

# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

August 18, 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
- 12:30pm Adult Education Team Meeting

### Upcoming Events

- Aug. 25 Crafty Women
- Aug. 25 YG Back To School Bash
- Sept. 1 Fall Kickoff
- Sept. 1 Kindergarten Blessing
- Sept. 13-15 HS Pismo Retreat

### Upcoming Birthdays

David Green	8/17
Sara Jackson	8/18
Judy Tapper	8/20
Haylie Douglas	8/21
Miles Estes	8/23
Cooper Horton	8/23
Jon Burke	8/25

## Do No Harm

Andy Wall

*"First do no harm."* – Hippocratic Oath

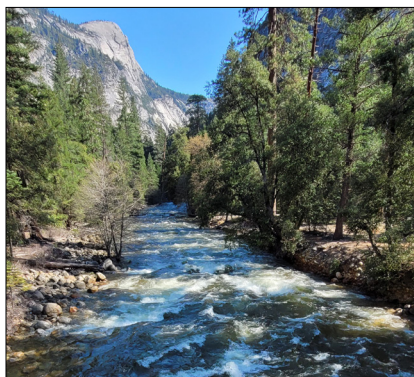
For around 2400 years, medical professionals have taken a solemn oath to uphold specific ethical standards. These include maintaining confidentiality and non-maleficence, which means refraining from all intentional wrongdoing and harm to their patients. Though many substantial advances have taken place in medical theory and practice in two and a half millennia (blood-letting, anyone?), these foundational principles have stood the test of time.

As we enter the final months of a highly charged election season, I believe that we Christians would do well to consider something similar for how we comport ourselves on political matters. Adopting a "Do no harm" approach as we visit with friends, post on social media, talk with co-workers, engage in the community, interact with students, and share with our children (of whatever age) could go a long way toward reducing the destructive political talk we've seen over the past several years.

What might a "Do no harm" approach look like for followers of Jesus in the fall of 2024? Here are a few ideas I'd offer for your consideration. I'd be interested in hearing your thoughts as well.

- 1) Resist getting sucked into ugly public debates. You've seen them before—both sides assume the worst of the other, refuse to engage in good faith, and repeat slogans that fail to advance any thoughtful discourse. Thoughtful conversations that include listening, patient curiosity, and genuine attempts to understand would serve us so much better.
- 2) Refuse to "cancel" those with whom you disagree, even strongly, when it comes to their electoral choices. This doesn't mean you can't set up healthy boundaries when it comes to talking about politics; but it does mean you value the relationship despite the disagreement. During any election season, differences in preferences are inevitable; however, divisions are a choice. Remember Paul's admonition in Romans 12:18: "If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."
- 3) Refrain from speaking spitefully toward (or behind the back of) those you disagree with. In his book *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk*, Eugene Cho writes, "When Christians—regardless of political leanings—behave like jerks and justify our behavior at all costs because of our ideological convictions, we bear false witness to Jesus Christ." This doesn't mean that disagreeing is wrong; but the manner in which we disagree will show the world whose Kingdom we are seeking first.

Whatever we do before (and after!) this November 5, let us do no harm to the blessed name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, as we speak and act as Christians living in our sin-sick world that yet is still beloved of God.



# What's Happening At Conejo

## And the Angels Rejoiced!

Last week, while camping with his family in Yosemite, Matthew Johnson was baptized into Christ in the Merced River. Matthew, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism. Our prayers are that your journey as a follower of Jesus will be filled with joyful service to God and to all who are around you. We also 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."



## Today's Sermon: *Confessing Jesus*

Today's message kicks off a four part series titled "Centered Living in a Disjointed World." As Christians seeking to bring a positive witness for Jesus in our world, it is helpful to consider our core commitments as we practice our faith. Particularly during the final months of the election cycle, we are wise to resist getting sucked into ugly public debates about secondary matters. To help us do this, we'll share in a four part series in which we consider practices to strengthen the core of our confession. During our first week, we'll emphasize that the core confession of our faith is "Jesus is Lord."

## 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 sharing life and 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 tray as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having your email address enables us to share information about upcoming events and ministry of this church. The church sends out an email with the electronic version of the Family News to all CVCC members. We are happy to share this electronic bulletin with our guests as well, but will need an email address.

## Summer Adult Education / Text Talks

For the summer months, our Sunday morning auditorium class will feature a variety of Conejo members sharing 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, Phil Phillips and Sean Mike Phillips will be sharing a few significant texts from their faith journeys.

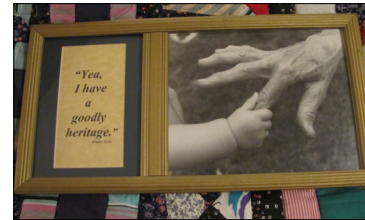
## Crafty Women / August 25

Ladies, please join us next Sunday, August 25, from 1-6 for a time of fun fellowship and productivity on your current craft project or hobby. Please email Rene H. at [rene.heard@conejochurch.org](mailto:rene.heard@conejochurch.org) if you plan to come so that she will know how many tables to set up for the event.



