



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 22, 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

- Dec 21 Guys' Golf Outing
- Dec 29 All-Church Game Night

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Staci Daringer | 12/21 |
| Calleigh Hunnicutt | 12/22 |
| Gwen Hunnicutt | 12/22 |
| Elizabeth Jovel-Rivera | 12/25 |
| Alyssa West | 12/30 |

Make Room for Wonder

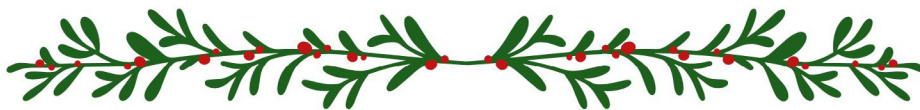
Andy Wall

There is something about the passing of years that dulls our capacity for wonder. Some might call it a loss of naïveté or a healthy dose of realism. However, I would suggest that somewhere between childhood and adulthood we may lose far more than we bargained for. For kids, a fallen leaf is a wonder to behold; for us, another gardening chore. For children, a bug is an opportunity to squat down, to touch, perhaps even to taste; for us, a pest to be rid of. For little ones, time is savored—they don't seem to be in any particular hurry, at least when we are; for us, time must be feverishly managed, manipulated, and controlled.

A case in point: when was the last time you truly appreciated, say, your hands? Think of that bundle of nerves and capillaries, the interweaving of tendons, muscles, and bones, the uniqueness of each fingerprint. Ponder all the human hand can do: build homes, paint masterpieces, play concertos, convey love (or hate!), lift weights, drive a car, type an e-mail, throw a ball, give a high five, and so much more. At some point or another, the miracle of the human hand becomes “merely.”

John Killinger cautions us against such loss of wonder: “Somewhere along the way, everything becomes merely—it is merely water or merely snow or merely fire or merely leaves or merely sand or merely matter. It no longer points us to the creator. It is merely what it is, and no more. How sad!”

One of the invitations of the story of Christ's birth is the call to cultivate our sense of wonder. The season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas point us beyond the “merely.” They provide an annual reminder of the importance of seeing the miraculous in our midst, particularly in the coming of Christ into our world. “How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given,” goes the old carol, as if to warn us, “If you're not paying attention, you may well miss it.” This season says, “Wait a minute! What if you slowed down and looked more deeply into things?” May your Christmas be filled with wonder, a wonder born not of naïveté but of the realization that this baby born in Bethlehem and wrapped in swaddling clothes is none other than the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.



Merry Christmas from the Ministry Staff

On behalf of the Conejo Valley Church of Christ ministry team and staff members, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year. We appreciate so much our partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the opportunities we share to serve our community and world and to build up one another in Christ. We look forward to an exciting new year of ministry together in the year of our Lord, 2025. Onward!



What's Happening At Conejo



Current Sermon Series: "The Advent Paradox"

The apostle Paul, in offering the Corinthians a lesson in generosity, reflected briefly on the meaning of Jesus' Incarnation. His observation is our point of departure for the final paradox in our Advent series, found in 2 Corinthians 8:9: "For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich." Paul refers here to Christ's grace as the motive force behind the incarnation: our Lord Jesus Christ expressed great generosity (grace) in embracing human limitations so that we might be spiritually enriched in every way. What does Paul mean by this enrichment? See you Sunday to find out more!

All-Church Game Night / December 29

If you are in town next weekend and would like to gather with church family for an evening of fun board games, card games, pictionary and just a fun evening of hanging out and fellowship, join us Sunday from 4pm-8pm. This could be a good break for those extroverts who are missing school friends! All ages are welcome. Please bring favorite games and snacks to share.

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

Adult Education Advent Class

Our adult education offers a combined auditorium class titled "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." Based on the great Advent hymn by Charles Wesley, each week we 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, Nick Zola will be reflecting on the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus as we think about "Born a child and yet a king." Next Sunday, we'll round out the year in this Bible class with a time to focus on prayer, led by Rodney Smithers.

CVYM Connect Calendar

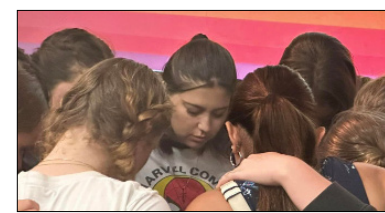
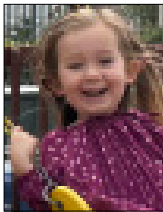
Let's remember to support our teens at their various events! Click the [CVYM Connect Google Calendar](#) for their schedules.

Conejo Family 2024 Review



Rejoice always,
Pray without ceasing,
Give thanks in all circumstances;
For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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.
Deuteronomy 7:9

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

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

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

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 Hays) – 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

Kendra Davis (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – 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 15 Attendance		December 15 Giving	
On-Site Service	136	Weekly Giving Average	\$20,023
Online Viewing	52	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,677,806
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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