



August 23, 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
- 9:40am Back-To-School Prayers for Teachers and Students
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 12:15pm Church Lunch and Kindergarten Blessing
- 3:00pm Youth Ministry Back-To-School Bash

Upcoming Events

- Aug 30 Women's Craft Event
- Aug 29 Guys' Golf Outing
- Sept 6 Fall KickOff
- Sept 6 All-Church Game Night
- Sept 20 Infant Dedication Service
- Oct 2-4 HS Pismo Retreat
- Oct 15-19 Yosemite Men's Retreat
- Oct 16 Women's Dinner
- Oct 24 Harvest Festival

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| Miles Estes | 8/23 |
| Cooper Horton | 8/23 |
| Jon Burke | 8/25 |
| Josh Fullman | 8/27 |
| Ty Erickson | 8/29 |
| Lynn Burke | 8/30 |
| David Rhoades | 8/31 |
| Susu Pratt | 8/31 |
| Arlene Leedy | 9/1 |
| Ella Michael | 9/1 |

Last Day to Nominate

Chris Stivers

Sunday, August 23, is the last day to submit the names of men and women whom you feel would serve well as leaders of this congregation. If you are a member here, I encourage you to participate in this process, prayerfully considering the Biblical passages noted in the recent email from our current elders. These speak to the character and responsibilities of those called to lead. Be thinking about your experience with members of this church and how they might lovingly respond to the needs of this church family.

It might be helpful to consider what our church leaders actually do. As a former elder I can tell you they spend time together in prayer and discussion about our members' individual and family concerns as well as concerns about the church as a whole. They deal with very personal matters and complex issues. Even when discussing mundane topics their focus is on how such things serve our congregation, the community, and beyond. They monitor our teaching for Biblical integrity and for meeting current congregational needs.

A preacher friend of mine at another congregation tells a story about how his elders wrestled with an issue: they had members who would not serve communion because they couldn't afford clothes nice enough to stand up front behind the church's beautifully hand-carved communion table. Those elders, not wanting anyone's embarrassment to keep them from serving, decided to move the communion table to the back of the church so that the servers could start serving from there. When they announced this planned change to the congregation, my preacher friend noticed that one of their senior women looked down and began to cry. Obviously, something was wrong, so after service he sat with her and asked about it. She told him that her deceased husband had built and carved that communion table with wood from an oak tree felled when clearing the land to build that church. Since her husband's passing the table had been a weekly reminder of him, his love for that church, and their long history as members.

We've experienced similar moments here at Conejo where solutions aren't always clear or expedient, and solving one problem can create another. The elders' letter highlighted several significant matters they've dealt with recently. I again encourage all members to participate in the nomination process, looking for men and women who are mature, God-centered, and led by the Spirit.

One more thing: if you feel good enough about someone to nominate them, you might consider telling them you did. Even if they would refuse a nomination or don't receive enough mentions to move to the next phase of the process, your regard for that person could be an encouragement to them now and possibly lead them to desire this role in the future.



What's Happening At Conejo



Sermon Series: "Not By Bread Alone"

In week two of our exploration of Jesus' temptations, we'll look at the temptation to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the Jerusalem temple. This would have been quite the publicity stunt for Jesus! The devil even quoted Psalm 91, indicating that God would be obligated to send his angels to save him. But Jesus answered from Deuteronomy 6:16, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test," refusing to coerce God to perform a spectacular miracle. Instead, Jesus chose to trust in God. This second temptation speaks to our human craving for grandiosity, attention, and safety nets. Jesus rejected such spiritual exhibitionism, embracing human limitations and the humble path over attention seeking.

Sunday Class: Surely God Was In This Place

During our summer auditorium class entitled "Surely God Was in This Place," various members of Conejo Church share parts of their faith stories in a class on the places and spaces in which God has met them. This Sunday, Derek Estes will share about places in which God has encountered him in his faith journeys; later during this class, we will also have a time of prayer for teachers and students as the school year resumes.

Back-To-School Sunday

Today is a special day at CVCC. Many people in our church are significantly tied to the school year calendar. Today will be a day of prayer and encouragement for our teachers and students as they plan for the next school year. We will have special times of prayers and blessings for our students and teachers during our Bible class hour.

