



BE the BLESSING

August 31, 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 Renovation Meetings
- 5:00pm All-Church Game Night

Upcoming Events

- Sept 3 Renovation Meetings
- Sept 4 Renovation Meetings
- Sept 5 Renovation Meetings
- Sept 7 Fall Kickoff
- Sept 12 CVWM Dinner at CVCC
- Sept 14 CVYM Family Potluck / Parent Meeting
- Sept 18 Open Playground
- Sept 21 All-Sing and Ice Cream

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| Ty Erickson | 8/29 |
| Lynn Burke | 8/30 |
| Yvonne Darby | 8/31 |
| Susu Pratt | 8/31 |
| David Rhoades | 8/31 |
| Kiley Hays | 9/1 |
| Arlene Leedy | 9/1 |
| Ella Michael | 9/1 |
| Kipp Landis | 9/2 |
| Freya McAfee | 9/6 |

Remember

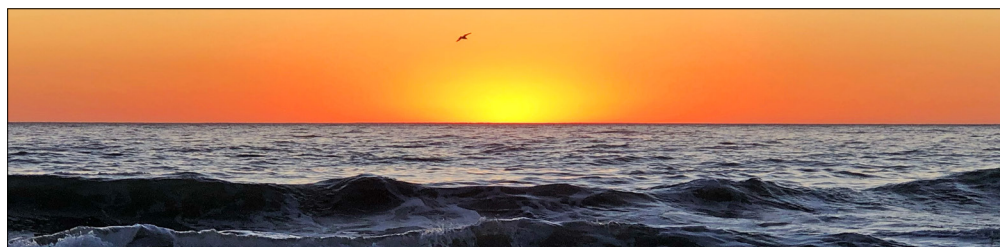
Andy Wall

"If you live in America in the 21st century you've probably had to listen to a lot of people tell you how busy they are. It's become the default response when you ask anyone how they're doing: "Busy!" "So busy." "Crazy busy." It is, pretty obviously, a boast disguised as a complaint."

-Tim Kreider, New York Times

Two Sundays ago, we prayed over our students and teachers and other educators as they began the new school year. We blessed them as they went to learn and explore, grow and mature, build friendships and hone social skills, gain competencies and wrestle with big questions. And we continue to pray that the Lord will care for and guide each person through their unique growth opportunities in this school year. But amid all this excitement and exhilaration, I'd remind us that the goal of education is not to be always stressed, constantly tired, and stretched too thin. Knowing that being "crazy busy" is not the ultimate goal, here are four exhortations for the upcoming school year.

- 1) **Remember to breathe.** Pause occasionally. Take productivity breaks. Have dinner with your family or a loved one. Take a day off. Rome wasn't built in a day and neither is your life. In Dallas Willard's words, "each week, be sure to do some nothing."
- 2) **Remember to appreciate.** Hurry is the enemy of gratitude. When you're rushing through life, it's easy to hydroplane past the simple gifts all around you. A grumbling spirit also works against gratitude. Being appreciative and saying "thank you" to grocery store clerks, restaurant wait staff, co-workers, and family members cultivates connections and increases gratitude. You don't have to be a Pollyanna, but the practice of regularly noticing "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable" can significantly improve your sense of how life is going today.
- 3) **Remember to wonder.** You don't have to go to the Grand Canyon to do this, though I wouldn't argue against it. Simple beauty grows all around you and wonder begins with noticing. Take a moment to go outside each day and engage nature with your senses, experiencing sunrises and sunsets, stars and moon phases, birdsong and frog choirs, fragrances and aromas, gentle breezes and cooling twilight. I saw a sign recently that said, "If you want to believe the world is terrible, watch the news. If you want to believe that the world is incredible, spend time in nature."
- 4) **Remember to love.** In the rush of life, we can accidentally mistake family members for impediments and co-workers for obstacles. But our calling is to love one another as God loved us. Jesus taught (John 13:34-35) that the world will know we are his disciples if we have love for one another. Remember Augustine's warning: "If it seems to you that you have understood the divine scriptures... in such a way that by this understanding you do not build up this twin love of God and neighbor, then you have not understood them."



What's Happening At Conejo

Welcome to our Guests!

Thank you for joining us today! 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.



Today's Sermon: Transformation Aspiration

Conejo's own Kellie Van Atta will be preaching this Sunday's sermon, on the theme of spiritual transformation. We all have areas where we struggle. Areas where we need to improve and where our insecurities surface. Though we are justified through the blood of Christ, we have the opportunity to grow in righteousness as we move through life. We are in the process of allowing God to sanctify us. The process of growth and sanctification isn't easy or linear, and even Biblical heroes like Moses struggled with self-doubt.

In this sermon, we will discuss the process of identifying areas of growth, studying, practicing, obtaining support, and trusting God. As we implement this process and lean on the spirit of God within us, we can allow God to transform us. In our weakness, we illustrate God's strength.

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. In the final class of our summer series, Jim and Penny White will share on a cross section of several disciplines centering around study, submission and guidance. The class will emphasize applying scripture to everyday life and the related idea of not compartmentalizing your Christian walk.

Renovation Meeting Dates and Times

- Sunday, August 31 (12 - 1:30pm)
- Wednesday, September 3 (6:30 - 8pm)
- Thursday, September 4 (6:30 - 8pm)
- Friday, September 5 (6:30 - 8:00pm)

Game Night / Today at 5pm

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!



