CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

February 22, 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
11:45pm	Annual Congregational Meeting
2:30pm	East Coast Swing Class
5:30pm	Amor Mission Team Meeting

Upcoming Events

Feb 23	Guys' Group
Feb 23	Women's Bible Study
Feb 24	Fifth Commandment
Feb 25	Flourishing Families
Feb 25	Reynolds' Life Group
Feb 26	Conejo Academy Tutoring
Feb 26	Fosters' Small Group
Feb 28	Guys' Golf Outing
Feb 28	Crafty Women Event

Upcoming Birthdays

Jordan Downey	2/22
Zander Horton	2/22
Jake Johnson	2/22
Leslie Stephens	2/22
Shaya Baird	2/23
Jacqueline Dillion-Weins	2/23
Claudia de Bruyn	2/24
Brittany Joyner	2/24
Matt Joyner	2/24
Daniel Overton	2/25
Guy Patenaude	2/26
Tim Rockey	2/26
River Bailey	2/27
Sarah Green	2/28

Curiosity, Wonder, Awe

Bonnie Rockey

Kids will ask a bajillion questions a day. Out of curiosity, but also for connection. The answer to the oft unknown for our kids is usually, initially, "puppies." It allows for curiosity without fear of the unknown. "Puppies" will suffice while we wonder what else could be. And that space brings growth and connection.

I read recently that curiosity is a desire for knowledge, awe is the reverence we feel in the presence of the unknown, and wonder is the space between. So many studies connect curiosity to the experience of awe, and in turn, more studies show how awe and wonder positively impact our relationships.

I think that applies to our relationship with God, as well.

Life is busy, chaotic and often heavy. My questions tend towards the mundane—what's on the to-do list? Or the heavy—why does God allow pain? How do I juggle it all? And frustration builds in the void of obscurity.

So I stop asking the heavy questions. And my connection with God suffers until I slow down and learn to be curious again. To trust that God meets me, delights in me, when I enter the unknown with curiosity. How? By starting small with curiosity about the world I encounter everyday. Not "'what's for lunch," curious. Like what was God thinking when He created the platypus (the babies are "puggles," you're welcome)? Or does God think of black holes as pockets?

Trusting the safety of His wisdom, creativity and love in the beautiful, maybe silly, unknowns builds the muscles of curiosity again. Intentionally seeking questions like children who boldly ask EVERYTHING that pops into their minds, without expecting an actual answer, takes practice for me. But trust and connection can be built through this childlike, joyful curiosity.

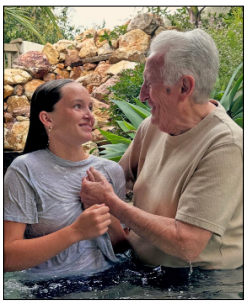
Throughout the Bible, people bring the unanswerable to God—both in despair and delight. He doesn't shy away from their emotions or their inquisitiveness. He wants the relationships built when they trust Him with all of it. Jesus said to have a childlike faith; I don't think He meant blind obedience, but curiosity, wonder, awe, that lead us to lean on Him.

When was the last time you allowed yourself to delight in curiosity? If you are feeling disconnected from God, I encourage you to build those curiosity muscles in the realm of wonder. Lean into trusting God's comfort in the uncomfortable unknown one childlike question at a time, trusting that God meets you there. When I experience that awe in Him while I wonder about the brilliance of flowers, it's easier to trust that He holds that same safe space for me when the heavy questions come. The unknown loses its power when curiosity is the goal.

This week, I urge you to allow moments of wonder, trusting God is with you in that space. There's rejuvenation and connection there. Be curious, like a child, knowing our Creator delights in our wonder and the relationship that builds. And if you need an answer right now, "puppies." He created them, too.

What's Happening At Conejo

And the Angels Rejoiced



Reese Odeanth was baptized into Christ during last Sunday's service. Reese, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism. Our prayers are that your journey as Christ's follower will be filled with joyful service to God and to all who are around you. We pray that your witness in the world will be a beautiful reflection of the life of our Lord Jesus as you share your time, talents, and the love of God throughout your life. May God bless you and empower you to walk faithfully in Jesus' steps.

Today's Sermon: "The God Who Runs"

Today's sermon, brought to us by Connie Horton, will proclaim how God's love for us (no matter what!) is so deep that He runs to us!

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

Today begins our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, also known as the season of Lent. It is the traditional time each year in which Christians around the world spend six weeks preparing spritually for the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. This time remembers and echoes the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his earthly ministry. This season of preparation can include the following:

- deeper and more fervent prayer
- greater engagement in acts of service and hospitality
- greater contrition over sins that push us away from God and neighbor
- deliberate curtailing of distractions and time-wasters
- expanding practices of generosity toward those in need
- voluntary fasting from some of our typical comforts
- the pursuit of reconciliation in broken relationships

Please click here for this year's flyer of ideas and suggestions of practices and activities for this year's season of Lent. Copies of this will also be available on the entry table.

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. The auditorium class is surveying these short books, seeking these prophets' messages for their own times and applications for today. This Sunday, Josh Fullman will lead a class on Obadiah and Habakkuk.

Annual Meeting / February 22

Today, we will hold a congregational meeting immediately after the end of the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to share information about the 2026 budget as well as an update on our building program. No revisions to the church Bylaws have been made for 2026; members will vote for continuation of the church Bylaws as they stand. Elders will accept member-proposed changes for future revision. If you are a member here, you may review the supporting documents and submit questions prior to the meeting. Please plan to stay for the annual meeting immediately after church on Sunday, February 22. We believe it will last about 30 minutes.