Back-To-School Sunday August 23

Bible Class The elders will spend time praying over our children during the Sunday morning Bible class hour. CVYM 9:40 - Teen Room CVCM 9:40 Playground	Church Service We will have a time of prayer over our teachers, families, and students during our Sunday morning church service
CVCM Kindergarten Blessing Children's Ministry families and friends are invited to a special lunch and blessing for our new Kindergartners as they embark on their school journey. Church Building 12:15-2:15pm	CVYM Back-to-School Bash Middle school and high school students are will celebrate the end of summer and start of a wonderful school year. Rhoades' home 3-5pm

Help Us Support Conejo Academy!

Our church family has a wonderful, ongoing relationship with a local school, Conejo Academy. We are collecting needed items that are always running low. If you are able, please bring any of the following items:

- Crayola Crayons (*please purchase this specific brand as it lasts the longest*)
- Crayola Colored Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Composition notebooks

How to Donate: You can drop off your donations in the clearly labeled box located in the church foyer.

Deadline: Today is the last day to drop off the supplies.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity, prayers, and support!

Ordination of Char Hurley as Children's Minister

Last Sunday, we shared in a meaningful and sweet ordination service for Char Hurley, our children's minister. Char, may the Lord bless you as you lead this vital ministry! Church, may we love and support Char as faithful collaborators and coworkers.



Elder Selection Process

On August 2, we announced the start of our 2026 elder selection process. We are inviting all Conejo Church members to submit their nominations for prospective new elders between August 2 and August 23. You may do so either by:

1. Submitting your nominations via the following email: cvccnominations2026@gmail.com. Each member should use their personal email address, OR by
2. Picking up a hard copy of the nominations form at the Church building, and returning it to the locked nominations box in the foyer. Please be sure to print your name and provide your signature on your nominations ballot. You must include your printed name and signature in order for your nomination to be counted.

Crafty Women Craft Day / August 30

Ladies, please plan to bring your current craft project(s) and share in a time of fellowship with friends from church on Sunday, August 30. The fun will begin at 1pm 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.



Fall Kickoff Sunday / September 6

Our Fall Kickoff Sunday is slated for September 6. Our plan is to share in a backyard potluck breakfast and fellowship time during our Bible class hour. Pull out some of your family's favorite recipes to share with the church 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 (office@conejochurch.org) if you plan to have a small group (weekly or monthly) for the coming year.

Game Night / September 6

Sunday evening, September 6 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!

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

We are working our way through a series on Luke-Acts to get a big-picture view of Jesus' life, work, and ministry – and what it looks like for the church to carry on his mission in the world today! As we read through the stories aloud and dive into individual sections in groups, we are noticing key emphases and connections that Luke is drawing out for his readers/listeners. I hope you'll continue to join us in this exciting journey through some of the most amazing literature in the New Testament!

Summer Bonfires!

We have one more SoCal Youth Summer Bonfire on August 25. Plan to join us from 5-8pm at Dockweiler Beach to connect with youth group friends old and new from all over the SoCal area for games, music, devos, and more. Can't wait to see you there!

Upcoming CVYM Events

TODAY! Back to School Bash @ 3-5pm, Rhoades' House

August 25 SoCal Youth Beach Bonfire @ 5pm, Dockweiler Beach*

October 2-4 Pismo Beach High School Retreat

*For the Dockweiler Beach Bonfires, Chandler will plan to leave the church building at 3:30pm and return by 9:30pm. Please arrive at the church by 3:15pm to join the vanpool. These have been great opportunities to connect with friends!

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, please let us know through the Let Me Serve form, or through direct communication with Chandler. His contact info is on page 4.

CVYM Extracurricular Events Calendar



Be a part of the supportive community for our teens as they participate in a multitude of extracurricular activities this fall: volleyball, choir, football, band, soccer, theatre, dance, water polo, and more. Access the schedule through this [Google calendar](#) to learn of the dates, times, and locations for our teens' upcoming events

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

During our *Bible Classes*, our Little Lights and our Kingdom Kids will both continue in a series called, "Think Again," which explores Old Testament stories of people who wander from God. Every time, God invites His people to think again. And every time, He is faithful. *(Sunday Bible class is combined for elementary grades until September 13, when fall classes begin).*

In *Children's Worship*, our Little Lights are continuing a series entitled, "Bible Puzzles" – One of the biggest puzzles in life might be: Who is God, and what is He like? With simple puzzles and concrete Bible stories, preschoolers will be introduced to our singular, powerful, loving, and praiseworthy God. Our Kingdom Kids are continuing in the series called, "That's Embarrassing: Following Jesus Without Turning Red." Sometimes, we hold back for fear of embarrassing ourselves. But Jesus calls us to be bold and brave, never ashamed to tell others about Him.

