

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 1, 2024

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

- 9:00am Breakfast Potluck for Fall Kickoff
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am Fall Kickoff! On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 5:00pm Kindergarten Blessing

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 2 Monday Guys' Group
- Sept. 4 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Sept. 5 Life Group at the Fosters
- Sept. 7 Guys' Golf Outing
- Sept. 13-15 HS Pismo Retreat

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| Kiley Hays | 9/1 |
| Arlene Leedy | 9/1 |
| Ella Michael | 9/1 |
| Kipp Landis | 9/2 |
| Freya McAfee | 9/6 |
| Harriet Overton | 9/8 |
| Everly Van Atta | 9/9 |
| Shannon Latson | 9/11 |

Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten

Andy Wall

As our students begin a new school year of learning and discovery, and as we launch into our fall program of ministry, the insightful words of author Robert Fulghum seem especially appropriate for learners of all ages.

"All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain but there in the sandpile at Sunday school. These are the things I learned:

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we..."

Profound truths are often expressed in the simplest of words. May we take Fulghum's message to heart and remember that as Christians, some of the most important things we know about life and faith we learned at a very young age.



What's Happening At Conejo



Current Sermon Series: *Staying Centered in a Disjointed World*

We're spending four weeks considering some of our core commitments as we practice our faith during an election season. In our third week, we'll focus on the core practice of hospitality as a reflection of Jesus' Lordship in our lives. The practice of hospitality has always been a hallmark of being a Christian. Jesus pointedly taught about the importance of caring for our neighbor, whether that neighbor was hungry, thirsty, naked, imprisoned, homeless, or the victim of a roadside mugging. His parable about who to invite to your banquet (the lame, the blind, the poor) was the opposite of the prevailing Greco-Roman customs of his day. The New Testament letters amplify Jesus' teaching concerning hospitality, challenging contemporary notions of cocooning and escaping into the security of one's "castle." Wherever we "hang our hat," part of a healthy core spirituality is to practice hospitality, which gets close to the heart of what it means to live as a Christian in today's world.

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.

Fall Small Groups

Our small group program is launching over the next several weeks with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Some groups include children, some are for teens, some are for adults, and some include all generations. Please click [Fall 2024 Small Groups](#) for a detailed listing of the small group ministries.

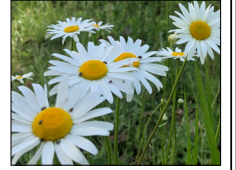


Mission Messenger: Metropolitan Church Panama

Please click on [Panama Mission Work](#) to read the latest about the wonderful ministry of Raul and Betty Alvarez with the Metropolitan Church in Panama.

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.



Fall Adult Education Classes / Starting September 8

This fall, Matt Joyner will be leading our auditorium class in an exploration of the intersection of faith and science in a class titled "Faith, Imagination, and the Natural World: Scientific Reflections on God and Our Universe." Science is sometimes unnecessarily pitted against faith, creating false dichotomies between the two. This class will seek to provide accurate, scientific information about the physical world and human biology while examining the interplay of these scientific ideas with our personal faith in Jesus Christ and how we understand the Bible.

In our class in the north overflow room, Connie Horton will be teaching a class designed for those involved in raising kids of all ages. The class is titled "Raising Resilient Adults" and will begin on Sunday, September 15 and go through November 24. Come join others as we discuss real life concerns and practical strategies to help children grow up to be equipped to faithfully and confidently navigate the storms of life.

We encourage everyone to make a renewed effort to come out to our weekly classes to think, reason, grow, encourage one another, and enjoy fellowship with the Conejo church community. And, parents, there are wonderful Bible classes offered weekly for children and teens as well! Let's make the most of our time together this fall!

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 the Amazon Registry list or send a gift card to:

42 Promenade Way
Calgary SE, Alberta T2Z 3R4
CANADA

For a variety of links for gifts or gift cards, requested "baby advice and stories" to share with Jacqueline at the shower, as well as some of the details about the Zoom Shower, please click [Zoom Shower Details](#).

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 September we will be teaching a series called "Beyond Belief," looking at stories from the book of Exodus and what we can learn about dealing with doubt while believing. Our regular youth group Sunday night schedule will begin on September 8. To see a detailed calendar of our fall Sunday night schedule, 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

September Youth Group Memory Verse:

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3



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 sending them to Kari Odenath at kariwhit@gmail.com. Kari has agreed to insert them into a google calendar which will be our new connect calendar. You and other members can also quickly view the calendar via a QR code on the youth room doors or through clicking [YG Connect Calendar](#). Conejo wants to support your kids, so send all the info to Kari so we can be more present with your families outside the church walls.



Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

No Bible Classes today -- all ages together for a breakfast potluck at 9am!

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Kari O.

2s-5s - _____

Kinder-5th grade - _____



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 at 5pm at the church building today. 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.



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

Steve Simpson (brother of Lorna T., Stephanie S. and Claudia dB.) – very rare and aggressive autoimmune disease called ANCA-Associated Vasculitis; has attacked kidneys, on dialysis currently; will need kidney transplant soon

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 25 Attendance

On-Site Service	154
Online Viewing	51

August 25 Giving

\$6,245

Weekly Giving Average	\$12,541
Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,673,285
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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