

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

January 14, 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 Worship Service via YouTube
- 1:00pm Crafty Women Craft Event
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

Upcoming Events

- Jan 15 Monday Guys' Group
- Jan 17 Flourishing Families
- Jan 17 Reynolds' Life Group
- Jan 18 Fosters' Life Group
- Jan 18 Conejo Tutoring
- Jan 19 Moms Better Together
- Jan 20 Hiking Ministry
- Jan 21 Bowls of Hope Painting Party
- Jan 26 HS Winter Retreat at Big Bear

Birthdays This Week

Dot Holden	1/14
Bonnie Rockey	1/14
Quintt Landis	1/15
Isaiah Matute	1/15
Allan Argano	1/18
Kathy Stephens	1/21

Envisioning Our Shared Future

Andy Wall

Over the years, acquaintances have tried to sell me on sure-fire opportunities to make good money. Multi-unit real estate investments. Wildcat oil wells. Sports memorabilia. Cryptocurrency. Non-fungible tokens. But here's the thing: I'm not a fan of get-rich-quick schemes. I have a healthy skepticism of can't-miss investments. I tend to favor the tortoise over the hare, remembering that "slow but steady wins the race."

Through the years, I've also developed the same type of skepticism toward sure-fire church-growth schemes, but not for lack of chasing said schemes! I've been to Saddleback Church and absorbed Rick Warren's purpose-driven church strategies. I've pursued Jim Cymbala's "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire" model for prayer-based church growth. I've explored John Maxwell's "Everything Rises and Falls on Leadership" seminars. I've gone to seminars on building the church through small groups, hospitality ministry, personal evangelism, pastoral care, spiritual formation, discipleship, spiritual gifts, church assimilation, breaking church growth barriers, effective preaching, and many more. Most have provided some helpful insights but none has provided the silver bullet for church growth. As I wrote in last week's article—beware of certainty projects.

Although I don't believe in sure-fire church growth schemes, I do believe our congregation must always pursue health, vitality, service, and mission. One way we've been pursuing these qualities this past year is by participating in a congregational visioning process. Like everything else I mentioned above, this is no "silver bullet." But taking time as a congregation every once in a while to reflect on our purpose and direction, especially following the disruptiveness of the COVID pandemic, strikes me as a valuable exercise, especially when combined with practical follow-up and implementation.

During the next five Sundays, we'll be reflecting together on the vision description that our team of Conejo members crafted last year, in a sermon series titled "Envisioning Our Shared Future." There's nothing magical about this description. However, if it represents the true yearnings and prayers for the Conejo congregation, it can serve as a prod and a plumb line as we pursue ministries, serve our community, share our faith, and wrestle with directional decisions in the years to come. As we pursue God's unfolding future for our congregation, may we continue to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24).



What's Happening At Conejo

And the Angels Rejoiced!



Last Sunday, Brooklyn Baird was baptized into Christ. Brooklyn, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism. Our prayers are that your journey as Christ's follower will be filled with joyful service to God and to all who are around

you. We pray that your witness in the world will be a beautiful reflection of the life of our Lord Jesus as you share your time, talents, and the love of God throughout your life. May God bless you in your decision and empower you to walk faithfully in Jesus' steps.



Sermon Series: "Envisioning Our Shared Future"

Last January, the elders of Conejo announced the beginning of a visioning process for our congregation. A team of church members was commissioned to work together with a consultant to draft a vision description for the next 20 years at Conejo. This process included a larger gathering with the whole congregation last February, focusing on our prayers for the future of our congregation. Last October, the group shared the results of this process with the congregation.

As we begin 2024, we'll be reflecting together on the vision description, both in terms of its biblical/theological foundations and its practical applications. This week, we'll be focusing on the first part of the vision description: "The Conejo Valley Church of Christ seeks to be a thick intergenerational community of reciprocal love and grace..." Our message is titled "If you want to go far...", based on the wisdom of the African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Adult Education This Winter

Starting this Sunday, 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* (4th edition). 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. This week, the class will consider the Fall of Jerusalem and the development of Christianity into a unique faith. Next week, the class will consider the Council of Nicea and the foundations of Trinitarian theology.

Our class in the north overflow room resumes this Sunday and is for those raising kids of all ages at home. The class is titled, "Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together." This class is overseen by Bill and Melissa Foster and includes time for prayer and fellowship; topics for the Spring will include a deep dive into Romans and Ephesians as well as a study on prayer and spiritual gifts.

