

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE *the* BLESSING

January 18, 2026

## 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
- 5:00pm All-Church Game Night

### Upcoming Events

- Jan 19 Women's Bible Study Dinner
- Jan 19 Guys' Group Dinner
- Jan 21 Flourishing Families
- Jan 21 Reynolds' Life Group
- Jan 22 Conejo Academy Tutoring
- Jan 22 Fosters' Small Group
- Jan 24 Guys' Golf Outing
- Jan 24 Potluck and Signing
- Jan 25 Swing Class with the Latsons
- Jan 31 Crafty Women Crafting Event

### Upcoming Birthdays

- |                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Quintt Landis   | 1/15 |
| Allan Argano    | 1/18 |
| Kathy Stephens  | 1/21 |
| Oliver Opel     | 1/24 |
| Rodney Stephens | 1/24 |
| Rick Furino     | 1/26 |

### Why Do I Pray?

*Arlene Leedy*

Shortly after my husband Bill and I retired, we had the opportunity to go to a movie with my Uncle Don. My uncle had retired several years prior from Ernest and Young, a well known accounting firm where he had been a senior partner. We were amazed to hear him ask for the senior discount. After getting the discount and his ticket, he turned to us and said, "if you don't ask, the answer is always no." This became my husband's mantra.

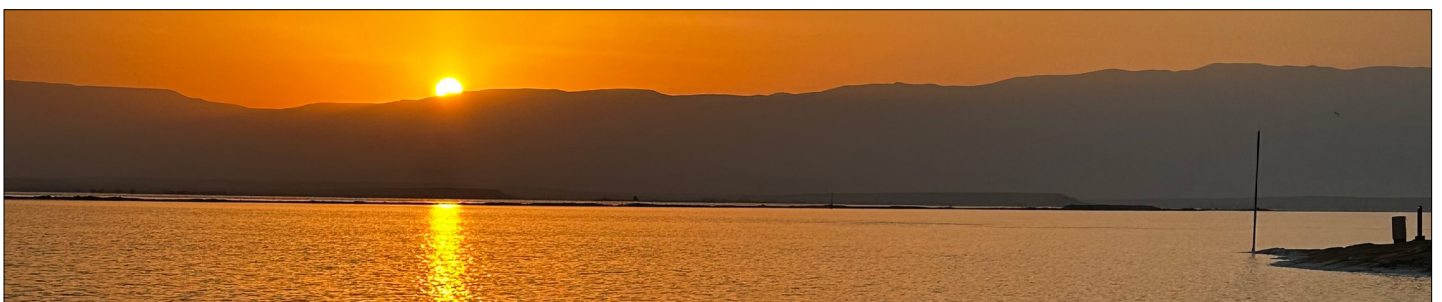
In both Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:9 we are told "ask and it shall be given unto you..." Oswald Chambers, in his daily devotional, "My Utmost for his Highest," says, "There is nothing more difficult than asking. We will have yearnings and desires for certain things, but not until we are at the limit of desperation will we ask." And yet, we all know the exhortation to pray without ceasing. Most of us were taught to pray by our parents while we were children. We know that our Father is a loving God. He wants to answer our requests. But if we don't ask, here comes that "NO."

This congregation does not have a problem asking God for what is needed for the church and for members in need. Two weeks ago, the time usually spent in Bible study by the adults and teens was turned into an hour of prayer as we looked to the new year. We have no problem asking as a congregation but how about asking for things we personally need.

In 2018, Bill was diagnosed with dementia. He showed no signs of it at that time. To lighten the seriousness of his diagnosis Bill told his friends he had "don't mention it," his term for dementia. After COVID took over our lives, his dementia began to set in. He could not handle the thought of anyone being in the house to stay with him except me. One day he came upstairs and told me he was sorry, but he did not know who I was. I learned that day that explanations were of no help to him. He was back in the days when he was in the Navy and just after that time when we were dating. He knew that Arlene, but he did not know me. I had been praying all along but now prayers became ones of seeking the strength to carry on alone. During the next five years my prayers were conversations with God: for protection, for strength, for thanksgiving that someone was there who was listening and who cared.

I learned that there is a God who listens. I did have someone who knew what was going on in my life and who cared. I knew that many other family and friends were also praying and I really appreciated this. But my prayers were a source of strength for me every hour of every day.

My prayers today focus on others in the congregation who have requested help. And I pray because I found God answered my requests for strength and wisdom to get us through each day.



