



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 25, 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
- 2:00pm ETA Return from Big Bear

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 26 Women's Bible Study Dinner
- Jan 26 Guys' Group Dinner
- Jan 28 Flourishing Families
- Jan 28 Reynolds' Life Group
- Jan 29 Conejo Academy Tutoring
- Jan 29 Fosters' Small Group
- Jan 31 Guys' Golf Outing
- Jan 31 Crafty Women Crafting Event

## Upcoming Birthdays

- |                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Oliver Opel             | 1/24 |
| Rodney Smithers         | 1/24 |
| Rick Furino             | 1/26 |
| Penny White             | 1/27 |
| Jadyn deBruyn           | 1/29 |
| Lauren Kliest-Blankfein | 1/29 |
| Henry Estes             | 1/31 |
| Ben Miller              | 1/31 |
| Becky Rocky             | 1/31 |

## Words Matter

Tammy Ditmore

One of my earliest memories is watching my parents at our kitchen table working on illustrations for my mother to use in her Sunday school class. My dad was not a great artist, but he could do a passable job on simple objects like these: a flame, a ship, a horse, and an open mouth.

Seeing my interest, my parents explained to me the relevant verses from James chapter 3 about the importance—and difficulty—of controlling the tongue. James describes the tongue as “a fire” and says this tiny muscle controls us just as a well-placed bit controls a powerful horse or a small rudder controls a mighty ship. If you can control your tongue, James says, you are well on your way to spiritual maturity.

I'm guessing this memory has stuck with me because I have always been interested in words and have worked with words professionally for most of my life. Although James writes about the “tongue,” I don't think he is really worried about that muscle-bound organ. He's worried about the words we let roll off our tongues—and from our pens and our phones and our keyboards. As an editor, I help writers choose just the right vocabulary to impart information or stoke emotions or inspire action, and I know how changing a word or two can fundamentally alter a message.

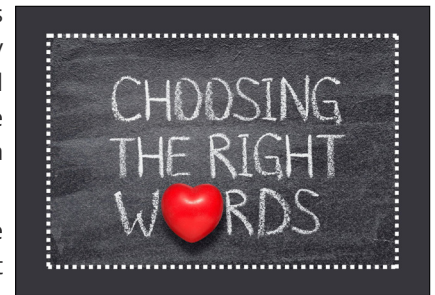
There's a difference between describing someone as a “competitor” or an “enemy.” A difference between “foreign” and “alien.” A difference between “unwise” and “idiotic.” A difference between “fear” and “terror.” A difference between “persuading” and “encouraging.” A difference between “repair” and “restore.”

*The words you choose—whether you launch them from your tongue, spread them across social media, or let them linger in your thoughts—affect how you assess a situation, respond in an argument, treat your neighbor.*

Our culture encourages verbal flamethrowers and provides a ready supply of handy insults and ugly put-downs. But James is horrified by that idea. “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who have been made in God's likeness,” he writes. “My brothers and sisters, this should not be” (James 3:9-10).

Taming the tongue is almost impossible, James writes. But a first step toward gaining control of our little flamethrower can be to control its fuel. Weed out hurtful and dehumanizing vocabulary; stockpile terms that encourage and inspire. Keep a supply of uplifting vocabulary refreshed and handy and you will be less likely to ignite a wildfire when you open your mouth or hit the send button.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
Be acceptable in Your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)*



# What's Happening At Conejo



## Today's Sermon: "But If He Doesn't"

King Nebuchadnezzar's ultimatum was simple: bow down to his idol or be incinerated. In the face of imperial power, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah faced a mortal choice: yield to the king's demand, or remain loyal to their God. Their response challenges us to re-examine the basis of our own Christian commitments.

## 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 part 2 of a class entitled "A Case Against Israel," on the minor prophet Amos.

## 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.



## East Coast Swing Class / January 25

Shannon and Jim Tatson are teaching a free beginner's level East Coast Swing Class today 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. To learn more about a variety of upcoming seminars as well as resources available, please click [Health Ministry Resources](#) or scan the QR code above.

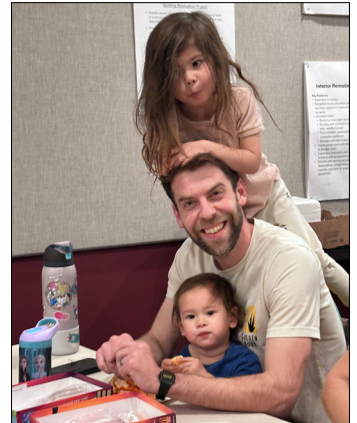


## Andy's Blog

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.



## All-Church Game Night



# Middle School and High School

## 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 whose contact info is on page 4.



## Youth Ministry Bible Classes

The youth group Bible class is in a series looking at The Grand Narrative of Scripture, including six movements: Creation, Fall,

Israel, Jesus, The Church, and New Creation. This week, we conclude our study of The Church by looking at Paul's letters and asking questions like: What is the nature of the Epistles? How do Paul's encouragements, admonitions, and theological insights empower the church today to gain a greater depth of understanding of the Gospel? How do we discern practical wisdom to live by in our everyday lives from these ancient writings? Thanks to Dwayne Hunnicutt and Jon Burke for co-leading this week's class!

## HS Winter Retreat / January 23-25

This weekend 6 of our teens as well as 3 chaperones headed to Big Bear for the HS Winter retreat. Please continue to pray that their relationships would deepen, their sense of God's call on their lives would be nurtured, and the trip would come to a safe and smooth end today. Parents of teens who are attending: pickup will be today at the church building at 2pm.

# Children's Ministry

## What Our Kids Are Learning in Bible Class

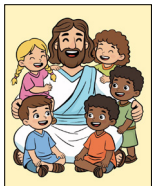
### Kingdom Kids (Elementary) Bible Class:

*"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!



### Little Lights (Preschool) Bible Class:

*"Tell Me the Story of Jesus!"* Our preschool-aged children are invited to join in Ms. Leslie's Bible class to engage with stories about Jesus. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have a love for Jesus written on the young hearts and minds of our children.



## What Our Kids Are Learning in Worship

**Kingdom Kids Worship: "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!



### Little Lights Worship: "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!

## 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!

## 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!



## 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!



## Valentine Pause and Play / February 7



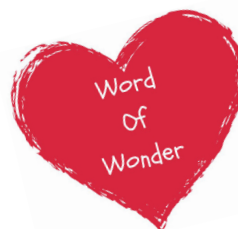
Parents, bring your kiddos (babies-5th grade) to the church building to stay and play while you get away and take a pause! On Saturday, February 7, 10am-12pm, the Children's Ministry Family Event will offer you

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 valentine cards to be delivered to senior friends! All materials will be provided.



**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.**  
John 3:16-17 (NIV)



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**New Members** – 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 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

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Marilyn Auran** – 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 Cocke) – recently diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma

**Cheryl Argano** – 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

**Matt Joyner** – torn ACL and MCL; awaiting direction from doctors

**Davis Gaffga** (father of Will Gaffga) – recently placed on hospice care

**Dale Pfremer** (father of Kindy De Long) – recovering at home following surgery and long hospital stay

**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) – some limitations due to atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure

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

**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

**Brendin Williamson** – Trekkio Church, Tucson, Arizona

**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 18 Attendance		January 18 Giving	
On-Site Service	132	Weekly Giving Average	\$11,215
Online Viewing	38	Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,550
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,698,662

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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