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 **today from 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.
- **The Hiking Ministry** will host an all-church hike through Malibu Creek State Park starting at **8 am on January 20**, at the lower parking lot (the M*A*S*H site trailhead). John Barton from Pepperdine University will show us many movie sites, including a cage that once held Charlton Heston in the *Planet of the Apes*. The entire hike takes 4 hours. You can come for part of it, or stay for the whole hike. Contact Jon or Lynn Burke for further details.

Bowls of Hope / January 21

We are glad to announce that our third Bowls of Hope Painting Party to support Many Mansions will be held Sunday, January 21, from 2-4 pm. Each person will paint a bowl that will be glazed, fired, and displayed at Many Mansions' upcoming fundraising event. We are hoping to have a group of



50! Please check your calendars. If you can join us, please sign up by clicking on [Bowl Painting Party](#) or through the QR code above. Our Many Mansions liaison will need to know how many supplies to bring. 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.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes



On Sunday mornings in January we are doing a series called "Eyes to See," looking at how our thinking can distort the truth of Jesus' teachings in the gospels. 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. On Sunday nights, we have dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Our Sunday night series is called "Not Yet," focusing on all the questions, fears, frustrations, and excitement that waiting for our futures can bring.

January's Youth Group memory verse: "I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1

Guys Anchor Group Gathering / January 20

Saturday night, January 20 from 5:30-8pm, the guys Anchor group will meet at The Mighty Axe for some axe throwing, pizza, ice cream, and a devotional.

Bowls of Hope / January 21

All members of the youth group and youth group parents, you are invited to join in the Bowls of Hope Painting Party next Sunday, January 21 from 2-4pm. Don't forget to sign up (through the link or QR code on page 2) for this fellowship event and service opportunity.

Youth Group Winter Retreat / January 26

Eighth-12th graders are invited to a weekend in Big Bear for rest, group building, and spiritual refreshment. The cost is \$90 per person. The theme of the weekend is "By Name." The first step in getting to know someone is usually learning their name. But when that person becomes more than just a name to you, that's when a real relationship can begin. We'll discover why it's so important that God knows us by name, and when God becomes more than just a name to us, our lives start to change. RSVP before January 21. [Winter Retreat Sign-Up Link.](#)



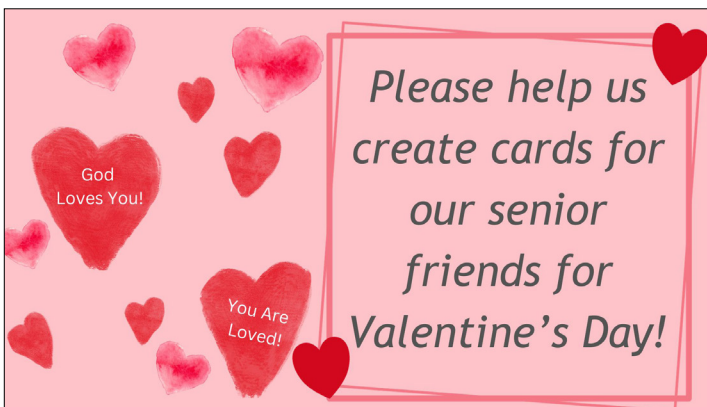
YG Calendar

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

Valentines for Seniors

We are excited to be making valentines for senior citizens in our community again this year. We will be making valentines on the playground patio (or classroom if it is raining or too cold) after the Bible classes and after worship service beginning today and through February 11.



Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.

2s/3s/4s - Leslie S. and Sarah G.

Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - Haylie D.

Elementary - Penny W.



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)

BIRTHS: **Baby Boy Sanders** (son of Arther and Lindsey; grandson of Ed and Sheryl S.); **Mila Luisa Starkey** (Brandon and Flora S.)

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

THOSE GRIEVING

Tammy Ditmore – loss of mother, Darlene Fielder

Christy Guilbault (former member) – loss of brother, David Gonzales

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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Erin Opdahl – diagnosed with stage 2 cancer of the tongue; surgery

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

Amy and Kevin Stalbaum (niece and nephew of Kay Falletta) –

serious injuries from hit-and-run bicycle accident

Peace and safety for all in war-torn areas Israel, the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia

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

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

January 7 Attendance		January 7 Giving	
On-Site Service	151	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,205
Online Viewing	72	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,661,892
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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