

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

August 25, 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
- 1:00pm Crafty Women
- 4:00pm Back-to-School Bash

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 1 Fall Kickoff
- Sept. 1 Kindergarten Blessing
- Sept. 1 Many Small Groups Resume Weekly Meetings
- Sept. 13-15 HS Pismo Retreat

Upcoming Birthdays

Jon Burke	8/25
Emily Green	8/26
Ty Erickson	8/29
Lynn Burke	8/30
Susan Pratt	8/31
David Rhoades	8/31
Kiley Hays	9/1
Arlene Leedy	9/1
Ella Michael	9/1
Kipp Landis	9/2
Harriet Overton	9/8

Unoffendable

Andy Wall

"Anger is extraordinarily easy. It's our default setting. Love is very difficult. Love is a miracle." – **Brant Hansen**

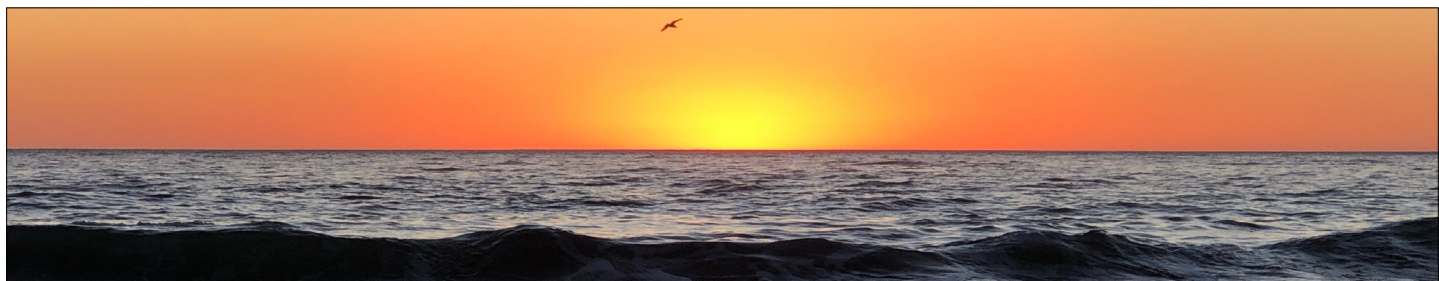
I've often remarked to Carrie that every couple that finds a way to remain married for longer than, say, ten days, embodies a minor miracle. There are so many things that can go wrong in a relationship: misunderstandings rooted in personality differences, gender differences, family differences, and differences in life experience; hurtful words and behaviors rooted in ignorance, selfishness, meanness, and sinful pride; honest disagreements and unsolvable differences on substantive matters; destructive addictions, infliction of verbal and physical abuse, prolonged neglect, and unfaithfulness.

And if two people staying together through time is a minor miracle, then surely a church family that manages to love one another through smooth and turbulent waters qualifies as a full-blown miracle. The issues that churches have split over are as numerous as the stars in the sky—or at least the number of major branches, denominations, and sects across the Christian family. Choosing to journey together as a faith community through time requires a near-miraculous amount of love and grace.

One practice that I believe could greatly help our churches today is a commitment to being unoffendable. Philosopher and theologian Dallas Willard once reflected that "a mature Christian is someone who is very difficult to offend." He was not describing being so apathetic that one never engages in disagreement. He was describing a person with a secure enough faith to calmly engage with others holding a wide variety of viewpoints. The truth is that within any congregation, there will be a wide spectrum of sensibilities, opinions, beliefs, and ideologies. To take offense upon learning that someone in your church doesn't agree with you is to open yourself to being endlessly offended.

