark Noll's text "Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity." Noll and his co-authors, David Komline and Han-luen Kantzer Komline consider critical moments that shaped the faith, the church and the larger society. Like the great parade of saints in Hebrews 11, studying the key people who have led the faith can help us better see the transformational power of God at work in the lives of human beings and help us all better follow Jesus Christ today.

January 14: Fall of Jerusalem; Christianity as a unique faith

January 21: Council of Nicea; Trinitarian theology

Small Groups Resuming

Small groups are resuming following the holiday hiatus. Please click [2024 Small Groups](#) link for the detailed description of the current groups that meet in and around the Conejo Valley. Below are the dates and RSVP links for the upcoming monthly meetings to help our planners:

- **Crafty Women** will meet on *Sunday, January 14, 1-6pm* at the CVCC Building. RSVP to office@conejochurch.org
- **Moms Better Together** will meet on *Friday, January 19, 5:45-7:45pm*. [Click here to RSVP](#) or speak with Katie C. or Cassie H. so that they can have a meal and a place prepared for you.
- **Hiking Ministry** will meet at the Malibu Creek Canyon to hike to a variety of movie sites on *Saturday, January 20*. For additional details, please contact Jon Burke at jon.burke@pepperdine.edu.

Thank You, Conejo!

Tami and I have made the transition to Albuquerque and enjoyed a wonderful family Christmas. Reflecting back over the past couple of months, we feel like we have come through a whirlwind.

We are so grateful to all of you at Conejo for your countless expressions of love and encouragement given through words, cards, hugs and moments of blessing. The night of recognition you gave us was so rich and unexpected. The quilt we received that night is a treasured possession. Words cannot express our gratitude and love for you. We begin this new chapter with such confidence because of your encouragement! "Thank you," just doesn't say enough. We love you and look forward to reunions down the road!

May God continue to bless your ministry and influence from Conejo to the world!

Jack and Tami



Fifth Commandment Group / January 9

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](#).

Bowls of Hope / January 21

We are glad to announce that our Third Bowls of Hope Painting Party to support Many Mansions has been scheduled for Sunday, January 21, from 2-4pm. Each person will paint a bowl that will be glazed, fired, and displayed at Many Mansions' upcoming fundraising



event. We hope to have a group of 50! If you can join the party, please sign up by clicking on [Bowl Painting Party](#) or through the QR code above. Hannah from Many Mansions will need to know how many supplies to bring, so please sign up. Contact Stu Warford at stu.warford@conejochurch.org with any questions.

Baby Shower for Eliza Erickson / February 10

Eliza and Ty Erickson are expecting their first child in March. A baby shower for them will be held at the home of Suzanne Reynolds on Saturday, February 10 at 2pm. Ladies, please save the date and come to help celebrate with the Erickson's and help them prepare as they begin this new adventure as first-time parents.

To help those who are planning the event, we ask that you RSVP to Eliza's sister by calling or texting Mackenzie Wright at (512) 917-6131. Also, please bring a book for Baby Erickson's library in lieu of a card.

New Year & New Friends

Welcome to Conejo

We are pleased to welcome Randy, Jennifer, Cameron, and Jacqueline Reed today as members of the Conejo Church. We pray that God will bless our association in this church family. May your love for God be deepened, your walk with Jesus be strengthened, and your spirit be encouraged by the fellowship of believers. The contact information for the Reed family is as follows:

102 Santa Cruz Way, Camarillo, CA 93010-1159

Randy's Contact Info: rgreed143@gmail.com; (248) 459-0087

Jennifer's Contact Info: jenmc03@yahoo.com; (810) 626-8074

Address Correction for Ornelas Family

Joel, Tiffany, Alexey, and Joey Ornelas recently placed membership. Their correct mailing address is:

1388 Sapphire Dragon Street; Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Dave & Busters New Friends Night / January 12

This night is focused on celebrating, welcoming, and getting to know some new faces at Conejo. We seek to be a thick, intergenerational community of faith, and these gatherings give us an opportunity for special fellowship and fun together. Dinner & game cards provided for each family that attends. Please click this [Dave & Buster's](#) link to sign up.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class and Activities / Today

Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The middle and high school gathers at 9am each Sunday with tasty treats at the beginning of each class. The January youth group memory verse: *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry."* Psalm 40:1

We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas holiday with family and friends. Teens, join us this evening for dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Let's make YG meetings a priority in 2024 as we grow together and encourage one another in our understanding of and commitment to God.

High School Winter Retreat / January 26

The high school group is invited to a weekend in Big Bear for rest, group building, and spiritual refreshment. The cost is \$90 per person. Watch for additional details in next week's edition of the Family News.

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 - Leslie S. and Sarah G.

Elementary - Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - _____

Elementary - Staci D.



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

Playdates with Haylie / January 11

Our youngest and cutest CVCC members are invited to a fun morning at church with Ms. Haylie. This Thursday, January 11, beginning at 10:30, come have a fun morning playing with friends and join the group to wave to the garbage truck driver while he works his amazing truck to help the world be a cleaner, safer, and prettier place.

Playdates with Haylie

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at the church building at 10:30am we'll have playdates with Haylie. This will be a time for our kiddos that aren't yet in school and their parent/grandparent/nanny to spend some more time with Haylie and play together. We want our littles to know the church is a safe place for them to learn, grow, and have fun.

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)

BIRTHS: **Josie West** (Rob and Alyssa W.), **Nolan Reynolds** (grandson TJ and Suzanne R.) **Mila Luisa Starkey** (Brandon and Flora S.)

NEW MEMBERS: **Randy, Jennifer, Cameron, and Jacqueline Reed; Joel, Tiffany, Alexey, and Josiah (Joey) Ornelas**

THOSE GRIEVING

Jerry Monroe (former member) – loss of wife, Ann Monroe

Char Hurley – loss of nephew, Matthew Horner

Rockey and Roby Families – loss of Jerry Roby, father of Brett Roby; grandfather of Bonnie Rocky

Rodney and Brian Smithers – loss of nephew / cousin, 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

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Dena, Elissa, Luke McAllister –

loss of husband and father, Ted **Jacob, Ella, Kate, Tess Michael** – loss of wife and mother, Joella **Mark and Suzanne Scarberry** – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

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

Julie Waters – recovering from recent surgery to remove kidney stones; recovering at home; still in a lot of pain

Griffin McAfee – (grandson of Maxi McAfee, brother of Freya) – recovering from recent kidney surgery; prayers for speedy and uncomplicated recovery

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; recovering and healing after leg amputation

Marilyn Aurand – nodules in lungs are noncancerous; additional tests in 4 months

Carol McNutt – recovery from knee replacement surgery; neuropathy

Susan Kenny (sister of Kimberly Thomson) – fighting babesiosis

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

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

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

Javon Johnson – six-month deployment to Okinawa

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance
+ Giving

December 24 / 31 Attendance

On-Site Service	136 / 127
Online Viewing	63 / 65

December 24 Giving December 31 Giving

\$10,310
\$38,019

Weekly Giving Average	\$13,005
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406

Be the Blessing Giving (To Date) \$1,661,258

Property Settlement \$225,000

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