



BE the BLESSING

May 18, 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, meet Kira Brown
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 12:30pm Mexico Mission Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Dinner and Devo at Johnsons' home with Kira Brown

Upcoming Events

- May 21 Flourishing Families
- May 24 Guys Golf Group
- May 26 Memorial Day Picnic
- Jun 1 Senior Sunday and Banquet
- Jun 8 Promotion Sunday

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Justus Baird | 5/15 |
| Seth Hays | 5/17 |
| Logan Opel | 5/18 |
| Elaine Overton | 5/18 |
| Rylan Downey | 5/22 |
| Joe Cocke | 5/23 |
| Josh Horton | 5/24 |
| Luke Zola | 5/24 |

Welcome Zoe Williamson

Andy Wall

We are pleased to welcome Zoe Williamson as a preaching and ministry intern this summer. Zoe will be working with me for the next two and half months as she continues to discern God's calling for her life and to prepare herself for ministry. Her two primary purposes for being here this summer are to serve and to learn. Below are a few facts and insights into who Zoe is.

Birthplace: New Brunswick, New Jersey

Home: Searcy, Arkansas

Birthday: August 28, 2006

Educational status: sophomore at Harding University

Favorite foods: pasta and acai bowls!

Favorite hobbies: running, hiking, visiting national parks, coffee, & spending time with friends

Favorite place: the Grand Canyon

Favorite author: Robin Jones Gunn

Favorite book: *Kisses from Katie*

Favorite musical group: Forrest Frank

Spiritual hero: Gladys Alyward

Superpower: incredible coffee consumption abilities

What has drawn you to ministry: From an early age, I have felt God's call to ministry. As I watched my parents love people, I fell in love with both the beauty and the chaos of ministry. As I grew older, I began to realize that God seemed to be calling me to pursue ministry as a full-time career. This kind of scares me, but I realize that if this is His call, I won't need a plan B. More recently, I have fallen in love with preaching and disciple-making. This year, God has provided me with many opportunities to speak, which have deepened my love for and desire to proclaim the Word of God.

What you're looking forward to this summer (in this internship): I am so excited to meet and learn from everyone at Conejo! I'm also looking forward to participating in the Amor mission trip, Teen Camp, Kings Camp, and in VBS!

Future plans: After I complete my education I plan to work in some form of full-time ministry. At some point I would love to do domestic churchplanting and serve as a discipleship minister.

What else would you like us to know about you: I love good stories, deep conversations, and great questions!

As members of the Conejo Church, you are invited to get to know Zoe, to affirm the God-given gifts you see in her, to allow her to minister and grow in a supportive and encouraging environment, and to help her as she discerns the ministry for which she is best suited. If you would like to contact Zoe, she can be reached at (732) 858-4735 or by email at zwilliamson@harding.edu.



What's Happening At Conejo

Road Closure on Sunday

As announced last Sunday, this Sunday morning, May 18, the Conejo Valley Parade will cause a portion of Thousand Oaks Blvd to be closed. Please make plans as you drive to church to take either the Westlake Blvd exit (if driving westbound on 101) or Rancho Rd exit (if driving eastbound on 101) to avoid the closure at Hampshire Rd. For more information, please visit conejovalleyparade.org.



Current Sermon Series: The Shape of Joy

Everyone wants to experience a joyful life, but there are a number of competing approaches and philosophies to finding joy. Where do we find true and lasting joy? Whenever we center the pursuit of our own subjective happiness, we ironically find ourselves in a cycle of joylessness. The path of curving inward upon ourselves has shown itself to be a disastrous approach to happiness.

In this first sermon of our 5-part series on Joy, titled "The Shape of Joy," we'll observe some of the ways in which centering personal happiness actually works against increased joy. Both Jesus and Paul taught and modeled the outward turn, away from self-obsession about ourselves, and toward caring for, connection with, and service to others. We'll move more in this direction in future weeks; but first we have to confront the deep deceptions that undermine true and lasting joy.

Adult Education

Adult Bible classes for the coming weeks will be a series entitled "Echoes between Malachi and Matthew." We sometimes mistakenly call the period in between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament the "silent period," but this time was hardly silent. Major turning points occurred during this time that fundamentally shaped the world into which Jesus was born. In this class we'll explore key elements from this period, including the Maccabean revolt, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the legacy of Enoch, without which we can't fully understand the New Testament itself. This week, Nick Zola will be teaching on the Maccabean revolt.

Welcome to the World, Elijah!

On May 14, Elijah Richard Hanna was born to Valerie (Patenaude) and Travis Hanna. Elijah weighed in at 8 lb., 8 oz. and was 22 inches long. Elijah, his parents, and his grandparents (Guy and Rosie Patenaude) are all doing well.

