

# BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 4, 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
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

### Upcoming Events

- Feb 5 Monday Guys' Group
- Feb 5 Women's Bible Study
- Feb 7 Flourishing Families
- Feb 7 Reynolds' Life Group
- Feb 8 Fosters' Life Group
- Feb 8 Conejo Tutoring
- Feb 10 Guys' Golf Outing
- Feb 10 Baby Shower for Baby Girl Erickson
- Feb 16 Moms Better Together
- Feb 17 Hiking Trails Ministry

### Birthdays This Week

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Christopher Hays | 2/7  |
| Jamison Clark    | 2/8  |
| Ashleigh Baird   | 2/9  |
| Charee Landis    | 2/10 |
| Paxton Van Atta  | 2/11 |

## You're a Minister

Andy Wall

Five-hundred years ago, the Protestant Reformers reasserted some central theological principles in response to various abuses that were taking place in the Catholic Church. Principles such as, "You can't sell salvation to make money." "We are saved by Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone." One oft-neglected aspect of the Reformation is its emphasis upon the "priesthood of all believers." Martin Luther put it like this: "Let everyone who knows himself a Christian be assured of this—that we are all priests, and there is no difference between us."

This Reformation emphasis on the priesthood of all believers is certainly one which the fellowship of the Churches of Christ have inherited. I have heard many times in my life the saying that every Christian is a minister. Such an emphasis is based on verses like I Peter 2:9 or Revelation 1:5-6: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins, and has made us to be a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

Think about what these verses mean: You don't have to be an ordained minister to lead prayer, to preside over communion, to preach the Good News of Jesus, to strive for peace and justice in the world. Though some of us do serve full-time as ministers (ahem!), we are not some distinct species of human. The truth is that God calls every follower of Jesus into various aspects of service. If you're a baptized believer, you've been ordained to Christ's service. Go ahead and add this title to your online profile: "Minister of Jesus."

One of the ways we desire to make the priesthood of all believers practical in our congregation is by helping each other grow in various practices of ministry. Since the practices of the Christian life are "better caught than taught," equipping others for service takes place through mentoring relationships in which various Christian practices are modeled and emulated. Equipping can take place in classes as helpers watch teachers nurture students; at summer camps and Vacation Bible School where teen volunteers are guided by adult mentors; at small groups where experienced leaders provide emerging teachers the opportunity to lead; in pastoral visits and Bible studies in which an experienced leader brings a mentee along to "learn the ropes."

The process of learning to follow Jesus and serve others is best accomplished through equipping relationships based on trust and shared learning. May God bless us as each of us grows in our unique ministry capacities as we team up with and learn from those who are wiser and more experienced.



# 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.



## Sermon Series: "Envisioning Our Shared Future"

As we move into week four of our series on our Vision Description for the Conejo Church, we'll reflect on the part of our statement in bold: "**When we genuinely belong to each other and are actively equipped for service, we can be God's ongoing blessing (Genesis 12) in the Conejo Valley and beyond.**" The life of faith brings us together in community and sends us forth in service. Belonging meaningfully to each other as a family and being equipped by one another to serve in the world are important parts of our vision for the future.

## 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 celebrate with the Ericksons and help them prepare as they begin this new adventure as first-time parents.

To assist the planners, 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 to connect to the [Erickson Baby Registry](#).

## 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 study the impact of the monastic movement by looking at the Rule of Benedict.

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.

## Bowls of Hope Painting Party

The recent Bowls of Hope Painting party was a great event with all ages joining together for two hours of creative fun in support of the ministry of Many Mansions. To learn more about the Bowls of Hope event scheduled for March, please pick up a flyer from the entry table.



## Small Group Ministry

Our small groups ministry is one vital way we go deeper with one another in Christian community. 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:

- **Moms Better Together** will meet on *Friday, February 16, 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, February 17*. For additional details, please contact Jon Burke at [jon.burke@pepperdine.edu](mailto:jon.burke@pepperdine.edu).
- **Crafty Women** will meet on *Sunday, February 25, 1-6pm* at the CVCC Building. RSVP to [office@conejochurch.org](mailto:office@conejochurch.org).





# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Classes



On Sunday mornings in February 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 *"Rhythm,"* focusing on developing spiritual rhythms that contribute to our spiritual growth and our awareness of God.

February's Youth Group memory verse: *"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* **Philippians 3:13-14**

## Youth Group Winter Retreat



## 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!

## YG Families Potluck / February 25

Once a quarter, the youth group families gather for a potluck meal immediately following morning worship service. We are a family and can easily become disconnected or isolated by our own schedules over time. These gatherings give us regular opportunities for connection, fellowship, encouragement, and yummy food. All youth group families are invited to participate, bring some food to share, and enjoy the time together. Look for a potluck sign-up to come from Travis soon.

## 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 - Paula M. and Lynn B.

### Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - \_\_\_\_\_.

Elementary - Penny W.



## Date Night Babysitting

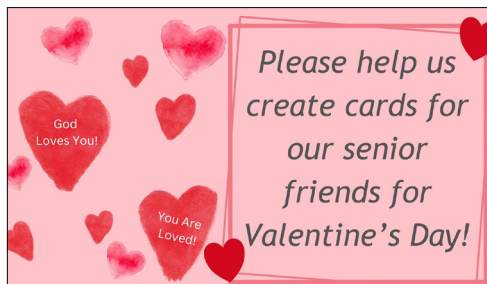
On Friday, February 23, bring your kids to the church building from 5:30-7:30 for a night of free babysitting. We'll watch a movie, have some pizza, and play while you get an evening to yourself. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/cvccbabysit](https://tinyurl.com/cvccbabysit).

Contact Haylie if you have any questions.



## Valentines for Seniors

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



## 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: **Eliza Erickson** (Mar.); **Cassie Horton** (Mar.); **Chloe Sutherland** (Apr.); **Melody Creed** (Apr.)

BIRTHS: **Brooklyn Davis** (Jodi and Matt Davis);

**Callahan Churchill Sanders** (son of Arthur 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**

**Carina Grant** (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – Carina's cast removed, hip staying in place, now moving freely!

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Daelan Blankfein** – loss of father, Fred Blankfein

**Kim Milanovich** – loss of grandmother, Alice Michael

**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, grandfather of Bonnie Rockey

**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** – stage II cancer of the tongue

**David Green** – successful, and he is not a candidate for radiation therapy or chemotherapy; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies ahead with unpleasant side effects

**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) – recovering from recent kidney surgery; doing well

**Julie Waters** – recovering from recent surgery to remove kidney stones

**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

**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

**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 28 Attendance		January 28 Giving	
On-Site Service	125	Weekly Giving Average	\$9,750
Online Viewing	99	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,662,146
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

[www.conejochurch.org](http://www.conejochurch.org)

### Haylie Douglas

Children's Minister  
(979) 676-1529 cell  
haylie.douglas@conejochurch.org

### Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager  
(818) 665-8598 cell  
rene.heard@conejochurch.org

### Travis Moore

Youth & Family Minister  
(520) 591-8246 cell  
travis.moore926@gmail.com

## CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



### Andy Wall

Preaching Minister  
(805) 331-0187 cell  
andy.wall@conejochurch.org

Elders: Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – [elders@conejochurch.org](mailto:elders@conejochurch.org)