CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

August 10, 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
12:30pm	Adult Ed Team Meeting

Upcoming Events

Aug 10	Adult Education Team Meetiing
Aug 17	Back To School Sunday
Aug 17	Kindergarten Blessing
Aug 17	Back To School Bash
Aug 23	Crafty Women Crafting Event
Aug 31	All-Church Game Night
Sept 7	Fall Kickoff

Upcoming Birthdays

Brooklyn Baird	8/8
Nissa Hatfield	8/8
Nora Opel	8/10
Stephanie Simpson	8/10
Brad Starkey	8/10
Banks Darby	8/11
David Green	8/17

Emmanuel Indeed!

Andy Wall

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." — Matthew 1:23

Of the 50 or so names and titles given to Jesus in the New Testament, "Emmanuel" is one of my favorites. It's only mentioned once (see above), but it packs a punch. The teaching that "God is with us", as manifested through the life and ministry of Jesus, gives me deeply sustaining assurance as I go through my life.

How is Jesus Emmanuel? In what ways does his life embody the truth that "God is with us?" Here are four reflections based on Jesus' ministry in Matthew's gospel.

1) *Emmanuel brings the light of hope.* Following Jesus' baptism and temptation, he made his home in Capernaum. Matthew 4:12-17 explains this move as another fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, in which Galilee of the Gentiles becomes the place in which "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus begins preaching repentance and the nearness of God's kingdom, bringing the light of God's presence to the region associated with darkness and death during the time of the Assyrian exile.

2) *Emmanuel brings rest to the burdened and weary.* In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus offers the opportunity to learn in partnership with him, which he compares with sharing a yoke. Jesus is saying that like a well-paired team of oxen pulling together, he will graciously partner with us as a gentle and humble teacher.

3) *Emmanuel would bring restoration and comfort—to those willing to receive it.* In his lament over the impending destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37-39), Jesus weeps over the city's overall rejection of his message, since his desire was to gather and protect God's people, as a mother hen gathers her chicks.

4) *Emmanuel accompanies God's people on their mission.* The final words of Matthew's gospel, after Jesus has commissioned his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations," is a reprise of the Emmanuel promise that began the gospel: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Emmanuel indeed!

What's Happening At Conejo

Welcome to Our Guests!

We are so glad to have you visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or have just chosen to visit with us today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning sharing life and worshiping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the offering tray as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having your email address enables us to share information about upcoming events and ministry of this church. The church sends out an email with the electronic version of the Family News to all CVCC members. We are happy to share this electronic bulletin with our guests as well, but will need your email address to do so.

Current Sermon Series: New Testament Cameos

In our current series, we're meeting some of the lesser known characters in the New Testament whose lives were impacted by Jesus the Messiah. This week, we'll focus on Titus, whom Paul commends as "my partner and fellow worker among you" and addresses as "a true son in the faith." Titus was a deeply trusted companion and emissary of Paul, one he repeatedly sent into challenging church environments, such as Corinth and Crete. Titus is known in Paul's letters for his role in helping establish, strengthen, and organize young churches and is a prototype of a Christian leader who helps churches work through conflicts to bring about a healthier church community.

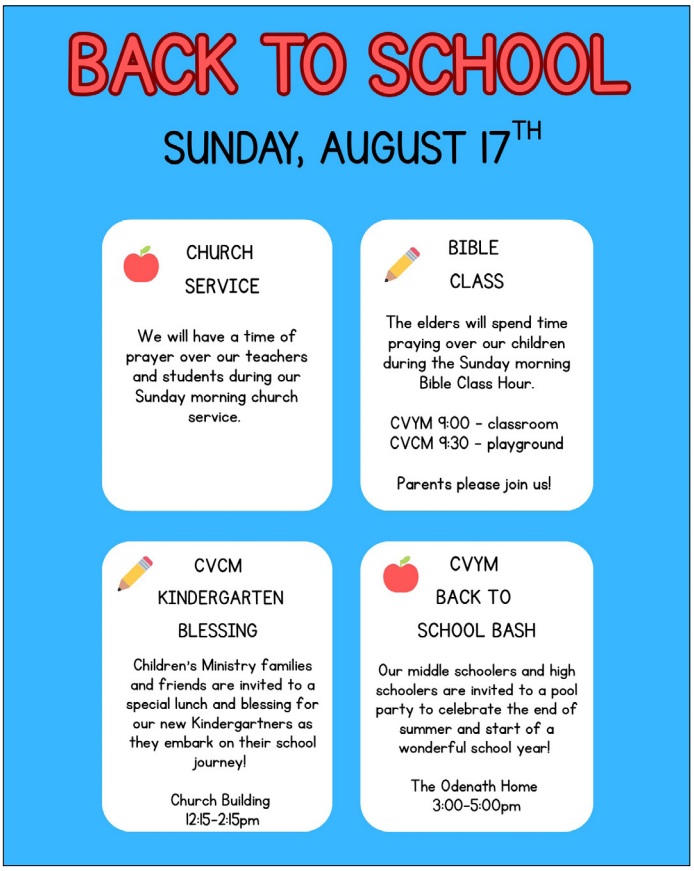
Adult Education / Summer Auditorium Class

Our summer auditorium class is titled "Spiritual Practices that Shape Our Faith." Each week, various members of Conejo Church share about disciplines of the faith that have shaped them in significant ways. This week, Andrew Sutherland will lead the class exploring the spiritual discipline of "Asceticism." If this word conjures negative thoughts for you, come and see where Andrew takes us.