Youth Ministry Search Update

In recent weeks, the Youth Minister Search Committee has interviewed two outstanding candidates (from a list of ten qualified people who expressed interest in the position). Our committee of eight has worked very well together and feels confident that we'll have a recommendation to our elders at some point in May. The candidates are being introduced to the congregation and to our youth group both last week and this week. We appreciate your prayers for discernment and for our

candidates as we get closer to making a decision.

Thank You for Building & Grounds Help!

Each year, June 1 is the deadline for the annual "weed abatement" required by the city for all property owners. We'd like to share a huge "thank you" to David and Leslie Stephens for expending the time, energy, and know-how to cut back the weeds in the upper backyard area. The yellow hills of mustard are gorgeous, but they quickly turn into a fire hazard as they dry up. Thank you for the hours of hard work you spent to accomplish this task!



Also, recently, Stu and Co Warford spent time and energy repairing some damage to the handrails in front of the building and then repainting all handrails along the front steps as well as ramp. This job took a several days, but what a beautiful facelift it gave to the rails. Thank you so much for your "behind the scenes" work to help maintain this facility and make it appear loved, cared for, and welcoming.



Memorial Day Church Picnic / May 26

Monday, May 26, is Conejo's annual Memorial Day picnic at Dover and Hendrix Park in Thousand Oaks. This is a great day for fun, food, fellowship, and games with friends and family. It is also an opportunity to introduce our friends from outside of church to our church family in an atmosphere of light-hearted fun. The fun starts around 10am, with grilling at 11am, and lunch around noon. Please bring food or drinks to share according to the initial letter of your last name (see below).

A-E: Two or more 2-liter drinks and chips

F-O: Desserts

P-Z: Side Dish or Salad

Sign Bibles for the 2025 HS Seniors

Everyone is invited to sign the Bibles for this year's graduating seniors, Alyssa Hunnicutt and Taylor Wooton. The Bibles are in the foyer on the table by the Be the Blessing Renovation Tree. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share a message of encouragement and hope with our graduates as they complete one chapter of life and move into the next one.



Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

The Bible class theme for the spring is "Profiles In Faith." Today the teens' Bible class will be led by Kira Brown, one of the candidates applying to serve as our new youth minister.

This evening, all teens and their families are encouraged to meet at the home of Jeremy and Amber Johnson to spend time with Kira, share a meal, and have a devotional there. Please be sure to take this opportunity to get to know Kira.

Mexico Mission Team Meeting / Today

Each summer, CVCC sends a team of workers to Mexico to build a house for a family there. This mission trip is open to our teens who are entering grade 8 and older as well as adults. If you plan to go and do not yet have a passport, please start the process now. Passports are essential for every team member.

Our next Mission Team meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, in the youth room at 12:30pm. Please make plans to grab a quick lunch and be back by starting time.

Upcoming CVYM Events and Connect Calendar

Please click [CVYM Current 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 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.

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. Teen Camp is July 6-12. *Early bird registration is open until May 31.* Go to the Teen Camp website (socialteencamp.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 - Shaya B. and Sarah G.

Kinder-5th grade - Dwayne H.



Children's Memory Verse

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

Summer Volunteers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to help with our summer Children's Bible Classes and Children's Worship! Teachers and teacher's helpers are needed to guide and support our kids

as they grow in faith during the summer months. Whether you can commit to one Sunday or several, your help makes a big difference. Please consider signing up to teach or assist at tinyurl.com/summerhelp25.

VBS 2025: The Great Adventure / June 16-19

Summer is quickly approaching, and that means Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! This year, VBS will be June 16-19 from 9:15am-noon with a final show during Bible class on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30pm. Volunteers can sign up now at tinyurl.com/volunteervbs25 now. Students can be registered at tinyurl.com/cvccvbs25.

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.



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: Brian and Molly Sanders (October)

Births: Elijah Richard Hanna, son of Travis and Valerie (Patenaude) Hanna; grandson of Guy and Rosie Patenaude; **Valerie Nadine Iverson**, daughter of DJ and Stacy Iverson; granddaughter of Chris and Sandy Stivers

Baptisms: Brandon Starkey, Cash Landis, Sky Landis

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

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 – biomarker tests every other month yielding positive results

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

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Sarah Lovett (niece of Rene Heard) – scheduled for hysterectomy on June 4

Jordan Downey – recovering from gallbladder surgery

Brian and Molly Sanders (son and daughter-in-law of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – twins due in October!

Shirley Pacifici (mother of Charee Landis) – ongoing heart issues

Donald Skipper (grandfather of Bonnie Rockey) – recently diagnosed with leukemia

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) – help and discernment in finding a caregiver who is a good match for Sharon

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

May 11 Attendance		May 11 Giving	
On-Site Service	174	Weekly Giving Average	\$13,987
Online Viewing	65	Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,550
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,689,082

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