

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 15, 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

- Sept. 16 Monday Guys' Group
- Sept. 16 Women's Bible Study
- Sept. 18 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Sept. 18 Flourishing Families
- Sept. 19 Life Group at the Fosters
- Sept. 14 Guys' Golf Outing
- Sept. 22 Crafty Women
- Sept. 29 Celebration of Sisterhood
- Sept. 29 Anchor / Flourish Groups

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Callan Kliest-Blankfein | 9/18 |
| Cindy Stephens | 9/19 |
| Amber Johnson | 9/20 |
| Taylor Wooton | 9/21 |
| Joy Zola | 9/21 |
| Bill Foster | 9/22 |
| Travis Moore | 9/22 |
| Darlene Rivas | 9/22 |

Faith Versus Science: A False Dichotomy?

Andy Wall

"So vast, without any question, is the Divine Handiwork of the Almighty Creator!"

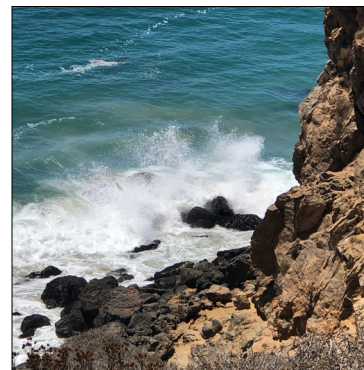
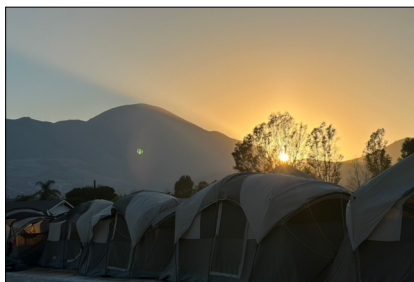
Copernicus, De Revolutionibus, 1543

Since the age of the Enlightenment, when philosophers advocated for reason as the primary authority for knowing any truth, many have pitted biblical faith and science against one another. Renaissance astronomer Copernicus ran afoul of the Catholic Church of his day because his studies led him to see that the Earth orbits around the sun, rather than the other way around. Such a view, however, was contrary to existing Church dogmas that understood Scripture to claim that the Earth was the center of the universe, not one of many planets orbiting an average-sized star. Surely Copernicus' vision of the Earth as spinning one revolution each day and whirling around the sun each year contradicted Psalm 104:5: "He has set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved."

The vast majority of Christians no longer make that argument because they have come to understand Psalm 104:5 as being a poetic description of God's creation rather than a scientifically rigorous description of reality. But the perception persists that since Christians accept the authority of scripture, their faith commitments shut down honest scientific inquiry and truth-seeking. To be fair, this perception rests on a variety of historical examples, Copernicus being one of them.

However, despite those clashes between faith and science over the centuries, is it fair to assume that this must automatically be the case? Since 1916, surveys have found that about 40% of working scientists are believers. Today's prevailing assumption that having a half a brain and an open mind will automatically lead to disbelief is belied by world-class scientists and believers such as Harvard Astronomer Owen Gingerich, Human Genome Project Director Francis Collins, and Templeton Award winning Physicist John Polkinghorne (not to mention a number of highly competent scientists in our church family). These thoughtful believers, among others, suggest that we need not allow the terms of the religion/science discussion to be set by religious fundamentalists on one side or the vociferous atheists on the other.

I have long believed that truth has nothing to fear from fearless investigation. The Christian virtue of humility is a most appropriate means for us to hold our Christian convictions while always allowing God and God's universe to surprise us with wonder and perplex us with mystery. In his book "The Language of God," physician-scientist Francis Collins writes: "I have found there is a wonderful harmony in the complementary truths of science and religion. The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. God can be found in the cathedral or in the laboratory. By investigating God's majestic and awesome creation, science can actually be a means of worship." As followers of Christ, may we faithfully seek to understand our Creator and the creation with equal parts gusto, curiosity, and a childlike openness to discovery.



What's Happening At Conejo



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

As we've thought about core practices that root our faith, we've moved from our deepest loyalty (confessing Jesus as Lord), to our thought life (living with a renewed mind), to foundational practices that build community (practicing hospitality and peacemaking). We'll conclude this series with a message about serving others.

Service is a hallmark of the Christian faith, based upon the life and teachings of Jesus. Our Lord understood the temptations of wielding power and taught his followers to use their power to serve, bless, and empower others. Jesus' life embodies his teaching that "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve." From him, we have learned that at the core of a faithful life is regular service to others.

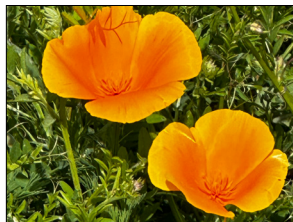
Fall Adult Education Classes

In our adult auditorium class, Matt Joyner is leading an exploration of the intersection of faith and science. The class is 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 (for more, see the article on page 1). 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.

