CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

January 26, 2025

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
12:00pm	CVYM Family Potluck and Parent Meeting
5:30pm	CVYM Dinner and Devo

Upcoming Events

Jan 27	Women's Bible Study
Jan 28	Fifth Commandment
Jan 29	Flourishing Families at Walls'
Jan 29	Life Group at Reynolds'
Jan 30	Conejo Tutoring
Jan 30	Life Group at Fosters'
Feb 1	Guys' Golf Group

Upcoming Birthdays

Rick Furino	1/26
Penny White	1/27
Brooklyn Davis	1/28
Jadyn de Bruyn	1/29
Lauren Kliest-Blankfein	1/29
Henry Estes	1/31
Becky Rockey	1/31
Javon Johnson	2/1

The Value of Sneetches

Andy Wall

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. **1 John 4:7**

For the past month, our sermon series has paired children's books with some of Paul's teachings and exhortations from Ephesians 4. Of course, in four weeks we can scarcely scratch the surface of the rich trove of children's books that teach, enrich, and delight children of all ages. But perhaps this brief tour has provided a reminder of the value and power of children's books, not only to entertain but to raise important questions and to help form virtues.

As I was growing up, we shared numerous children's books. Mom and Dad read to Phyllis and me from our children's Bible until we learned how to read, then we'd take turns reading to them. I suspect I garnered some early preaching skills from hearing my Dad's expressive and dramatic readings. In grade school, Mom read with us the *Little House on the Prairie* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder and C. S. Lewis' Narnia series, which included *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. During my teen years, I moved on to *The Screwtape Letters* by Lewis and *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien. Those stories, along with many others, nourished my young faith, fired my imagination, and helped shape my developing worldview.

Perhaps there are few pleasures like passing on the stories you cherished as a child to your own kids or children you love. This was certainly true for Carrie and myself as our girls were growing up. Sharing rich and meaningful stories is one way we deepen human connection, not only in our families, but also in our church community. As parents, grandparents, and friends, we have a golden opportunity to share with our children the various books which can nurture their souls and enhance their developing faith.

One of my all-time favorite children's stories is "The Sneetches," by Dr. Seuss. It is a fun story to read and dramatize and it carries a vital message. If you know it, chances are you already love it. If you don't, I heartily recommend you go read it this week, preferably out loud with a child or two nearby. This rollicking tale, with a clever con artist named Sylvester McMonkey McBean, helps illustrate the foolishness of snobbish elitism and invites us to appreciate our shared humanity (or Sneetchiness) with all our fellow humans. It's as relevant today as it was in 1961 when it was published.

While I'm not a grandpa just yet, one of the things I'm greatly looking forward to is the chance to share beloved books with future grandkids. May God bless you as you also share your beloved stories to the generations that follow you.

What's Happening At Conejo

Welcome to Conejo!

We're delighted to welcome Mike and Maureen Thomas to the Conejo Church! We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with 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 Thomas family:

5539 Aldren Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 800-8473 • mandmthomas31@gmail.com

Current Sermon Series: *"Childlike Lessons for a Grownup Faith"*

We're beginning 2025 with the invitation to live intentionally in the way of Christ. Undergirding the series is Paul's exhortation that we live in the way we learned from Christ: putting away our former ways, being renewed in the spirit of our minds, and being clothed in the new self (Eph. 4:17-24). Each week we're considering a specific application that Paul makes, introduced by a children's story.

In Ephesians 4:30-5:2, Paul continues his exhortation offering contrasting choices for how to live, always urging his readers to pursue the superior way, which is the way of kindness over wrath, tenderheartedness over slander, and forgiveness over bitterness, all according to the example of God through Christ. Our corresponding children's story is "There's a Nightmare In My Closet" by Mercer Mayer, in which a boy battles within himself, facing his fears, terrors, and (perhaps) inner darkness. As Jesus' followers, we must each battle our own demons, leaning into the person the Holy Spirit is endeavoring to make us.

Adult Education This Winter

Our adult auditorium class is exploring Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The class series is titled "Churching (on the) 101" and will run through April 27. This week, Nick Zola will be focusing on 1 Corinthians 1 (and 3) with a class titled "Following the Leader (or Not)."

