

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

May 26, 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 Worship Service via YouTube

Upcoming Events

- May 27 Memorial Day Picnic
- May 29 Flourishing Families (location varies)
- May 30 Life Group at Fosters'
- Jun 1 Saturday Guys' Golfing
- Jun 9 Promotion Sunday
- Jun 9 Senior Sunday
- Jun 17-20 Vacation Bible School
- Jun 23-28 Mexico Mission

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Jeremy Johnson | 5/27 |
| Rick Marrs | 5/28 |
| Alexey Ornelas | 5/28 |
| Lara Chambers | 5/29 |
| Mark Davis | 5/30 |

A Song in the Night

Andy Wall

During the darkest of nights, sometimes all you have is a song. During our first born daughter's earliest days, she suffered from what we could only guess was colic. Carrie and I would take turns walking, bouncing, and vainly trying to comfort her incessant cries, especially at night. Both of us sang lullabies, some traditional and some of our own desperate composition, offering our own consolations as best we could. In those dark nights, the line would blur between singing to comfort Jenna and singing to console myself.

At least two Psalms mention songs that are sung in the night. Not surprisingly, both are individual psalms of lament, prayers in which the psalmist cries out to God in pain. Psalm 42 describes a personal crisis that has the poet distraught, wondering aloud if God has forgotten him. In verse 8, the Psalmist reflects on God's comfort amidst the pain: "By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life." Psalm 77 voices a desperate prayer, lamenting the apparent absence of God. But verse 6 confesses "I remembered my songs in the night," as if the Psalmist is desperately clinging to any shred of hope by singing songs. In Acts 16, after Paul and Silas have been arrested, flogged, and imprisoned for allegedly "disturbing the peace" and "advocating unlawful customs," they too sing their songs in the night. "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God" (Acts 16:25).

I would love to know what songs in the night were sung by Korah (Psalm 42), Asaph (Psalm 77), and Paul and Silas (Acts 16). My hunch is that these songs would have sounded a lot like the songs found in the Psalms and in fragments here and there throughout Scripture (see Philippians 2:5-11 and Colossians 1:15-20 for examples of what many scholars believe were early Christian hymns). I imagine songs of trust in God (even as expressed through lament) as well as honest pleas for help; such songs would anticipate songs we sing today: "Be With Me Lord, I Cannot Live Without Thee", "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound," and "In His Presence (There is Comfort)."

Daniel Levitin, in his book "This Is Your Brain on Music," observes, "Music is unusual among all human activities for both its ubiquity and its antiquity. No known human culture now or anytime in the recorded past lacked music... Whenever humans come together for any reason, music is there: weddings, funerals, graduation from college, men marching off to war, stadium sporting events, a night on the town, prayer, a romantic dinner, mothers rocking their infants to sleep, and college students studying with music as a background." It should come as no surprise that we humans would have songs in the night or that people of faith would sing out to God during their dark times.

During the darkest of nights, sometimes all you have is a song. And as you sing, remember that you're in the well-traveled company of the saints, ancient and contemporary!



What's Happening At Conejo

A Note of Thanks

Dear church family,

Andy and I have been overwhelmed by your outpouring of love in the form of texts, calls, emails, cards, flowers, tea, lotion, zucchini bread, Chick-fil-A shakes, home-roasted coffee beans, meals, and even preaching (thanks Nick Zola!). God has blessed us tremendously through your many prayers, offers to help, and numerous gestures of care and concern at a time when we really needed it. Thank you for demonstrating God's love in beautiful, tangible ways.

Gratefully, Carrie Wall



Sermon Series: "Imagine That!"

This week's sermon, titled "A Song in the Night," will reflect on how we live out of a God-fueled imagination sustained by the story of Scripture, even during times of fear and despair. Nurtured by the great narratives of faith, we dare to imagine a world free of slavery to Pharaoh, a God bigger than Goliath, and a land where dry bones can live again. By faith, we can imagine a voiceless woman speaking up for her people before a mighty king, a God who feeds a legion on five loaves and two fishes, and a crucified Messiah who is resurrected from the dead. When we live with deep faith, even when our knees start to shake, we trust that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Adult Education

During May and June, our auditorium class is exploring the theme of "The Past, the Present, and the Future in Israel's Prophets." Based on passages in Amos and Hosea, we're exploring how the prophets turned Israel's gaze to the past to see how their relationship with God was established, how they observed the present to evaluate their current relationship with God, and how they envisioned the future as the fulfilling of dreams about a better relationship with God. In the process, we will engage in similar looks at our own past, present, and future as Christians in the 21st century.