Begin Family Thank You

Dear Conejo Church,
Thank you for your generous help during a very scary and difficult time in our family. We have felt and benefitted from the prayers and support of our church family around the world but especially from you all. Ethan is recovering well and, in time, will recover completely. It feels miraculous, and yet we are not surprised. We love and appreciate you.
-The Begins



Back-to-School Drive for Conejo Academy

Because of the rising cost of school supplies, we're having a "fall school supplies" drive for the Conejo Academy (our neighborhood elementary school). We are currently collecting the following items to share with our neighbors. This supply drive will continue through September 21.

School Supply Drive
For Conejo Academy

Please bring the following supplies between August 17 and September 21 for the neighborhood elementary school:

- **Crayola Brand** Coloring Pencils (12 pack, 24 pack, or class pack) [HIGH NEED]
- Copy Paper (white and colored)
- Student Scissors
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Glue Sticks
- Ziplock Bags
- Baby Wipes

Fifth Commandment Group / September 2

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 often live far away? The group will meet on Tuesday, September 2, at 7pm. We share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. A link to the Zoom Meeting will be sent out via email on Tuesday afternoon.

Fall Kickoff Sunday / September 7

Our Fall Kickoff Sunday is scheduled for next Sunday, September 7. We plan to share in a backyard potluck breakfast and fellowship time during our 9am Bible class hour. Pull out a favorite family recipe to share with your church family that day.

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.

CVWM Dinner / September 12

Ladies, please mark your calendars and save the date of Friday, September 12. We will gather from 6-7:30pm to share a meal and have a time of fellowship and thoughtful interactions with sisters of various ages and stages. Additional details coming soon!

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!

Sunday Evenings for CVYM

This week, teens are invited to meet at the building for an evening of fun and games with the larger church family. Come share your joy and youthful fun with the rest of the congregation!

Next week, CVYM will meet again at Paige Lane Park for the regular weekly Devo at the Park gathering.

Pepperdine Worship Summit / September 13

Based on the response received from CVYM Families (i.e., the significant lack of availability for CVYM teens to attend a retreat on 9/26-9/28), the Pismo Retreat will be cancelled this fall and focus will be placed on upcoming events that will capture more of the CVYM group. On that note, the Pepperdine Worship Summit is happening on Saturday, September 13. Chandler plans to attend that event and coordinate with as many CVYM teens that are interested and available to attend.

Family Potluck / September 14

On Sunday, September 14, there will be a Youth Ministry Family Potluck scheduled 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, summer mission trip, and service projects for the coming months. Please, plan to be present to be part of the discussion and planning. Besides discussing the upcoming events for our youth ministry, we will need parents to fill out various forms for the new school year for each teen in youth ministry. Come, share a meal, get to know more about the direction of CVYM for the coming months, deepen friendships and relationships with other teen families, and get to know the Darby family better. We're looking forward to a wonderful 2025-2026 school year together!

Upcoming CVYM Events

As we gear up for fall, there will be many opportunities to get together to support and encourage one another, share in studies and devos together, and share in service projects for others in the community. Below are a few of the dates currently on the church calendar for CVYM. Parents and teens, please share your extra-curricular activity schedules with Kari Odenath (kariwhit@gmail.com) for the CVYM Events Calendar.

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|----------------|---------------------------|
| • September 7 | Fall Kickoff |
| • September 13 | Pepperdine Worship Summit |
| • September 14 | CVYM Parents' Meeting |
| • October 12 | Mission Trip Fundraiser |

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

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**.

Snake Safety Training / September 14

Help keep the playground safe for our kids! Become a member of our Snake Safety Patrol! All members are welcome to serve our Children's Ministry in this way! Training will be held on the playground at 9am on Sunday, September 14!

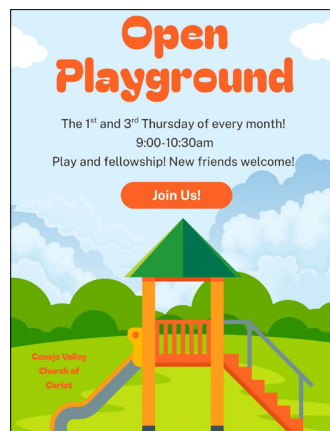


Fall Festival 2025

Save the Date for our Fall Festival on Saturday, October 25! We will have games, prizes, snacks and a costume parade! Invite your friends and neighbors! Scan the QR code to sign up to be a part of the planning. Many hands make light work!



"Open Playground!" / Begins September 18



On the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month, from 9 -10:30am, the CVCM Playground will be open! Parents, grandparents, and kids are welcome to come, play, and fellowship! Bring your coffee and snacks! This would also be a great time to bring a friend! We want all of our children to feel at home at their church! Questions: Contact Amber Johnson at (310) 463-3252 or amber.johnson@conejochurch.org.

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: Nora Opel, Jake Johnson, Calleigh Hunnicutt, Gwen Hunnicutt

Hiring and ordination of Chandler Darby, our new Youth Minister

THOSE GRIEVING

Dwayne Hunnicutt – loss of brother, Kevin Hunnicutt

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 Rocky – 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

Harriet Overton – recently diagnosed with leukemia; undergoing chemotherapy

Tony Demuth (brother-in-law of Joe Cocks) – 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

Steve Foster (father of Amber Johnson) – recovering from hip surgery

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 Hays) – 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 24 Attendance		August 24 Giving	
On-Site Service	166	Weekly Giving Average	\$13,151
Online Viewing	41	Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,550
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,691,635

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