# What's Happening At Conejo



## Today's Sermon: "You Shall Live"

The story in Ezekiel 37 is the famous Valley of Dry Bones, where a bunch of bones are in a valley, and they are raised to life in order to serve as an example for Israel in captivity... that they will return to life and return to the land God had given them. But it's also a metaphor for us and how God can redeem our brokenness and the things that are dead can return to life. Our God is not just a God of second chances... he's the God of resurrection and bringing life where seemingly none exists. So no one and no thing is beyond redemption and resurrection. In fact, it's only a breath away.

## Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

The books of Hosea through Malachi may be short, but they pack powerful teachings about human frailties and divine reliability into their compact frames. In January-March, the auditorium class will survey these short books, seeking these prophets' messages for their own times and applications for today. This Sunday, Rick Marrs will lead a class on Amos 1-6 entitled "A Case Against Israel."

## CVCC Small Groups

Meetings for our small group program take place all around the Conejo Valley and beyond. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Some groups include children, some are for teens, some are for adults, and some include all generations. Please click [2026 Small Groups](#) or scan the QR code for updated details about the winter and spring opportunities to become more involved with a small group.



## All-Church Game Night / January 18

This evening, beginning at 5pm, we will meet at the building for an evening of fun and games for all ages. Bring your favorite games and snacks to share. Since the following Monday is a holiday, and schools will not be in session, it will be a great opportunity to have extra time with friends at church!



## Potluck and Singing / January 24



Our next Potluck and Singing is scheduled for Saturday, January 24. It will begin with a shared meal at 5pm at the home of Jeremy and Amber Johnson. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and be ready to enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship and singing.

## East Coast Swing Class / January 25

Shannon and Jim Latson are teaching a free beginner's level East Coast Swing Class on Sunday, January 25 from 2:30 -4pm. The class will be taught at their home. Participation is limited to six couples, so RSVPs are needed. Please text Shannon at (818) 489-1156 if you are interested in participating.



## Homeless Persons Count / January 28

It is that time of year again: on Wednesday, January 28, the County of Ventura will be hosting the Point-in-Time Count, better known as the Homeless Persons Count. This annual opportunity allows leaders to get a snapshot of the number of homeless individuals throughout each city in Ventura County and helps the County to receive funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Please click [Homeless Persons Count](#) to learn more about this opportunity to help the homeless in our area, and if you are interested. Stu Warford has previously participated in this count and will be happy to talk with you about this service opportunity.

## Women's Craft Event / January 31

Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy a time of deepening friendships while making progress on their current craft projects, creations, or hobbies of choice. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a fun day of creativity on Saturday, January 31. The fun begins at 11am and will continue to 5pm. Come for all or part of the day.



## Health Ministry

The Health Ministry is pleased to welcome Heather Toole, Assistant Director of Conejo Valley Hospice, on Thursday, February 12 at 7pm. Heather will lead an informative discussion about hospice care—what it is, how it differs from palliative care, what a POLST is and why it's important, as well as a discussion of all the services hospice offers to family members. All are invited to attend this valuable session. Please feel free to bring friends and neighbors to learn more about these important aspects of compassionate end-of-life care.

## Andy's Blog

During the spring semester while Andy Wall is on ministerial sabbatical, he will post updates regularly on his blog: [andyswalldotblog.wordpress.com](http://andyswalldotblog.wordpress.com). We ask that you pray regularly for his rest, renewal, reflection, and study during this time. Also, please pray for Carrie, Andy, and the students as they share adventures in Argentina this semester.



# Middle School and High School

## Youth Ministry Bible Classes

The youth group Bible class is in a mini-series exploring the nature of the church and God's boundary-breaking extension of blessing to "the nations" through a study of the book of Acts. Last week, we looked at key passages from Acts 2 and 4 to get a sense of what the Spirit-empowered church is like; this week, we will explore two paradigmatic stories from Acts, the story of Cornelius and the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch, to reflect on God's radical salvation.



## Upcoming CVYM Events

January 18 Join all ages at CVCC for Game Night at 5pm!  
January 23-25 High School Winter Retreat @ Big Bear

## Volunteer for CVYM!

Those who have expressed interest in chaperoning for

the CVYM's weekly Sunday Bible classes and devos will be scheduled through the Planning Center app. Please accept or decline each assignment (as you do for services). If you are interested in serving in this capacity and have not yet communicated that with us, please let us know through the Let Me Serve form, or through direct communication with Chandler. His contact info is on page 4.