Kindergarten Blessing / Today!

Today, we will have a very special time of blessing for our students who are entering kindergarten this year—Jamisen Mae C., Luci D., Cooper H., and Ellie S. This will take place after our Sunday morning service. Lunch will be provided. Please plan to stay and participate in this special time for our families as we speak words of blessing, say prayers, and share in this exciting milestone.

CVCC Kindergarten Crew



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Pregnancy: Kelly Collins (Jan.)

Birth: Madison Grace O'Rear, daughter of Reilly and Alicia (Williamson) O'Rear and granddaughter of Jack and Tami Williamson, born on July 27

New Members: Alex Wall, Cassidy Woodward, Richard and Jess Wall-Smith, Paul and Maya Nutley, Jeffrey Ignarro

Baptisms: Ella Rockey, Jeffrey Ignarro, Rylan Downey, Genevieve Gaffga, Hayven Gaffga, Paxton Van Atta

Engagement: Alex Wall and Cassidy Woodward

THOSE GRIEVING

Christian Socquet – loss of mother, Elizabeth Cowan

Ed Sanders – loss of mother, Barbara Sanders

The Beck Family in Simi Valley (friends of Rylan Downey) – loss when 13-year-old Reis Beck was killed in an e-bike accident

Bill Foster – loss of mother, Sonja Foster

Kym Churchman (friend of Rene Heard) – loss of son, Ayden Churchman

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, Davis Gaffga

Dwayne Hunnicutt – loss of brother, Kevin Hunnicutt

FIGHTING CANCER

Harriet Overton – undergoing treatment for leukemia; complication with blood clot forming in central artery near heart

Bruce McAfee (husband of Maxi McAfee) – pet scan indicated cancer is gone; dealing with blood clots and other side effects from cancer treatment

Marti Lewis (sister-in-law of Maureen Thomas) – recently diagnosed with cancer

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

Rick Marrs – prostate cancer

Kiki White (sister-in-law of Jim and Penny White) – contained uterine cancer; rheumatoid arthritis

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

Burnard Pearce (father of Jonathan Pearce) – recovering after recent hospitalization

Paul Cocke (brother of Joe Cocke) – recently placed on home hospice care

Luz Rivera (cousin of Joel Ornelas) – recently diagnosed with breast cancer; age 39, mother of 2 children

Marti Lewis (sister-in-law of Maureen Thomas) – recently diagnosed with cancer; receiving nutrition and hydration from IVs daily

James Rhoades (father of David Rhoades) – recovering from broken femur and cracked rib

Peggy Allin (mother of Julie Waters) – hospitalized with infection; dealing with confusion and fear from dementia while in an unfamiliar place
Nina Rowland (friend of Shannon Latson) – dealing with numerous medical problems and uncertainty

Louisa (Lulu) Steinwedell (friend of Lisa Scott) – a young girl (like family to Steve and Lisa) who is having brain surgery for the removal of a tumor

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

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

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

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 world, 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

Medical Clinic Mission Support – Ghana

Daniel and Karly Napier – Thessaloniki, Greece

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

REMADE (formerly Made in the Streets) – Nairobi, Kenya

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

Javon Johnson – serving in WA as a Navy chaplain

Attendance
+ Giving

August 16 Attendance		August 16 Giving	\$17,079
On-Site Service	172	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,521
Online Viewing	46	Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,590
		BtB Giving (Funds Remaining)	\$1,802,763

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

www.conejochurch.org

Chandler Darby

Youth Minister

(770) 654-5262

chandler.darby@conejochurch.org

Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager

(818) 665-8598

rene.heard@conejochurch.org

Char Hurley

Children's Minister

(805) 405-3777

char.hurley@conejochurch.org

Andy Wall

Preaching Minister

(805) 331-0187

andy.wall@conejochurch.org

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