In the overflow classroom, Bill Foster is leading a study on godly principles surrounding personal finance. This ten-week study is based on the Crown Financial MoneyLife curriculum and includes weekly homework, scripture memory and reflection, practical application to household finances, and a prayer log.

Conejo Tutoring

The Spring Tutoring Season has begun. We have a wonderful surplus of students to tutor this year, and we are still looking for both weekly volunteers and substitutes to provide them with 1-on-1 attention each week. Tutoring will take place in-person at Conejo Academy (formerly Conejo Elementary School) on Thursdays at 6pm through April 24.

Being a tutor means spending an hour of your time each week with first-grade students, helping them with their reading, with math, or just playing games. This ministry takes place on the school campus in the students' classrooms, and tutors have access to a wealth of exciting educational tools and supplies. Please contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or you can email tutoringatconejo@gmail.com if you can serve as a tutor or substitute, or if you would like additional information.

Fifth Commandment Group

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 live hundreds or even thousands of miles away? Join us on Tuesday, January 28, 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.

Blessing Bags

On February 9 during the Bible class hour, our teens plan to prepare 100 blessing bags for our members to take to share with people who are needing help. We need members to donate the following items.

- Nutella & Go (with Breadsticks)
- $10 Gift Card to McDs or Taco Bell
- 8oz. bottled waters
- Granola Bars
- Medium Tube Toothpaste
- Socks
- Hand Sanitizer
- $5 Bills
- Pocket Tissues
- Chapstick
- Toothbrush

Please click the Blessing Bag Items Sign-Up Sheet to indicate the items and quantities that you can provide. There will be a table set up in the foyer between the doors to the Youth Room. Please bring the items you sign up to bring between January 19 and February 8.

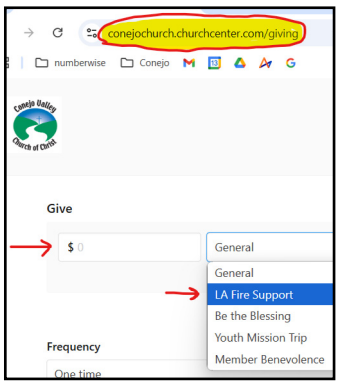
Bowls of Hope / March 9

Our fourth Bowls of Hope Painting Party to support Many Mansions has been scheduled for Sunday, March 9, from 3-5pm. More details will be shared soon. For now, please save the date on your calendars and plan to help us be a blessing for our neighbors at Many Mansions.

Women's Day Retreat / March 15

Please mark your calendars to ***save the date of March 15***. This is the day that the 2025 Women's Day Retreat has been scheduled at the church building. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

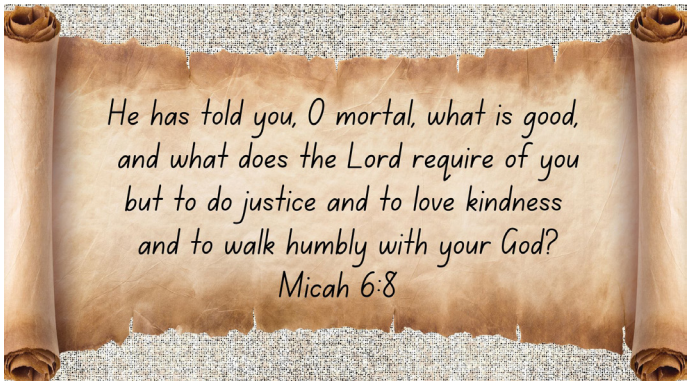
LA Fire Victim Support



We have added a new fund, "LA Fire Support," if you would like to designate a donation to be used in support of victims of the recent LA-area wildfires. Simply visit the Conejo Church donation page and select ***"LA Fire Support"*** from the drop-down menu. The final destination of these funds will be determined by the elders and ministry staff soon.

Middle School and High School

January's Memory Verse



Youth Group Bible Classes

The Bible class theme for the spring is "Profiles In Faith." Rick Marrs is teaching this series with character studies of Joseph and Ruth at 9am each Sunday in January through February 2.

Please encourage your teen to be present and engaged in this time to study, grow, and learn with their peers in Bible class.

