CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

April 13, 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
9:00am	Baptism Class
10:00am	Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
10:15am	On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
10:25am	Palm Sunday Processional
12:30pm	Adult Education Team Meeting

Upcoming Events

Apr 14	Women's Bible Study
Apr 16	Flourishing Families at the Walls'
Apr 16	Life Group at the Reynolds'
Apr 17	Many Mansions Spring Fair
Apr 17	Life Group at the Fosters'
Apr 18	Good Friday Services
Apr 19	Guys Golf Group
Apr 20	Easter Celebration
Apr 27	Mexico Mission Fundraiser
May 4	Youth Led Service / Habit Truck lunch

Upcoming Birthdays

Evie Chambers	4/19
Susie Lindley	4/19
Ken Waters	4/19
Kindy De Long	4/20
Michelle Williams	4/20

The Greatest Command

[**Editor's note:** *Today's meditation is very special to me. It was written by my Mom, Lois Wall, and it bears the imprint of her gracious spirit and her lifelong devotion to growing in Christ. As we enter into Holy Week and remember Jesus' final days and deeds in pursuit of our reconciliation with God, Mom's words offer a reminder that forgiving is part and parcel of loving our neighbors.*]

"Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28-31.

When we meditate on these words of Jesus, they keep us centered on God. Simply stated, we are here to love God with our whole being. It is no wonder that devout Jews quoted these words morning and night. In Deuteronomy 6:4-5 the Israelites were taught first of all to "hear" (hear and obey) God's will and to impress these words on the hearts of their children. We know how the story proceeded from there that sometimes the Israelites listened and obeyed God and other times they did not and slid into rebellion.

Today we want these words to be lived out in our lives each day as well. These verses we teach to our children from early on—at home and at church. We want to have this personal relationship with our living, loving God, to experience this daily walk of faith with the Lord. How are we doing regarding loving the Lord and seeking Him with all of our being? The second part of this passage should reveal the answer.

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Let us recognize our need to maintain and nourish our relationship with God and His Spirit and the result should be seen in all our human relationships. John teaches us that we need to love with actions and in truth. We ought to love one another because He loved us first. In fact, we are lying if we claim to love God but hate our brother!

Consider the parable of the unforgiving servant. A servant begs the king to forgive him of his 10,000 talent debt—a debt so large that it would be impossible to ever pay back. But the king forgives him, and the servant goes out and demands that his fellow servant repay him a hundred denarii, perhaps a day's wages! When the king is informed of this distressing deed, he has the wicked servant turned over to the jailers to be tortured. The Lord's Prayer also teaches us we will be forgiven of our debts as we forgive others.

To sum up these core truths, we cannot love others as ourselves if we are not depending on God's grace as fully forgiven children. We do not want to fall into the trap of those who sought the approval of Jesus with their legalistic works. We can love and serve God and others with all our being—through His power.

What's Happening At Conejo

Current Sermon Series:
"The Multifaceted Richness of the Cross"

During the season of Lent, we're exploring the rich variety of metaphors which interpret the meaning of the cross. Today, we'll explore the New Testament teaching that Jesus' death was vicarious—that Jesus died on our behalf and in our place. Affirmed by a number of verses, the Godforsaken death suffered by Jesus was, in some way that we cannot fully fathom, a death that should have been ours. This is closely tied to the pervasive biblical teaching concerning God's judgment upon Sin. God overcame Sin by having the righteous Son of God dying on behalf of unrighteous humanity.

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

Each year during the season of Lent, Christians around the world spend six weeks preparing for the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Sunday. Please participate in ways that are meaningful and needed for your faith development and for the needs of our community. Click the 40-Day Commitment Sheet to see a variety of Lenten practices as well as a listing of congregational events.

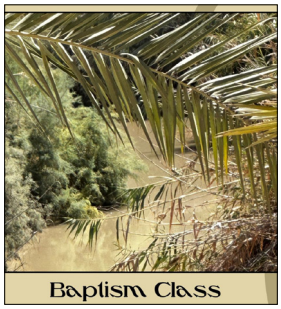
Adult Education This Winter

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, Kindy DeLong will focus on 1 Corinthians 14:26-40 with a class titled "Love and Building Up the Church."