Starting this week, Connie Horton will be teaching a class called "Raising Resilience," open to all adults. The class will take place in the north overflow room and will continue through November 24. We will discuss real-life concerns and practical strategies to help children, teens, and young adults grow up equipped to become resilient adults. Discussion will also include how to raise our own levels of resilience and how to faithfully and confidently navigate the storms of life that come at all life stages and situations. All are welcome.

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!

Conejo Women: All Ages and Stages / September 29



Please join us on Sunday, September 29, at 3pm for a time of fellowship and a celebration of sisterhood at the home of Paula Marrs, 11234 Crenshaw Street in Moorpark. Bring snacks or not, as you would like.

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.

Mission Messenger: Metropolitan Church Panama

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

Fall Small Groups

Our small group program is launching over the next several weeks. 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 or pick up a copy on the entry table in the foyer.

Weekly

YG Dinner and Devo	Sundays 5:30pm
Guy's Group	Mondays 6pm
Women's Bible Study	Mondays 7pm [Zoom]
Flourishing Families	Wednesdays 6:15pm
Reynolds' Life Group	Wednesdays 6:45pm
Conejo Tutoring	Thursdays 6:30pm
Fosters' Life Group	Thursdays 7pm
Saturday Guys' Golf Group	Saturdays early mornings

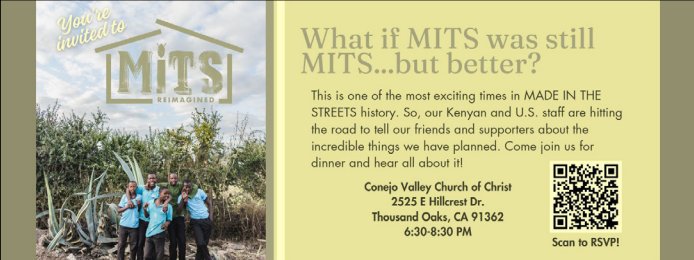
Monthly

Fifth Commandment	Fourth Tuesday 7pm [Zoom]
Playdates with Haylie	TBD
Moms Better Together	Third Friday 5:45pm (most months)
"Walk This Way!" Hiking Ministry	Third Saturday 9am
Anchor Group	TBD Saturday or Sunday
Flourish Group	TBD Saturday or Sunday
Crafty Women	TBD Saturday or Sunday

Made In The Streets Dinner

Made In The Streets Dinner / October 13

Please mark your calendars! Francis Mbuvi, from MITS in Nairobi, Kenya, will be with us on Sunday, October 13. On that day, he will hold an informational meeting beginning at 6:30pm and running through 8:30pm. For more information, please pick up a flyer from the entry table; to sign up for the dinner, please use the QR code to the right or click [MITS Dinner RSVP](#). Join us to learn more about their current work and needs.



You're invited to
MITS
REIMAGINED

What if MITS was still MITS...but better?

This is one of the most exciting times in MADE IN THE STREETS history. So, our Kenyan and U.S. staff are hitting the road to tell our friends and supporters about the incredible things we have planned. Come join us for dinner and hear all about it!

Conejo Valley Church of Christ
2525 E Hillcrest Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
6:30-8:30 PM

Scan to RSVP!

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](#).

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

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.

Anchor/Flourish Meet Up! / September 29

Our first Anchor & Flourish gathering is on Sunday, September 29. Lisa Scott will host the girls; Bill Foster will host the guys. The guys will be taking a trip to Ambush airsoft in Moorpark from 2-4pm and then heading over to Bill's for dinner and a devo afterward. The girls will be axe throwing and then hanging out at Lisa Scott's home. Specified times for Flourish will be available very soon.



Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Nursery - Noel T.

2's-5's - Leslie S. and Sarah G

Kinder-5th grade - Paula M. and Co W.

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Johnelle and Nora O.

2's-5's - _____

Kinder-5th grade - _____



Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Deuteronomy 7:9:

"So I want you to realize that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come."

Updated Children's Ministry Roster

If you have children in the Children's Ministry, please fill out the Google form at tinyurl.com/cvccroster24. This is for the new school year, so please fill this out even if you've done so in the past. Thanks for helping us keep the most accurate records to serve your family best!

Kindergarten Blessing

Thank you for joining us as we celebrated our Kindergarteners a couple of Sundays ago! We had a really sweet time crafting, eating, sharing, and playing together.



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

Wedding last weekend – **Matt Williams and Lyrica Blankfein** (former members) were married on September 8 in Nashville, TN

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; recovering from hip replacement surgery

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

First Responders, Linemen, All who work outside – during the extreme heat, earthquakes, fires, and upcoming winds

Kendra Davis (sister of Suzanne

Scarberry) – recovery from recent abdominal surgery

Shirley Pacifici (mother of Charee Landis) – recently fell and broke hip

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

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

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

Javon Johnson - serving as chaplain at the Ventura County Naval Base

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance
+ Giving

September 8 Attendance		September 8 Giving	
On-Site Service	123	Weekly Giving Average	\$11,684
Online Viewing	55	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,673,995
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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