## Fifth Commandment / August 27

The fifth commandment tells us to "Honor your father and mother." How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and live hundreds or even thousands of miles away? Join us on Tuesday, August 27 at



7pm, as we share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love.

[Zoom Meeting Link.](#)

## Fall Kickoff Sunday / September 1

Our Fall Kickoff Sunday is slated for September 1. Our plan is to share in a backyard potluck breakfast and fellowship time during our Bible class hour.

On that day, the praise team will resume and small group ministries will be highlighted. Please contact Andy Wall and/or the church office if you are planning to have a small group (weekly or monthly) for the coming year.

## Zoom Baby Shower For Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens

Ladies, please mark your calendars. On Sunday, September 15, beginning at 2pm, please join us for Conejo's first ever "International Zoom Baby Shower" honoring Jacqueline and Jason Dillion-Wiens. They are expecting a baby boy in October and will be welcoming him to the world in Canada. We are encouraging people to purchase from their [Amazon Registry](#) or send gift cards to:



42 Promenade Way  
Calgary SE, Alberta T2Z 3R4  
CANADA

We will share more specifics in the coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact Paula Marrs at [paulamarrs@outlook.com](mailto:paulamarrs@outlook.com) or (805) 479-7267.

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in August we will be teaching a series called "Going Places," looking at messages from the Gospels on how Jesus treated people he cared about in order to learn how we can better treat our friends. Our regular youth group Sunday night schedule will kick off with the Back to School Bash on August 25. To see a detailed calendar of our fall click the [Sunday Nights schedule link](#).



August Youth Group Memory Verse: "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20

## Back to School BASH / August 25

Next Sunday evening, we will gather at north Zuma beach from 4-8pm to say goodbye to the summer and hello to the new school year. There will be beach games, dinner, singing, and a devotional. Youth group families are all invited. Let's start off the school year with enjoying each other's company and living in the charge of taking care of each other during the rest of the year. Praise be to God for making us family and giving us all that we need. RSVP with Travis so he knows how much dinner to provide.

## High School Pismo Retreat / September 13-15

On the weekend of September 13-15, the high school group will head to Pismo Beach for their annual retreat. This weekend is for students who are currently in 8th grade through high school. The cost for the retreat is \$90 per person to offset housing, transportation, and food costs for the weekend. RSVP no later than Sunday, September 8, so that those planning will have time to prepare. More info on theme and schedule coming soon!



## CVYG Connect Calendar

Parents, please help us know your kids' fall extra-curricular schedules by filling out the [CVYG Connect Link Google form](#). You can also find the form via a QR code on the youth room doors. Conejo wants to support your kids, so fill in all the local game/performance/recital info so we can be more present with your families outside the church walls.

# Children's Ministry

## Children's Bible Class Offerings

### Children's Bible Classes

Nursery - Noel T.

2's-5's - Jan W., Darlene R., Sarah G.

Kinder-5th Grade - Mike R.

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - \_\_\_\_\_

2s-5s - Shaya B. and Sarah G.

Kinder-5th grade - Mark D.



## 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.

## Kindergarten Blessing

Our Kindergarten Blessing celebration will be held on September 1 at 5pm at the church building. All children entering kindergarten (or those entering 1st grade who didn't have this opportunity yet) and their families are invited to come and celebrate this wonderful new beginning with dinner followed by a family blessing time and a blessing from our church community.



All are invited to come and support our families. Please bring a side dish, drink, or dessert to share. Pizza will be provided. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/cvckinder24](http://tinyurl.com/cvckinder24) by Thursday, August 29.

# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**Pregnant Mom** – Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens (October)

**Baptism** – Zach Johnson, Matthew Johnson

**Summer Church Activities** including Vacation Bible School, Mexico Mission, Teen Camp, King's Kamp and many other gatherings for fellowship, fun, and mutual encouragement

## 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

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

**Sandra Brasher** (friend of Rene Heard) – 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

**Emersyn Starkey** - recovering at home now from Covid pneumonia

**Rodney Smithers** – recovering from installation of pacemaker

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

**Glenn Brasher** (friend of Rene Heard) - 10 broken ribs and punctured lung after tractor accident

**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 surgery for brain tumor

**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

**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

August 11 Attendance		August 11 Giving	
On-Site Service	126	Weekly Giving Average	\$11,094
Online Viewing	47	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,673,083
		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

### Ashlyn Thomas

Summer Intern  
(805) 405-2211 cell

ashlyn.thomas45@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](mailto:elders@conejochurch.org)