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.

Baptism Class / Week Two

We have begun a three-part class for all who are interested in learning more about baptism as well as those who are preparing to be baptized. The class will take place at 9am in the children's worship area on April 6, 13, and 20. Please let Andy Wall (andywall63@gmail.com) know if you or your child(ren) are interested in taking part in this class.



Right Paw Conference Room

The right paw of the sanctuary is now a conference room. There are 20 chairs available for group meetings. This transformation was made possible by the heavy lifting (often physically) of the following people: Paula Marrs, Leslie Stephens, David Rhoades, Bill Foster, Rick Furino, Kipp, Quintt, and Bronn Landis, Doug Hurley, Gwen and Calleigh Hunnicutt, Joshua Smith, and TJ and Suzanne Reynolds. Thanks so much for the time, energy, and commitment of those who helped transform this space. This room is no longer an area for storage. To reserve this room, please contact office@conejochurch.org.

Food Share Service Project

The Women's Bible study group that meets on Monday nights is organizing a food drive for Food Share Ventura County. The group is currently studying the book *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life* by Joyce Rupp and is organizing this effort as a hands-on way of practicing compassion in our community.

Food Share is Ventura County's regional food bank that works with 175 pantry and program partners throughout the county and distributes nearly 20 million pounds of food annually to more than 250,000 people. It has recently learned that it will not be receiving expected shipments of more than 200,000 pounds of food from federal sources, so the organization is reaching out to local communities to try to help recover some of that loss. The Bible class will be setting up donation spots for food starting this Sunday and ending on Sunday, April 27. We are collecting these items:

- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Beans (dry and canned)
- Rice (in 1lb-2lb bags or mixes)
- Cereal
- Peanut butter

Poptop cans or plastic containers are preferred. No glass containers will be accepted. If you would rather supply a cash or check donation for Food Share, please talk to Tammy Ditmore or Paula Marrs. You can learn more about the organization at https://foodshare.com.

Many Mansions Spring Fair / April 17

A group from our church will help with the Many Mansions Spring Fair on Thursday, April 17, from 3-5pm. We need volunteers! Please let us know of your plans to help with this fun activity for children in our neighborhood by signing up here: Many Mansions Spring Fair.

Good Friday Worship / April 18

Please make plans to take part in our Good Friday Service this Friday, April 18, at 9pm. During this service, we'll reflect on the Gospel account of Jesus' final hours leading up to his crucifixion, seeking to appreciate more fully the self-giving death of our Lord and Messiah that overcomes sin, death, and evil.

East Coast Swing Class / May 3

Have you ever wanted to learn to dance with a partner? Shannon and Jim Latson are teaching a free beginners level East Coast Swing class on Saturday, May 3, from 2:30-4pm. The class will be taught at their home, and participation is limited to six couples, so RSVPs are needed. Please text Shannon at (818) 489-1156 if you are interested in joining the class.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

The Bible class theme for the spring is "Profiles In Faith." Today, the teens will continue this series with a study of Jonah, taught by Derek and Laura Estes.

> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
> and what does the Lord require of you
> but to do justice
> and to love kindness
> and to walk humbly with your God?
> Micah 6:8

Dinner and Devo will NOT meet this evening since they participated in last night's Passover Seder at the Scarberrys' home. Thank you, Suzanne and Mark, for welcoming the church family into your home to celebrate and experience the Passover Seder.

Bingo Night Fundraiser / April 27

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and raise some funds for our Mexico Mission Trip at this fun-filled event! Our youth ministry students have also planned some entertainment for you. All ages and stages will have a blast at this event, starting at 6pm. Dessert will be provided by families of the Youth Ministry.

