CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

June 15, 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

Upcoming Events

Jun 16-19	Vacation Bible School
Jun 19	VBS Final Program
Jun 21	Guys Golf Group
Jun 22-27	Mexico Mission Trip
June 29	Mexico Mission Report

Upcoming Birthdays

Stan Thomas	6/16
Kim Milanovich	6/17
Ed Sanders	6/19
Zach Johnson	6/20
Brandon Starkey	6/21
David Stephens	6/21

From Affliction to Hope

Andy Wall

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ… And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." **Romans 5:1-5**

First, Happy Father's Day! As my family makes preparations to celebrate my Dad's 90th birthday in July, I'm grateful that he is still with us and that he is very much in possession of his ornery playfulness and his abiding faith in the Lord. Dad taught me that being a minister is about being a servant of God, that the best sermons are not just spoken but lived, that listening well is a powerful blessing to others, and that persevering through hardships is a significant part of ministry. Thank you, Dad!

Second, as we wrap up our sermon series on finding deep and abiding joy, I'm mindful of Paul's words in Romans 5 (see above), which outline what sounds like an unlikely itinerary on our faith journey. Paul describes a process in which we move from experiencing afflictions, to growing in endurance, to developing character, which leads to durable hope based on God's love poured into our hearts.

How can affliction lead to hope? That doesn't sound like Seven Easy Steps to Success! But it does tie in with a vital distinction we've been making between happiness and joy throughout this sermon series. If we're pursuing happiness, affliction is the last thing we want. Happiness evaporates in the face of affliction, distress, or trouble. But since we're living in the reality of being justified by faith in Christ, our peace and confidence are with God and are far more durable. Walter Wangerin Jr. describes it as follows:

> "Happiness lives where sorrow is not. When sorrow arrives, happiness dies. It can't stand pain. Joy, on the other hand, rises from sorrow and therefore can withstand all grief. Joy, by the grace of God, is the transfiguration of suffering into endurance, and of endurance into character, and of character into hope—and the hope that has become our joy does not (as happiness must…) disappoint us."

Paul's understanding of how affliction leads to character, and ultimately hope, helps us appreciate how the practice of Christian love works. Love is not some life hack for getting what we want. In fact, real love can often impose more demands upon us. But the beauty of love is that it calls us to rise above mere self-interest so that we may care for and even sacrifice on behalf of others. In so doing, we follow in the way Jesus, loving as Jesus loved, and discovering the deepest source of true joy.

What's Happening At Conejo

Current Sermon Series: The Shape of Joy

Where is true and lasting joy to be found? In the final message of our "Shape of Joy" series, we'll reflect on the importance of loving others in real and tangible ways as a means of experiencing deep and abiding joy. Loving others is a final step in moving away from self-focused rumination, especially when it is rooted in humility, the worship of our transcendent God, and the practice of gratitude. In many ways, real love can make life more difficult for us, make demands of us, impose inconveniences upon us. But the beauty of love is that it empowers us to rise above self-interest so that we may care for and sacrifice on behalf of others. As Richard Beck says, "Love is a gift, or it is not love."

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 wrap up this series with a class on the theme of "Scripture and Canon."

Adult Education / Summer Auditorium Class

Our summer auditorium class, which starts on June 22, is titled "Spiritual Practices that Shape Our Faith" and will explore various members of Conejo Church share about disciplines of the faith that have shaped them in significant ways.

2025 VBS Mission Project

This year's VBS service project is to collect items needed by the City of Children. The City of Children is an orphanage located in Ensenada, Mexico that cares for children and families in need. Our church family is invited to participate by bringing in one or more of these items and placing them in the marked box in the foyer. ¡Muchas gracias!

- Qtips
- Body Soap
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body lotion
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Volleyballs
- Twin bed sheets (blue or gray)

Promotion Sunday, Senior Sunday, Haylie Farewell

The last few weeks have been full of times of celebration and new beginnings. We are so thankful for the opportunity to share in one anothers' lives and celebrate the milestones and big life changes.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

This week's Bible class for our teens will be led by Tim Willis.

There will not be a Sunday evening gathering of the youth group this week due to Father's Day.

Mexico Mission

Next Sunday, this year's team will leave for Mexico! As the team members are finalizing details with passports, tents, solar showers, and tools, we ask that our whole church family pray for this effort. Please pray for the teens and adults going—for health, for strength, for bonds of friendship and community, for God's work among and through the team, for the family receiving the house that is being built. Please pray for all involved to be richly blessed by this tangible expression of God's love in our world. And thank you, church, for your spiritual, financial, and emotional support for our team!

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. Go to the Teen Camp website (socalteencamp.org) to register for this great week for our teens.

Upcoming CVYM Events and Connect Calendar

Please click CVYM Current Newsletter to see information for all upcoming events (including dates, times, locations, and costs). Here's an "at a glance" listing of upcoming teen events:

- June 16-19 Volunteer at CVCC VBS
- June 22-27 Mexico Mission Trip with Amor
- June 24 Dockweiler Beach Bonfire
- June 29 Mission Report Sunday
- June 29 Devo with Zoe
- July 6-12 Teen Camp
- July 15 Dockweiler Beach Bonfire
- July 20-26 King's Kamp
- August 5 Dockweiler Beach Bonfire

Remember to enter the teens' 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!

Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Bible Classes
Nursery - Laura E.
2's-5's - Melissa F., Jan W., Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Bill F.

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Kari O., and Reese O.
2's-5's - _____ and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - Mark D.

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 or through the QR code provided here.

VBS 2025: The Great Adventure / June 16-19

This year, VBS will be ***June 16-19 from 9:15am-noon*** with a final show on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30pm.

Students (K-5th grade and younger children for volunteers) can be registered through the QR code above or 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. Go to kingskamp.org for more information and to sign up for an awesome week at Kamp. Please help us raise money for Kamp through different sponsorship opportunities 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

Hiring of new Youth Minister

THOSE GRIEVING

Bonnie Rockey – loss of grandfather, Donald Skipper

Arlene Leedy – loss of husband, Bill Leedy

Javon Johnson – loss of sister, LaShaunia Pross

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Joyce Joyner

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

Shepherd Wright (infant nephew of Eliza Erickson) - preparing for open-heart surgery on June 4

Sarah Lovett (niece of Rene Heard) – recovering from recent 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

Susan Pratt – recovering from knee replacement surgery

Brandon Starkey – 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

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

June 8 Attendance	
On-Site Service	145
Online Viewing	60

June 8 Giving	$6,287
Weekly Giving Average	$13,437
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,550
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,689,964

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax
www.conejochurch.org

CHURCH
2525 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Rene Heard
Worship & Media Manager
(818) 665-8598 cell
rene.heard@conejochurch.org

Andy Wall
Preaching Minister
(805) 331-0187 cell
andy.wall@conejochurch.org

Zoe Williamson
Preaching & Ministry Intern
(732) 858-4735 cell
zwilliamson@harding.edu

Elders: Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Tim Willis – **elders@conejochurch.org**