Citizenship of Elizabeth Jovel-Rivera

This past week, Elizabeth Jovel-Rivera completed all the requirements to become a citizen of the United States. This long process includes continuous residence and physical presence in the US, demonstration of good moral character, and passing English and civics tests. Congratulations, Elizabeth! As your church family, we are proud of you and joyfully celebrate this significant accomplishment with you!

Back to School Sunday / August 17



Crafty Women Crafting Event / August 23

Ladies, please plan to bring your current craft project(s) and share in a time of fellowship with friends from church on Saturday, August 23. The fun will begin at noon and will last until 6pm at the church building. Come for all or part of the time. RSVP to office@conejochurch.org if you plan to come so that the appropriate number of work stations can be prepared.

Back To School Drive for Conejo Elementary School

With the rising cost of school supplies, this is an opportune time to reinstate the "fall school supplies" drive for the Conejo Academy (our neighborhood elementary school). More details will be shared about the upcoming supply drive via email this week and in next week's Family News bulletin.

Game Night / August 31

Sunday evening, August 31 beginning at 5pm, we will meet at the building for an evening of fun and games for all ages. Bring your favorite card games, board games, and snacks to share. Since the following Monday is Labor Day, it will be a great opportunity to have extra time with friends at church!

Fall Kickoff Sunday / September 7

Our Fall Kickoff Sunday is slated for September 7. Our plan is to share in a backyard potluck breakfast and fellowship time during our 9am Bible class hour.

On that day, the praise team will resume and small group ministries will be highlighted. Please contact Andy Wall and/or the church office if you are planning to have a small group (weekly or monthly) for the coming year.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

As we approach the fall season and anticipate a new curriculum series, the CVYM Bible class will be exploring some important questions related to the study of the Bible, such as "What makes the Bible trustworthy?" and "How does the Bible speak to my life today?" As we have done over the past two weeks, we will also continue to invite input from the teens on what aspects of Bible study are especially interesting, exciting, and perhaps confusing. These insights will inform our curriculum for the fall, so don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of the conversation!

Upcoming CVYM Events and CVYM Newsletter

Please click CVYM Current Newsletter to see information for all upcoming events (including dates, times, locations, and costs).

Beach Bonfires Summer 2025

During the summer, youth groups from Hilltop, Culver Palms, CVCC, and University Church have come together for bonfires at Dockweiler Beach. The final summer bonfire gathering for this summer took place this past Tuesday. Many thanks to youth leaders and parents for helping teens have these opportunities to spend time together.

Back to School Blessing

All parents of CVYM are invited to join the Youth Bible class on Sunday, August 17, for a Back to School Blessing. Please plan to join the class at 9:15am. We will commemorate the beginning of the school year by gathering around our teens and offering a group prayer on their behalf, modeled after Jesus' admonition in Luke 10:27 to 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.'

Back to School Bash

Following our Back to School Blessings and Kindergarten Blessings on August 17, all members of the CVYM are invited to the Odenath's home from 3-5pm for a Back to School Bash pool party. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Make plans to be part of this full day of celebration and blessing as a new academic year begins.

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

During **August**, the big picture for the children's ministry classes will center around: God is always there to help us and keep us safe, no matter what happens! The scripture focus for August will be **Psalm 46:1**.

> "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
>
> Psalm 46:1

Kindergarten Blessing / August 17

Next Sunday, we will have a very special time of blessing for our students who are entering kindergarten. This will take place after our Sunday morning worship service. Lunch will be provided, so we will need to have a head count of who will be staying so that there will be food for everyone present. If you plan to come and celebrate with Evie, Callan, and their families, please sign up through this link: https://forms.gle/pAzEC5f4Rg6PQL3h8 or through the QR code provided above.

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

New Members – Chandler, Yvonne, Luci, Banks Darby; Jonathan Pearce; Arlene Leedy

Pregnancies: Phil and Jordan Cho (August), Brian and Molly Sanders (October), Michael and Jenna Jolly (November), Arthur and Lindsey Sanders (February)

Baptisms: Calleigh Hunnicutt, Gwen Hunnicutt, **Hiring and ordination of Chandler Darby**, our new Youth Minister

THOSE GRIEVING

Chris Heard – loss of parents, Robert and Linda Heard

Tami Williamson – loss of father, Tom Bonner

Eliza Erickson – loss of infant nephew, Shepherd Wright

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Tony Demuth (brother-in-law of Joe Cocke) – recently diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma

Cheryl Argano – recently diagnosed with breast cancer

Marilyn Aurand – cancer has returned; physically and mentally battle-weary

Becky Russell (grandmother of Haylie Douglas) – breast cancer

Maria Baake – 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

David and Danna Willis (brother of Tim Willis) – as they adjust to life in the US after 20 years of mission work in Samoa

Jeff Emery (brother-in-law of Chris Heard) – recovering from recent triple bypass surgery

Peggy Carter (grandmother of Christina Eng) – recent surgery removing infected gallbladder; complications due to atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure

Brittany Joyner – safety, stamina, opportunities to encourage those around her on the castle-building team in France

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

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

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

August 3 Attendance	
On-Site Service	161
Online Viewing	27

August 3 Giving	$11,763
Weekly Giving Average	$13,281
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,550
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,691,282

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