## HS Winter Retreat / January 23-25

On Friday, January 23rd, 6 of our teens as well as 3 chaperones will be heading to Big Bear for the annual High School Winter Retreat. Please pray that logistics would run smoothly, relationships would deepen, and the weekend would be a meaningful, formative experience for the teens as we spend time thinking about God's call and our response. Please also pray for their safety as they travel and enjoy winter activities in the mountains.

For the teens who were not able to attend this weekend retreat, Dwayne Hunnicutt and Jon Burke will serve as your Bible class teachers on Sunday morning.

# Children's Ministry

## What Our Kids Are Learning in Bible Class



Bible Class, "Hanging Out With Jesus!"—God sent His one and only Son, Jesus, into the world because of His deep love for us. Jesus extended that love to the people He hung out with as He traveled and taught. And His love is so great that He eventually died on the cross to save us from sin and He invites us to hang out with Him...forever!

## What Our Kids Are Learning in Worship

This month, the worship time for our K-5th grade will be "Chill!" When things heat up, it can be hard to keep our cool. But God calls us to show love, be slow to anger, and be kind to others. With His help, we can stay cool as an arctic wind, no matter what we face!



Our Preschoolers will be learning about "Noah's Big Boat!" When the mighty flood came, God kept Noah, his family and the animals safe aboard the ark. Like Noah, we will learn that we can trust God always!

## VBS Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars and plan to share June 15-18, 9am-12pm with friends and family at the 2026 CVCC VBS. Join us as we explore the nature of God together!



## Valentine Pause and Play / February 7



Parents, bring your kiddos (babies-5th grade) to the church building to stay and play while you get away and take a pause! On Saturday, February 7, 10am-12pm, the Children's Ministry Family Event will offer you a wonderful opportunity for your children to play while mom and dad have a couple of hours to catch up with one another. RSVP today!



## Valentines for Seniors



Children and Teens, come to the playground after church on Sunday from now until February 8, and make lots of valentine cards to be delivered to our senior friends! All materials will be provided.

## Child Check-In

Please use our check-in system to check your child in before Bible Class and again before Children's Worship! This helps us know exactly who we are serving and caring for!

## Volunteer Scheduling

All Children's Ministry volunteers are now being scheduled through Planning Center. Please watch for emails and app notifications and either accept or decline so that we can ensure consistent programming for all of our children WE NEED YOU!

Wonder@Home™



Scan the QR Code or click [Wonder@Home](#) for ways to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**New Members** – Phil, Jordan, James, and Jackson Cho; Ben Miller and Rachel Miner; Kelly and Charlotte Collins

**Pregnancies:** Lindsey Sanders (February); Alyssa West (May); Lexy Clark (June)

**Baptisms:** Emersyn Starkey, Nora Opel, Jake Johnson

## 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

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Marilyn Aurand** – additional cancer in the right lung; physically and mentally battle-weary

**Steve Rouse** – Stage IV pancreatic cancer

**Rick Marrs** – undergoing treatment for prostate cancer

**Harriet Overton** – undergoing treatment for leukemia

**Kiki White** (sister-in-law of Jim

and Penny White) – recently diagnosed with contained uterine cancer; rheumatoid arthritis

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

**Cheryl Argano** – recovering from recent surgery for 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

**Tyler Ditmore** (son of Mike and Tammy Ditmore) – recovering from surgery to repair significant knee injury

**Dot Holden** – has had numerous falls recently; family searching for caregiver to help

**Mike Thomas** – recovering from hip surgery

**Wayne Helm** (friend of Landis family) – injured in a helicopter accident; prayers for Wayne's healing, for the other person who survived, and for the family who lost a person in the crash

**Jim Green** (brother of David Green) – recovering from recent heart surgery

**Greg Parker** (brother-in-law of Sheryl Sanders) – recovering

from recent appendectomy

**Steve Foster** (father of Amber Johnson) – recovering from recent cochlear implant

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

**Peggy Carter** (grandmother of Christina Eng) – dealing with some limitations due to atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure

**Shirley Pacifici** (mother of Charee Landis) – recovering from heart valve repair

**Eliza Erickson** – problems with thyroid function

**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

**Joe Reynolds** (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

**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

**Peace and safety** for all war-torn areas around the world

**Healing, peace, and justice** in our nation and communities

## 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

**Michael Warford** – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance  
+ Giving

January 11 Attendance		January 11 Giving	
On-Site Service	171	Weekly Giving Average	\$13,423
Online Viewing	53	Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,550
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,698,560

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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