CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

July 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 Worship Service via YouTube
2:00pm	Teen Camp at Camp Maranatha in Idyllwild

Upcoming Events

July 16	YG Dockweiler Beach
July 18	SYS #2 (Youth Group Summer Youth Series)
July 21-27	King's Kamp
July 28	Won By One Concert
August 4	All-Sing and Ice Cream
August 11	All-Church Game Night

Birthdays This Week

Tammy Ditmore	7/8
Kari Odenath	7/10
Pat Tudor	7/10
Dwayne Hunnicutt	7/11

Running to Win

Andy Wall

Get ready for the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, also known as Paris 2024! This year's opening ceremony takes place on July 26 and the Olympics will continue through August 11. Most events will take place within and around Paris, with some held at 16 other cities spread across France, plus one site in Tahiti—a Pacific island in French Polynesia some 9,765 miles from Paris!

I have loved the summer Olympics since I was a boy growing up in Greece, with track and field events being a particular favorite. I love witnessing the human spirit reach for excellence, athletes from around the world overcoming great odds, world records being broken, and the memorable moments of humanity that delight a watching world. I also appreciate the existence of the Special Olympics, Deaflympics, and Paralympics, which enable more people to participate in the joy of competition.

Of course, there is also a dark side to the Olympics: the mental health struggles of athletes, the ever-present specter of drug doping, the inordinate obsession about medals counts, the questionable process of selecting host cities, the occasional displays of poor sportsmanship, and divisive nationalistic expressions that stoke ancient hatreds. But despite such challenges, I still love the idea of the world seeking to come together every four years for a competition that aspires to the highest levels of athleticism and sportsmanship.

Something remarkable about the Olympics is that they were around when the Old and New Testaments were being written! From 776 BC to AD 393, the Olympic games were held every 4 years in Olympia, Greece. (They were restarted during the modern era in 1896.) We know that the apostle Paul was in Corinth in AD 51, the same year that the Isthmian games took place nearby. We don't know if Paul attended those games but we do know that Paul (and other New Testament writers) used language borrowed from that world of athletics.

During the next few weeks, as the Paris Olympics approach, I'd like for us to explore some New Testament texts in which our authors apply these great athletic metaphors to the living of the Christian faith. We'll consider the following verses:

- "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it." **1 Corinthians 9:24**
- "...this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 3:13-14**
- "...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." **Hebrews 12:1-2**

May these great Biblical texts serve to inspire us in our pursuit of Christ-like excellence!

What's Happening At Conejo

Sermon Series: *Running to Win*

With just a few weeks to go before the Paris Olympics, we're beginning a series based on New Testament passages that focus on athletic metaphors for the Christian life. The first of these has to do with the theme of training. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul urges the Corinthians to run so that they might win the race. The basis for this type of running is proper training, purposeful preparation, and disciplined self-denial. This text is suggestive of the foundational building blocks that help strengthen our walk with God and undergird our faith journey. Our quiet pursuit of God yields outward fruit in our ability to love our enemies, pursue peacemaking, seek justice, display forgiveness, and live holy lives. One may not reasonably expect to live a great life for God without the spiritual disciplines, anymore than one might expect to show up to the Olympic trials and qualify for a spot on the Olympic team without enduring the rigors of training.

Summer Adult Education / Text Talks

For the summer months of July and August, our Sunday morning auditorium class will feature a variety of Conejo members talking about one or more favorite Scriptures and why they are important to them. The series is titled "Text Talks" and each week the class will feature sharing about biblical texts that have challenged, nourished, or transformed members of our church family. Today, Carrie and Andy Wall will be sharing about a few significant texts in their faith journeys.

Summer Events at Conejo

Please click the Summer at Conejo link available so that you can plan to meet with the church family for special events throughout June, July, and August.

Fill the Hope Chest for Ghana Mobile Medical Clinic

Our church sponsors several mobile medical clinics each year to remote villages in northern Ghana through the Yendi Church of Christ Medical Clinic as part of their community outreach and church planting efforts. Mark Davis is traveling to Ghana in July and will bring basic medical supplies for the clinic. Please help us fill two "hope chests" before Sunday, July 14. There's a list of needed supplies in the chests in the church foyer or you can click Hope Chest Supply List or scan the QR code. Please contact Mark at (310) 892-9986 if you have any questions.

Help Needed!

Due to the summer travel schedule, we need additional volunteers for a few of our vital Sunday morning ministries.

