

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

December 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
- 2:00pm Caroling With Senior Saints
- 5:00pm All-Church Christmas Party

Upcoming Events

- Dec 16 Men's Bible Study
- Dec 16 Women's Bible Study
- Dec 18 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Dec 19 Life Group at the Fosters
- Dec 21 Guys' Golf Outing

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Janie Condley | 12/19 |
| Susan Giboney | 12/19 |
| Eleanor Overton | 12/19 |
| Staci Daringer | 12/21 |
| Calleigh Hunnicutt | 12/22 |
| Gwen Hunnicutt | 12/22 |

Mercy Remembered: A Poem for Advent

Andy Wall

Hidden lurks a cancer cell, multiplying maliciously, avoiding detection
 Hidden lurks the terrorist, plotting lethal carnage in devotion to his twisted cause
 Hidden lurks desire, germinating insidiously, begetting sin and death
 But gifts hidden may also lie, stowed in a closet and awaiting Christmas morn
 Hidden love may lie, disclosed in measured doses 'till risking all,
 she is openly declared from the rooftops
 Hidden an embryo develops, nurtured in his mother's uterus, intricately woven in that secret place

At a cottage in Judah's hill country
 Two mothers-in-waiting seek respite out of the public eye
 Both harbor hidden secrets, hopes and fears, rumors of angels
 One blushes, Sarah-like, with the child of late autumn, her reproach at long last removed
 The other stammers, scarcely in her spring,
 the mystery of her conception ill-suited to credible explanation
 The angel Gabriel, God's ultrasound, has disclosed the advent of their two boys
 The older son, Israel's latest prophet, Elijah revived,
 will prepare the way of the Lord at the close of an age
 The younger son, a royal son of David, The divine Son of God,
 will herald a new day for Israel, God's salvation available to all

At a cottage in Judah's hill country
 As two mothers-in-waiting meet
 One son dances in utero, declaring a joy deeper than cousinly affection
 Like Esau of old, the womb a harbinger of destiny,
 the older shall serve the younger, a witness to Christ from womb to tomb

And with a knowing that only an expectant mother can bear,
 Elizabeth pronounces blessing upon Mary and her womb
 As sang ancient Hannah, Samuel's mother, so Mary magnified the Lord with a hymn of praise
 A song of the powerless, the desperate, the voiceless
 A hymn of the hidden, the no-count, the ignorable
 In one small event, God's mercy toward a Jewish peasant girl, the greater event lies hidden
 The mercy of the one who spangled heaven's glory, scooping down low to embrace one hidden
 Hidden lie the eternal purposes of God, germinating slowly and deliberately until the fullness of time
 Hidden, God's grace is embedded in your life, and mine-creating, redeeming, making all things new
 Hidden, like leaven in dough, God's kingdom in the world permeates and preserves
 Hidden, the risen Lord awaits the archangel's trumpet call,
 to bring the kingdom in its glorious fullness

Hidden, not erased
 Hidden, not forgotten
 Hidden, embryo-like, until all is ready



What's Happening At Conejo



Current Sermon Series: "The Advent Paradox"

Advent is a time of anticipation, longing, and preparation. Last week we looked at John the baptizer, the fiery prophet who prepared the way for Jesus with a message of repentance. This week, we look at Mary, who was chosen to bear the Messiah; both poor and unknown, she showed an exemplary willingness to serve God's purposes. Throughout Scripture, God often calls people whom we might judge as less-than -promising to do his work. Mary provides for us a model of openness to God's call and a powerful reminder that God works through the so-called humble and weak.

Adult Education Advent Class

During the season of Advent, our adult education program will be a combined auditorium class titled "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Based on the great Advent hymn by Charles Wesley, each week we'll share in an exploration of themes relating to the coming of Jesus, both as a newborn in Bethlehem and in glory at the Second Coming. This morning, Clay Smith will be reflecting on Zechariah's song of thanksgiving in Luke 1:68-79 as we think about "Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art."

Thank You Note from Manna

Last week, we received this letter from the Manna Foodbank. Thank you, church, for donating food during food drives for Manna throughout this past year and for your help with stocking shelves and volunteering with this wonderful ministry in the congregation's immediate neighborhood.

Thank you for your gift to Manna Conejo Valley Food Bank (298 pounds of food this year). With rising gas prices, continued high grocery and housing costs in our area, Manna has seen our daily client visits triple in the last four months.

You may not recognize their faces, but there are many hungry people in the Conejo Valley. One woman, a senior, living in Thousand Oaks, called recently and asked how she could get food from Manna. When I explained how simple it is to come and pick up food, she began to cry saying, "I should have called sooner." She is concerned about losing her home, so we were not only able to get her pantry stocked, but also put her in touch with other resources to help her during this extremely difficult time.



Holiday Season Coffee & Donuts Notice

During the remainder of December and in early January, coffee will not be prepared at the building for Sunday services. *Please be sure to stop on the way and get a nice cup of coffee for Bible class and worship if this is an important part of your morning routine.* The Greens will be back in town by mid-January and will resume the coffee service at that time. Kids, don't worry, there will be donuts!

Welcome to Conejo!