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. The class is currently taking a deep dive into Romans and Ephesians as well as a study on prayer and spiritual gifts.

Help Needed!

As we move into the summer season, we need to ask for volunteers for a couple of our vital Sunday morning member participation roles. The first role we need more volunteers for is "Greeter." If you are interested in welcoming members and visitors as they arrive to our Sunday morning Bible classes and worship services, please contact the office (office@conejochurch.org) or Bob Pratt (bobbyblue22@gmail.com).

[com](mailto:office@conejochurch.org)). The second ministry area where we need additional volunteers is "Projectionist." Please contact the office (office@conejochurch.org) if this is a role that you would be willing to help fill. Thanks in advance for your interest and response!

Memorial Day Picnic / May 27

Monday, May 27, is Conejo's annual Memorial Day picnic at Dover and Hendrix Park in Thousand Oaks. This is a great day for fun, food, fellowship, and games with friends and family. It is also an opportunity to introduce our friends from outside of church to our church family in an atmosphere of light-hearted fun. Activities include cornhole, volleyball, nine-square, board games, and the ever-popular crawdad hunting in the creek. The fun starts around 10am, with grilling at 11am, and lunch around noon. Please bring food or drinks to share according to the initial letter of your last name (see below).



A-E: Side Dish or Salad

F-O: Two or more 2-liter drinks and chips

P-Z: Desserts

Directions to Dover / Hendrix Park:

- From the 101, take Lynn Road north (you'll pass the mall on your right)
- Turn right at Gainsborough signal
- Pass Seventh-Day Adventist Church to open area on right
- Turn right into driveway across from Grand Oak Lane
- Note signage that reads "Conejo Valley Botanic Garden"

Mission Messenger / MITS

Made in the Streets (MITS) was founded 27 years ago in Nairobi, Kenya by former Conejo members Charles and Darlene Coulston. Its mission is to "love and serve the [more than 60,000] children from the streets... meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs; loving them fully; equipping them to earn a living and sending them out to a new life." Started by serving a small group of local Nairobi children, this blessed ministry now includes (1) Eastleigh Centre, home of a daily outreach program in a slum section of Nairobi, (2) Kamulu campus, home for up to 300 students who receive education, learn marketable vocational skills, and grow spiritually through learning about God's love, and (3) Into the World, a program that continues to mentor the young MITS graduates and provides resources for their continued growth. Please click on [Made In the Streets](#) to learn about how the amazing Kenyan staff and many volunteers help nourish the lives of these children through support from churches like Conejo!

Small Groups

Our congregation has an active small group ministry that connects a wide variety of people. Please click the [Small Groups](#) link for a detailed description of the current groups and their meeting days that meet in and around the Conejo Valley.

High School + Middle School

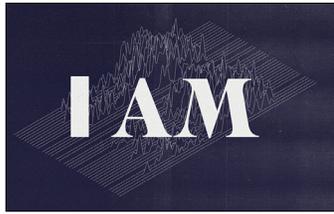
Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in May, Nick Zola will be guest teaching from the Gospels. We are blessed to have him share his knowledge of Jesus' ministry and parables. On Sunday nights, we have dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Our Sunday night series is called "I Am," looking at Jesus' words about himself and how these words reshape our lives.

May's Youth Group memory verse: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."
— John 11:25-26

Registrations Open For Summer Camps

It's time to register your kids for summer camps! King's Kamp is for kids entering 4th grade through finishing 8th grade, and Teen Camp is for kids entering 8th grade through finishing 12th grade. Summer camps are an experience you don't want your kids to miss.



To learn more about each camp and register your child, please click [King's Kamp](#) or click [SoCal Teen Camp](#).

YG Calendar

Click [Summer Calendar](#) to see the upcoming youth events.