Somewhere along the way, it seems, Christians absorbed the idea that to be faithful to God one must be angry about any number of issues. And let's be honest, many of us enjoy being angry. We like the sense of moral superiority that anger grants us. We like how self-righteous anger makes us feel, the energy and purpose and clarity it gives us. The problem is, every angry person in human history believes their anger is a righteous anger, that their dispute is well-founded, that their opponent is clearly in the wrong. All this should cause us to resist blithely believing that anger is our best approach for moving through life or that being easily offended is a true sign of our righteousness. It may actually be evidence of how grumpy and peevish we are, or how diminished our love and graciousness are.

In Ephesians 4:26, Paul teaches "Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger..." Paul does not equate anger with sin. One can be angry and not sin. But just four verses later, Paul clarifies that anger is not the long term answer: "Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." My prayer for us is that we may mature as believers who are unoffendable, full of good-will, and slow to anger.



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 sharing life and 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 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.



Today's Sermon: *Staying Centered in a Disjointed World*

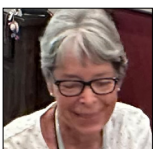
As we head into the fall, we're considering our core faith commitments and practices. In today's message we'll reflect on the importance of our thoughts—the things that we dwell upon and set our hearts upon. Particularly during an election season, it's important for us to resist allowing the media to shape how we primarily think about life, culture, and the world. Both sides of the political spectrum stir up anger and fear, knowing they are potent motivators that bypass reasoned discourse and thoughtful reflection. As followers of Jesus, we are to live with transformed and renewed minds (Rom 12:2), setting our hearts and minds on things above (Col 3:1-4).

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, Derek and Laura Estes will be sharing a few significant texts from their faith journeys.

Moms Better Together

Last Friday, many of our moms gathered for a meal together and a time of talking and encouraging one for the journey of motherhood. The next scheduled MBT is scheduled for Friday, November 15.



Crafty Women / Today beginning at 1pm

Ladies, please join us today 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 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, sometimes 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](#).

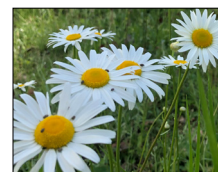
Fall Kickoff Sunday / September 1

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.

Attention, Conejo Women!

If you are interested in helping to plan a women's retreat, please contact Paula Marrs at paulamarrs@outlook.com or (805) 479-7267 by September 8.

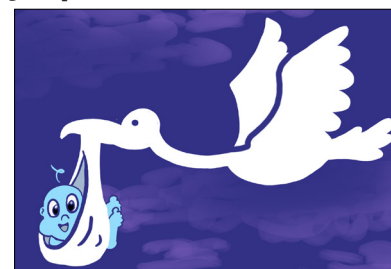


Update from Panama Mission Team

Please click on [Panama Mission Work](#) to learn about how the current work of Raul and Betty Alvarez with the Metropolitan Church in Panama.

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 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

Today we kick off our school calendar youth group schedule! 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.

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 those currently in 8th grade and up. The cost for the retreat is \$90 per person. This offsets housing, transportation, and food costs for the weekend. [RSVP with Travis no later than Sunday, September 8](#), as a kindness to those planning.

Our theme this year is Project Serve, looking at how being a servant is a lifestyle that follows in the footsteps of Jesus and how he viewed the world differently. Rather than just checking off a list when we occasionally participate in a service project, our goal is to see the pain and injustice around us and spread the gospel through lending a hand.



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 - Kari O. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th Grade - Amy M.

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Johnelle and Nora O.
2s-5s - Rene H. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Dwayne H.

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.'"

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 by Thursday, August 29.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Pregnant Mom – Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens (October)

Baptisms – Zach Johnson, Matthew Johnson

Births – Congratulations to **Sam and Sara Jackson** who welcomed 2 new grandchildren to the world this summer: **Whitman Rhodes Maloney (boy)** born on June 18 and **Poppy James Jackson (girl)**, born on August 21

Upcoming Wedding – **Matt Williams and Lyrica Blankfein** (former members) are engaged to be married on September 8 in Nashville, TN

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

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 18 Attendance		August 18 Giving	
On-Site Service	151	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,732
Online Viewing	56	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,673,234
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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