We're delighted to welcome Will, Nissa, and Emmett Hatfield to the Conejo Church! We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with each of you. Our prayer is that you will be blessed by your association with this church family and that you will be encouraged to grow in faith, love, and service to others. Contact Information for the Hatfield family:

201 Grandview Circle, Camarillo, CA 93010-7827
Will: (805) 358-7506 • lordwillpower@gmail.com
Nissa: (805) 300-8205 • nissahans@gmail.com

Christmas Caroling / December 15

This afternoon at 2pm, CVCC members and friends will meet at the church building to share in a time of Caroling. We will travel together (in a parade of cars) to visit several of our senior members to sing Christmas carols with them. We invite all ages to join in this outreach and afternoon of sharing joy with the world right around us. Come help us make this a special day!

All-Church Christmas Party / December 15

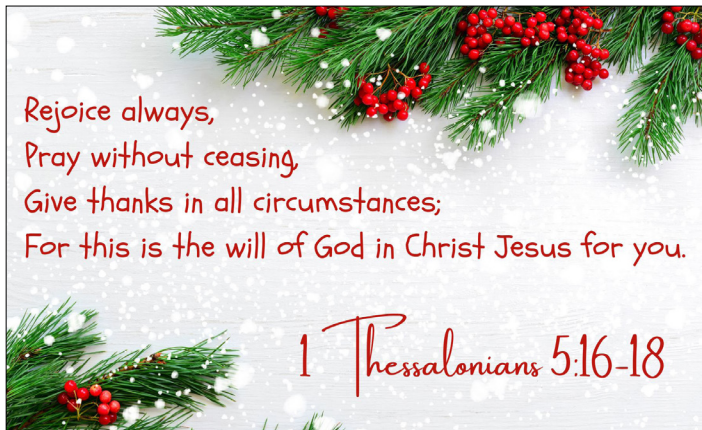
The congregation is invited to a very special Conejo holiday gathering on Friday, December 15, beginning at 5pm at the home of Rick and Paula Marrs. Make plans now to come share in a delightful evening filled with warm holiday fellowship, Christmas carols, and tasty treats. Please bring substantial hors d'oeuvres or a favorite dessert to share.



Fifth Commandment Group / December 17

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, December 17, 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](#).

High School + Middle School



Youth Ministry Bible Class / Today

The December Bible class will be taught by Tim Willis. He will teach lessons about "Generosity and Gratitude." We hope that everyone will learn the memory verse that they've chosen for this month's verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

CVYM Connect Calendar

Parents, please send your kids' extra-curricular schedules by to Kari Odenath (kariwhit@gmail.com). Kari has created a calendar to help us connect at various events for our teens. You and other members can also quickly view the [CVYM Connect Google Calendar](#) here. Thanks, Kari, for helping us all be able to support the teens in their activities. What a blessing it is to be able to be present to encourage our teens at events!



Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Bible Classes

Nursery - Haylie D.

2's-5's - Leslie S.

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

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Lexy C.

2's -5's - Jolyn H.

Kinder-5th Grade - Penny W.



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. Thank you for helping us keep accurate records as we endeavor to serve your family.

Jesus' Birthday Party



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.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Birth – William Hartley (son of Jason and Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens)

Baptisms – Zach Johnson, Matthew Johnson

New Members – Derek, Laura, Miles, and Henry Estes; Clay, Aubrey, Milo, and Ellis Smith; Scott, Johnelle, Nora, Oliver, and Logan Opel; Will, Nissa, and Emmett Hatfield

THOSE GRIEVING

Michele Davis – loss of mother, Janice McCoy

Jodi Davis – loss of mother, Mary Clontz

Tony Baird – loss of father, David Baird

Char Hurley – loss of sister, Sherry Horner

Jan Willis – loss of sister-in-law, Rosemary Davis

Chris Heard – loss of mother, Linda Heard

Michael Williams – loss of father, David Williams

Suzanne Scarberry – loss of brother, Marty Lince

Rick Marrs – loss of father, Roscoe Marrs

Tiffany Ornelas – loss of grandmother, Dorothy Cotton

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Becky Russell (grandmother of Haylie Douglas) – breast cancer

Shirley Comia (friend of Bob and Kay Falletta) – recently diagnosed with cancer

Maria Baake – recovering from surgery for breast cancer

David Green – cancer suppressor working; semi-monthly biomarker tests yielding positive results

Sandra Brasher (friend of Rene Heard) – breast cancer

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – cancer has returned

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Sharon Gatchell (mother of Sheryl Sanders) – sciatica issues, debilitating back pain

Dot Holden – recovering from surgery for broken wrist following a fall

Janie Condley – recovering from surgery for broken hip at Alta Camarillo Rehab facility

Marlene Tomlinson (grandmother of Noel Tomlinson) – recovering from two strokes

Eliza Erickson – health issues surrounding problems with thyroid function

Diane Owen (friend of Seth Haye) – recovering from double-lung transplant

Penny White – recovery from recent abdominal surgery

Carol Overton (mother of Daniel Overton) – trying to determine the cause of a brain infection

Brenda White – recent surgery to remove skin cancer

First Responders, Linemen, Firemen – during recent fires and strong winds

Kendra Davis (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – home recovering from serious complications from recent abdominal surgery

Steve Simpson (brother of Lorna T., Stephanie S. and Claudia dB.) – rare and aggressive autoimmune disease called ANCA-Associated Vasculitis

Elizabeth Cowan (mother of Christian Socquet) – memory issues, difficulty understanding medical care

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

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis

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

December 8 Attendance		December 8 Giving	
On-Site Service	110	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,415
Online Viewing	57	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,677,655
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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