Senior Sunday / June 9

Each year we gather as a church family to celebrate our graduating high school seniors. This year, our Senior Sunday celebration is scheduled for June 9 to honor our 2024 graduate, Tess Michael. We plan to have the meal catered, so in order to have an idea about how much food to order, we kindly ask that you *RSVP through the Sign-Up link* that will come out via email by Wednesday (May 29). When you sign up in that email, please indicate the number of your family unit who will be attending. Let's make this a great celebration for our beloved Tess!



Children's Ministry

Children's Class Offerings

Nursery - Noel T.
2s/3s/4s - Leslie S. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Paula M. and Lynn B.

[Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.](#)

Nursery - _____
2s/3s/4s - Shaya B. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Penny W..



Rattlesnake Alert!

Parents, please make sure that your children stay out of the flower beds and plant-filled areas. We are in a rattlesnake environment. As the weather warms, snakes come out. The playground is checked prior to children entering it.

"You've Got A Friend In God" VBS / June 17-20

Mark your calendars!
Invite your friends!
VBS is coming soon! All are invited to join us **June 17-20** for four fun evenings learning about the friend we have in God. We will begin each night by sharing a meal together. Our VBS final show will be the morning of June 23. Sign up to volunteer at tinyurl.com/vbs24cvcc



King's Kamp

Registration for King's Kamp 2024 is now open! Our theme will be *Christmas in July* as we learn about the Light of the World. We're dreaming of a Kamp Christmas with you! Information and registration can be found at kingskamp.org.

Please don't let cost keep you from joining. Scholarships are available for those who need them.



Summer Bible Classes for Children

What a beautiful gathering we had on our stage on Mother's Day / Dedication Sunday. Eight families brought their young ones, promising to lead them toward God throughout life. We, the church family, promised to walk with and encourage them in this faith journey. One very tangible and immediate way that we can do this is through spending time with our children in their weekly Bible classes and worship times. Please check your calendar and sign up for a week or two or three to spend time showing our children kindness and love as you share a part of God's story with them. We currently have three age groups – Nursery (0-2), Pre-School (2-5 years), and Elementary School (K-grade 5). Click [Bible Classes](#) to serve as a teacher for the 9-10am classes; or [CM Worship](#) to help between 10:45 and 11:30 or scan the QR code to choose which week(s) you can join our children in their classes.

Bible Class



CM Worship



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

PRAISES

For the dedication of eight precious little ones at our service of dedication last Sunday

BIRTHS: **Drexel Thomas Reilly** (son of Melody and Creed Reilly); **Isla Day Sutherland** (daughter of Andrew and Chloe Sutherland); **Lucienne Zazie Rushford-Collyer** (granddaughter of Jerry and Lori Rushford); **Eloise Bennett Erickson** (daughter of Ty and Eliza Erickson)

THOSE GRIEVING

Family of Tim Coupe – following the sudden death of Tim, former Conejo member

Nick Odenath – loss of father, Al Odenath

Phil Daringer – loss of father, Phil Daringer

Stan Thomas – loss of father, Leroy Thomas

Jim White – loss of mother, Joanna White

Vincent Chambers – loss of father, Buford Chambers

Darlene Rivas – loss of Lucinda Hodges, sister-in-law

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

Char Hurley – loss of nephew, Matthew Horner

Bonnie Rockey – loss of Jerry Roby, grandfather

Rodney and Brian Smithers – loss of cousin, Jason Knight

Tim Willis – loss of father, John Willis

Loree Hunnicutt – loss of mother, Judy Long

Andrew Clark – loss of mother, Kerrie Clark

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Sherry Horner (sister of Char Hurley) – stage IV breast cancer, metastasized to bones

Maria Baake – recovering from surgery for breast cancer

David Green – not a candidate for chemotherapy or radiation; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies

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

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Judy Tapper – recovering from recent surgical procedure to replace pacemaker battery

Carrie Wall – recovering from knee replacement surgery and a herniated disk in her back

Rodney Smithers – recovering from recent open heart surgery

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

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

Jack Horn (co-worker 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; prayers requested following major flooding impacting several ministry locations

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

May 19 Attendance		May 19 Giving	
On-Site Service	118	Weekly Giving Average	\$14,437
Online Viewing	47	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,669,295
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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, Tim Willis – elders@conejochurch.org