Upcoming CVYM Events and Calendar

Please click CVYM March Newsletter to see information for all upcoming events (including dates, times, locations, and costs). Also, included in the newsletter is a list of Bible classes for the winter and spring as well as a list of the topics for Dinner and Devo gatherings. Come, study, grow, encourage one another, and learn with your peers in Bible class, at devos, at sporting events, and at special church events.

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 CVYM Connect Google Calendar to help us support our teens at their various events!

Teen Camp 2025 "Encounter" / July 6-12

Teen Camp this year will center around Luke 24:15 and the encounter between Jesus and a few disciples–an interaction where Jesus draws near to them and walks with them as they go along their way. We will look at the gospel of Luke and different encounters Jesus has with people based on their needs. We will be asking the students to reflect on the question: What Jesus do you need to encounter this week?

Teen Camp is July 6-12. Early bird registration is open until May 31. Go to the Teen Camp website (socalteencamp.org) to register for this great week.

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 - Lexy C. and Andrew C.
2's-5's - _____ and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Dwayne H..

Easter Events

We have many Easter related activities for our children!

Palm Sunday: Join us at 10:05am in the children's worship area this Sunday, April 13, to be part of our palm processional during the worship service.

Family Good Friday Experience: On Friday, April 18, we will have our annual Family Good Friday Experience. There will be staggered start times from 5-7pm. Sign up at tinyurl.com/goodfri25.

On ***Easter Sunday*** our kids are invited to bring a flower to add to the living cross during worship service and then take part in our Easter Egg Hunt during Children's Worship.

Vacation Bible School 2025

Summer is quickly approaching and that means VBS will be here before we know it! This year we will have a morning VBS on June 16-19 with a final show during Bible class on June 22. More details coming soon!

King's Kamp / July 20-26

Join us from July 20-26 for King's Kamp as we center our week around God's Round Table! Kamp is for students who will be entering 4th through 8th grades. Early bird registration is open now! Go to kingskamp.org for more information and to sign up for an awesome week at Kamp.

Help us raise money for Kamp through different sponsorship opportunities! Browse the categories at tinyurl.com/sponsorkamp.

> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit. Do all you can to continue as you are, letting peace hold you together.
>
> Ephesians 4:2-3

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

New Members – Mike and Maureen Thomas; Jonathan Pearce; Arlene Leedy

Pregnancies: Valerie Patenaude (May)

Births: Valerie Nadine Iverson, daughter of DJ and Stacy Iverson; granddaughter of Chris and Sandy Stivers

THOSE GRIEVING

Ron Stephens – loss of mother, Nancy (Mitten) Stephens, and loss of sister, Deanna Patton

Arlene Leedy – loss of husband, Bill Leedy

Javon Johnson – loss of sister, LaShaunia Pross

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Joyce Joyner

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Marilyn Aurand – cancer has returned; recovering from broken ribs following recent fall; physically and mentally battle-weary

David Malinowsky (brother of Jeanette Starkey) – stage IV pancreatic cancer

Becky Russell (grandmother of Haylie Douglas) – breast cancer

Maria Baake – undergoing treatments for breast cancer

David Green – semi-monthly tests yielding positive results

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

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Shirley Pacifici (mother of Charee Landis) – congestive heart failure

Donald Skipper (grandfather of Bonnie Rockey) – diagnosis of and healing from health problems

Susan Pratt – recovering from knee replacement surgery

Brandon Starkey – recovering from recent back surgery

Larry Bumgardner – recovering from recent back surgery

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

Janie Condley – recovering from broken hip

Patricia "Gamma" Foster (grandmother of Noel Tomlinson) – prayers for peace and comfort while she's in a memory care unit

Eliza Erickson – problems with thyroid function

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

Carol Overton (mother of Daniel Overton) – recovering at home from effects of a brain infection

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

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

Peace and safety for the world in turbulent times

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – severely burned

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 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance + Giving

April 6 Attendance	
On-Site Service	124
Online Viewing	40

April 6 Giving	$16,722
Weekly Giving Average	$15,385
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,550
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,686,808

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