



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 21, 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
- 2:00pm Bowls of Hope Painting Party
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

Upcoming Events

- Jan 22 Monday Guys' Group
- Jan 22 Women's Bible Study
- Jan 24 Flourishing Families
- Jan 24 Reynolds' Life Group
- Jan 25 Fosters' Life Group
- Jan 25 Conejo Tutoring
- Jan 26 HS Winter Retreat at Big Bear
- Feb 10 Baby Shower for Baby Girl Erickson

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Kathy Stephens | 1/21 |
| Rodney Smithers | 1/24 |
| Rick Furino | 1/26 |
| Penny White | 1/27 |

Living a Christ-Centered Life

Andy Wall

This week, I invite us to remember a simple yet central part of our Christian faith. We are called to follow in the way of Jesus. To become more and more like him. In thought. In disposition. In behavior. In righteousness. In courage. In love. Especially in love. God's Spirit empowers us in this process. Here are twelve New Testament verses that call us into this Jesus-formed and Christ-centered life. May Christ shine through you this week.

"You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. *So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*" **John 13:13-14**

"This is my commandment, *that you love one another as I have loved you.*" **John 15:12**

"I have been crucified with Christ; and *it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.*" **Galatians 2:19-20**

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Ephesians 5:1**

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." **Philippians 2:5**

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." **Philippians 3:10-11**

"For this reason... we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, *so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.*" **Colossians 1:9-10**

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith*, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." **Colossians 2:6-7**

"And *you became imitators of us and of the Lord*, for in spite of persecution, you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit..." **1 Thessalonians 1:6**

"For to this you have been called, because *Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.*" **1 Peter 2:21**

"...make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. *For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" **2 Peter 1:5-8**

"... whoever says, 'I abide in him,' ought to walk just as he walked." **1 John 2:6**

What's Happening At Conejo

Bowls of Hope / January 21

Our third Bowls of Hope Painting Party to support Many Mansions will be held today 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 still



hoping to have a group of 50! If you can join us, please sign up through the QR code to the left. Our Many Mansions liaison will need to know how many supplies to bring. Contact Stu Warford at stu.warford@conejochurch.org with any questions.

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 worshiping 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.

Adult Education This Winter

Christina Littlefield Eng is leading 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 Council of Nicea and Trinitarian theology.

Our class in the north overflow room 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

Our small groups have resumed following the holiday hiatus. Please click [2024 Small Groups](#) for the detailed description of the current groups that meet in and around the Conejo Valley.

Contributions and Online Giving

For the last few years, we have offered online giving as one way to participate in congregational giving. Our hope is that online giving will provide flexibility in how and when we give and will also help us better develop the habit of giving regularly.

There are three ways you can access our online giving.

- 1) The CVCC website: go to conejochurch.org and click on the "online giving" link.
- 2) Go directly to conejochurch.churchcenter.com.
- 3) Text a dollar amount to 84321.

You may make a one-time donation or to schedule regular donations directly from your checking account or from your debit or credit card. You can even designate giving toward the regular offering, the Be the Blessing campaign, or the youth group mission trip. If you have any questions, please contact our accountants at finance@conejochurch.org.

If you prefer to make your contributions by checks, please place them in the offering bags during service, leave them in the offering box in the foyer, or mail them to the church address 2525 E. Hillcrest Drive; Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



Sermon Series: "Envisioning Our Shared Future"

As we begin 2024, we're reflecting together on Conejo's vision description, both in terms of its biblical/theological foundations and its practical applications. This week, we'll be focusing on this statement: "The Conejo Valley Church of Christ seeks to... embody the Christ-centered, Spirit-led character and durable unity of the church."

As we think about the future of the Conejo Church, our prayer and desire is to be a Christ-centered, rather than issue-centered church. Being Christ-centered provides a focal point for us as we seek to interpret the Bible. This means we ask what Jesus emphasized in his teachings, what kind of life Jesus modeled, and how Jesus interpreted the Scriptures available to him.

Being Spirit-led means we seek to listen to God's voice as we wrestle with various issues of our day. This listening to God includes communal study of the Scriptures (with a Christ-centered lens), remembering the teachings and traditions of the historic Church, reflecting thoughtfully on our experiences, and discerning the Spirit's leading in our congregation as a whole.

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. Click the [Erickson Baby Registry](#).

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*

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.

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 by Sunday, January 21. [Winter Retreat Sign-Up Link.](#)



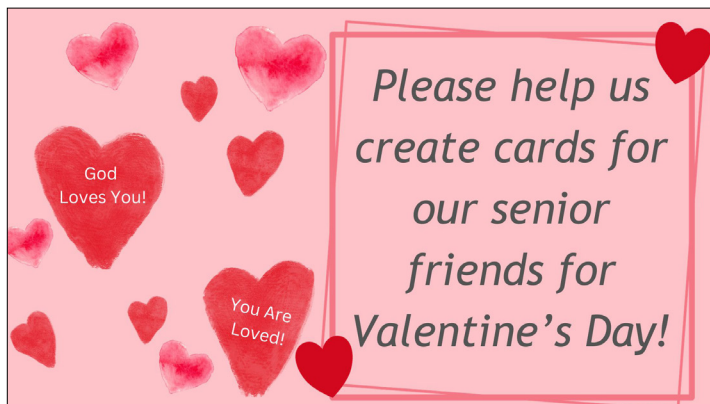
Mexico Mission Trip RSVP deadline / February 25

Mission team assemble! It's almost that time of year where we figure out who will be on our 2024 Mexico mission trip team. The mission trip is for current 8th graders and older. This is also an intergenerational trip, so we are open to others in the congregation who want to go build a home for a family in need. If you plan to attend and haven't gotten a passport yet, please start the process now. More info to come soon!

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 each Sunday 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 - Jan Willis
Elementary - Haylie D.



Memory Verse

Our new memory verse:

"But build one another up every day.
Do it as long as there is still time.
Then none of you will become stubborn.
You won't be fooled by sin's tricks."

Hebrews 3:13

Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Jodi Davis** (Feb.); **Eliza Erickson** (Mar.); **Cassie Horton** (Mar.); **Chloe Sutherland** (Apr.)

BIRTHS: **Callahan Churchill Sanders** (son of Arther and Lindsey; grandson of Ed and Sheryl S.); **Isaiah Wyatt Urquia** (grandson of Guy and Rosie Patenaude), **Mila Luisa Starkey** (Brandon and Flora S.)

BAPTISM: **Brooklyn Baird**

NEW MEMBERS: **Randy, Jennifer, Cameron, and Jacqueline Reed; Joel, Tiffany, Alexey, and 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 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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

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

David Green – cancer surgery was not entirely successful; not a candidate for radiation therapy or chemotherapy; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies with unpleasant side effects

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) – returned home to continue recovering from head trauma, broken back, neck, and limbs following bike 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; infections

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) – prays that her hip bone will stay in the socket

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

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 14 Attendance		January 14 Giving	
On-Site Service	128	Weekly Giving Average	\$8,500
Online Viewing	78	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,661,944
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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