Welcome to the World

Arthur Sanders (who grew up at CVCC) and his wife, Lindsey, welcomed their son, **Donovan Al Sanders** on February 6. He weighed 7 lb 13 oz and was 21" long. Mom and baby are doing well. When you see Ed and Sheryl at church, they just might have photos of this youngest grandchild to show you!

East Coast Swing Class / February 22

Shannon and Jim Latson 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.

Women's Craft Event / February 28

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 next Saturday, February 28. The fun begins at 11am and will continue until 5pm. Come for all or part of the day.

Navigating the Dementia Journey / March 1

According to a 2025 NIH report, more than 40% of Americans over age 55 today will eventually develop dementia, and the number of new dementia cases per year is expected to double by 2060. So, there's a really high chance that your family will be dealing with Alzheimer's disease or other form of dementia at some level in the next few years.

As part of Conejo's Health Ministry Team, Christian Socquet and Tammy Ditmore will offer an overview of what it can be like to walk this path with loved ones. We will meet in the overflow room on Sunday, March 1, during the Bible class hour to discuss early warning signs, crucial legal and medical decisions, care options, and finding joy in the journey. Christian and Tammy have cared for multiple family members with dementia and Alzheimer's and hope to help you avoid some common mistakes and show you how to find the support you need in these situations.

Bowls of Hope Painting Party / March 8

Our annual Bowls of Hope painting party to support Many Mansions is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, from 3-5pm. This is a wonderful and fun intergenerational Sunday afternoon activity. The cost to participate is $20 per person. Sign up at 2026 Bowl Painting Party for Many Mansions. The bowls will be fired, glazed, then sold for the annual Bowls of Hope fundraiser for Many Mansions later this year.

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. His contact info is on page 4.

Youth Ministry Bible Classes
Last week, we kicked off "40 days of spiritual adventures" by taking a closer look at the season of Lent – its biblical roots, theological significance, and ways in which we can engage the Lenten season practically. This week, we explore a central theme of the Lenten season: Repentance. More than simply a feeling of remorse, the biblical idea of repentance envisions a dynamic turning away from a particular direction and walking toward a new—renewed—one, in step with the Holy Spirit.

Upcoming CVYM Events

February 22	*Amor Mission Meeting #1 @ 5:30pm, CVCC
March 1	Rick Furino's Testimony @ 5:30pm, CVCC
March 8	Bowls of Hope Painting Party 3-5pm, CVCC

Amor Mission Trip
If you are interested in being a part of the Amor Mission Trip this summer (June 21-26),* ***it is imperative that you begin the process of securing your passport immediately!* *This process takes an extended amount of time and you will be unable to attend the trip if your passport is not current. Feel free to reach out to Chandler Darby for more information.*

Children's Ministry

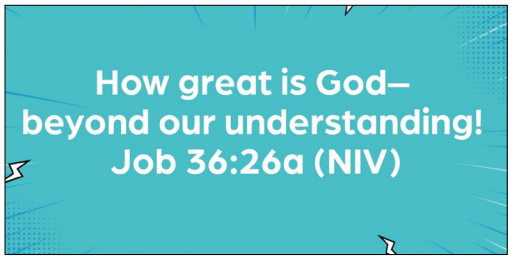
What Our Kids Are Learning in Bible Class

Kingdom Kids (Elementary) Bible Class: ***"Now That's a Miracle!"***—Everywhere Jesus walked, people were changed. Over and over the Gospels reveal a flesh wearing God who wasn't preoccupied by where He was going but was fully present to the people along the way. In this series, kids will encounter a miracle-working Jesus who sees them, loves them, and will stop at nothing to be with them.

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 your child's young heart and mind.

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!



What Our Kids Are Learning in Worship

Kingdom Kids Worship: ***"Winter Games!"***—Sending two pairs of ice dancers out on the floor at the same time, not wearing pads during an ice hockey game, playing dodgeball with a curling stone; these are all clearly bad ideas! By considering these silly ideas, we will learn how to avoid foolishness in our own life and strive to make God-honoring decisions.

Little Lights Worship: ***"David and the Giant: God is With Me!"*** - We will learn about the early life of David and see that God was with David every step of the way, just as God is with us!

CVCM and CVYM Field Trip / March 1

Join us for a Valentine Field Trip! On Sunday, March 1, we will enjoy pizza on the playground right after church and then head over to Atria Hillcrest to share valentines with our local senior friends! You don't want to miss this special event!

SAVE THE DATE
FOR VBS
JUNE 15-18 FROM 9-12

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Pregnancies: Alyssa West (May); Lexy Clark (June)

Births: Donovan Al Sanders, son of Arthur and Lindsey, grandson of Ed and Sheryl

Baptisms: Reese Odenath, Emersyn Starkey, Nora Opel, Jake Johnson

THOSE GRIEVING

Joe Cocke – loss of brother, Larry Cocke

Family and Friends of Steve Rouse

Lynn Burke – loss of cousin, Steve Foster

Will Gaffga – loss of father, David Gaffga

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

FIGHTING CANCER

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

Rick Marrs – undergoing treatment for prostrate cancer

Harriet Overton – undergoing treatment for leukemia

Bruce McAfee (husband of Maxi McAfee) – undergoing treatment for histiocytic sarcoma

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

Jackson Cho – recovering from minor surgery

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

Dale Pfremmer (father of Kindy De Long) – recovering at home following recent hospitalization

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

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 – Trekko 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

February 15 Attendance	
On-Site Service	146
Online Viewing	not available

February 15 Giving	$7,746
Weekly Giving Average	$10,246
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,550
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,699,570

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

Chandler Darby
Youth Minister
(770) 654-5262
chandler.darby@conejochurch.org

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

Amber Johnson
Interim Children's Minister
(310) 463-3252 cell
amber.johnson@conejochurch.org

Andy Wall
Preaching Minister on Sabbatical
andyswalldotblog.wordpress.com

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