CVYM Connect Calendar

Parents, please help us know your kids' extra-curricular schedules by sending them to Kari Odenath (kariwhit@gmail.com). Kari has created a Google calendarto help us connect at our various events for our teens. Let's remember to support our teens at their various events! Click the CVYM Connect Google Calendar for our teens' schedules.

Family Potluck / January 26

There will be a Youth Ministry Family Potluck immediately following the morning worship service. This will be a time for parents, teens, and leadership to share a meal and work through details involving calendar items, events, classes, service projects for the coming months. Please, plan to be present to be part of the discussion and planning. We need to work out details, divide jobs, and aim for a wonderful 2025 together!

Dinners and Devos will resume this evening!

The Youth Ministry Calendar will be followed pretty closely, but there will be some changes. We will need to work out details and divide jobs as we aim for a wonderful 2025 together!

Last Week's Flourish Meeting

Children's Ministry

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.

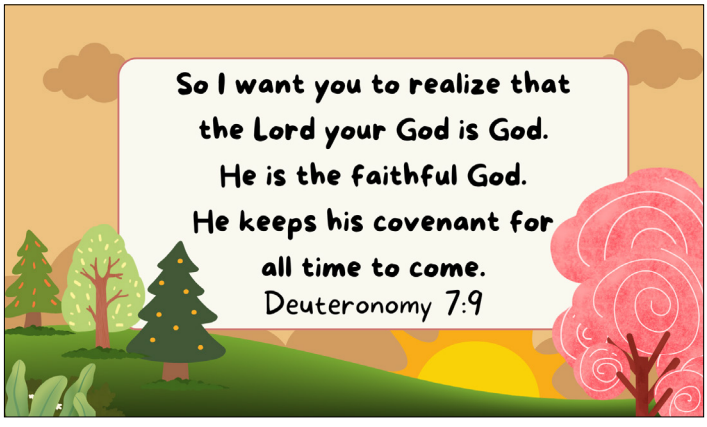
Nursery - Nissa H. and Maxi M.
2's-5's - Noel T. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Dwayne H.

Valentines for Seniors

Starting today, our Children's Ministry will lead us in creating beautiful valentines for senior citizens in our community. Each week from ***January 26 through February 9***, we encourage children, teens, and adults to spend time on the playground (or inside if it's rainy) preparing beautiful cards for senior citizens. If you have a friend or neighbor who would be encouraged by receiving hand-made cards from our children's ministry, please share their name and address with office@conejochurch.org so that we can include them.

Updated Children's Ministry Roster

If you have children in the Children's Ministry, please fill out the Google form at tinyurl.com/cvccroster24. Please fill this out if you have not yet done so for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you for helping us keep accurate records as we endeavor to serve your family.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

New Members – Scott, Johnelle, Nora, Oliver, and Logan Opel; Will, Nissa, and Emmett Hatfield; Mike and Maureen Thomas

THOSE GRIEVING

Javon Johnson – loss of sister, LaShaunia Pross

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Joyce Joyner

Larry Bumgardner – loss of sister, Linda Browning

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Marilyn Aurand – nodules discovered in lungs; undergoing many biopsies and blood work at UCLA hospital; physically and mentally battle-weary

Becky Russell (grandmother of Haylie Douglas) – breast cancer

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

Maria Baake – undergoing treatments for breast cancer

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

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

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Karin Carlstedt (sister of Bob Falletta) – recently placed on hospice

Larry Bumgardner – recovering from back surgery for spinal stenosis

Firefighters, first responders, linemen, and other support personnel as they continue to battle fires and restore electricity and services to burned areas

For all who have lost lives and property in the Palisades, Eaton, Kenneth, Franklin, and other recent fires

Henry Estes – broken leg

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

Dot Holden – recovering from surgery for broken wrist

Janie Condley – recovering from surgery for broken hip

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

Eliza Erickson – problems with thyroid function

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

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

Kendra Davis (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – lost home in recent fire; dealing with health issues

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

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

January 19 Attendance	
On-Site Service	131
Online Viewing	56

January 19 Giving	$7,334
Weekly Giving Average	$10,391
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,550
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,681,271

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