- **Greeter Ministry:** We need additional members to welcome members and visitors as they arrive to our Sunday morning Bible classes and worship services.
- **Coffee / Donut Ministry:** From July 14 to August 11, we need to have help with donut pick up and coffee preparation before Bible classes and clean up after worship service. We have details written for coffee preparation and clean up.
- **Projectionist:** We are running short on people to help run projection during our worship service. This job does require a training session, but is extremely important for us to have song lyrics, scriptures, and sermon slides.

Please contact the office (office@conejochurch.org) if you are able to help with any of these needs. Thanks in advance for your interest and willingness to help.

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 by 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 mentors 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!

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in July we will be teaching a series called "Not Ok," looking at messages from the Gospels that speak into dealing with stress and anxiety. Sunday night YG dinner and devo will not meet during the summer due to changed scheduling. Please refer to the YG Summer Calendar for event information and SYS (summer youth series) gatherings. Sunday night youth group will return on August 18.

July Youth Group Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Youth Group Bonfire at Dockweiler Beach / July 16

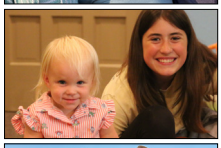
During the summer, youth groups from Hilltop, Culver Palms, CVCC, and University Church come together for bonfires at Dockweiler Beach. The first bonfire is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16. The van leaves Conejo at 1:30pm and returns at 10:30pm. Those going should bring their own dinner and what they need for the beach. RSVP for a van spot with Travis. Both middle schoolers and high schoolers are invited to attend the bonfires. This is a great way to meet new friends from other churches that will be at summer camps.

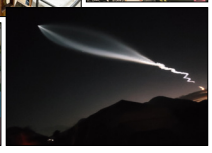
SoCal Teen Camp & King's Kamp

Today many of our teens will go to Idyllwild for their week of Teen Camp (**July 7-13**). Please pray for their safety as they travel to camp and spend the week together. Summer camps give our young people the opportunity to build deeper relationships with one another and to learn more about God and the world. King's Kamp, for our younger students, will be from **July 21-27**. Prayers are appreciated for each of the camps.

SYS (Summer Youth Series) #2 / June 18

On Thursday evening, June 18, from 5:30-8pm we will meet for our Summer Youth Series #2! Dinner/dessert will be provided and we will have fun playing games, worshiping, and hearing from our interns Jiana & Ashlyn. It has already been a blessing to have Jiana and Ashlyn pour into our teens. If you haven't gotten a chance to hang out with them this is a good opportunity! Invite your friends and come fellowship with your youth group!





Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Children's Bible Classes

Nursery - _____
2's-5's - Tim W., Jan W., Sarah G.
Kinder-5th Grade - Amy M..

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

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

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. We have kamper scholarships available for those who need them.

Memory Verse

Our current memory verse is Matthew 19:14.
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.'"

Summer Bible Classes for Children

Please sign up for a week or two 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.

Children's Bible Classes

Children's Worship

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Teen Camp - blessings for our teens and adult volunteers as they build deeper relationships, sharing meaningful worship, and learn more about God and faith

AMOR Mission Team - a fruitful and safe trip to build a home in Tijuana, Mexico

Vacation Bible School - a wonderful week of shared learning, craft-making, storytelling, game-playing, meal-sharing, and praising the God who is our friend

Javon Johnson – back from a six-month deployment to Okinawa

THOSE GRIEVING

Michael Williams – loss of father, David Williams

Suzanne Scarberry – loss of brother, Marty Lince

Rick Marrs – loss of father, Roscoe Marrs

Tiffany Ornelas – following the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Cotton

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

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

FIGHTING CANCER

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

Maria Baake – recovering from surgery for breast cancer; recent hospitalization for digestive issues

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

Sandra Brasher (friend of Rene Heard) – recently diagnosed with breast cancer

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

Rodney Smithers – at Los Robles for tests and analysis following issues with recent heart surgery

Sharon Box (mother of Amy Moore) recovering at home after recent hospitalization

Elizabeth Cowan (mother of Christian Socquet) – memory issues, infections, difficulty understanding medical procedures and care; recently placed on hospice

Rosemary Davis (sister-in-law of Jan Willis) – recovering from recent surgery for brain tumor

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

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

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis

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

Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) – depression

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

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 recent major flooding

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

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance + Giving

June 30 Attendance	
On-Site Service	144
Online Viewing	51

June 30 Giving	$11,876
Weekly Giving Average	$13,216
Weekly Giving Budget	$12,502
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,671,435
Property Settlement	$225,000

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