CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 20, 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
10:30am	Infant-Child Dedication Service
12:00pm	YM Parents' Meeting
5:30pm	YM Devo at the Park

Upcoming Events

Sept 26	Hiking Ministry
Sept 27	CVCM Harvest Festival Planning Meeting
Oct 2-4	HS Pismo Retreat
Oct 4	CM Parents' Meeting
Oct 4	Health Ministry Event
Oct 11	CM Parents' Meeting
Oct 11	Mexico Mission Fundraiser
Oct 15-19	Yosemite Men's Trip
Oct 16	Women's Dinner
Oct 23	Many Mansions Fall Festival
Oct 24	CVCM Fall Harvest Festival
Oct 25	YM Harvest Festival

Upcoming Birthdays

Amber Johnson	9/20
Taylor Wooton	9/21
Joy Zola	9/21
Bill Foster	9/22
Darlene Rivas	9/22
Daphne Green	9/24
Charlotte Collins	9/26

Phoned In or Dialed In?

Andy Wall

You've probably heard the phrase "phoning it in," which suggests doing something with the minimum possible effort, or unenthusiastically going through the motions without care or commitment. And you've no doubt witnessed it in a variety of places: a fellow student who slops together their part of a team project; a store employee who is too busy scrolling on their phone to be helpful; the guy sitting on the stationary bike at the gym yakking to his buddy without breaking a sweat.

The phrase comes from mid-20th century journalism, when a traveling reporter was rushing to meet a deadline and couldn't make it back to the office to type out their story. Instead, they would call their editor and dictate the raw facts, literally "phoning the story in." In radio, if a high-profile guest couldn't appear live in the studio, they would "phone in" their segment. While convenient, these segments suffered from compressed audio quality and lacked the energy of an in-person appearance, leading to the idiom's negative connotation.

Ryan Burge is a political scientist and a leading U.S. data analyst on religion and politics. I read his non-partisan Graphs About Religion substack twice a week. This week he dug into social science research to discern the level of religious engagement of the average American. Typical survey questions included the frequency of religious service attendance, prayer outside of services, reading scripture or devotional literature, participating in prayer or scripture groups, sharing religious views with others, and saying grace before meals. Burge created a "religious behavior index," a metric combining the above behaviors into a single scale from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest). The mean score for the entire sample was 3.73 out of 10, suggesting that the typical American isn't engaging in a lot of religious behaviors.

Sadly, several Christian denominations averaged a 3.8, which puts them on par with the average, nominally religious American. This suggests to me that many religious Americans are simply "phoning in" their faith, without allowing it to transform their lives in deeper ways. Burge observes that based on numerous studies, those who regularly engage in religious activities frequently experience a number of benefits, such as longer life expectancy, being less likely to suffer from mental illness, and being more likely to gain civic skills, (among other positive benefits).

I'm reminded here of the phrase, "dialing it in," which initially was used to describe the process of finely tuning a racing engine. "Dialing it in" has come to mean showing a high level of focus and care, of pursuing continual improvement and higher levels of excellence. My encouragement for you, dear reader, is that rather than "phoning it in" with your faith, you would continue to "dial it in," ever growing "in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

Infant-Child Dedication Sunday

Today, we offer blessings and prayers as we dedicate to the Lord the infants and young children who have joined us since May 2024. We follow the biblical examples of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:27-28) and Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:22) in dedicating infants to the Lord and dedicating ourselves to their spiritual training. As a congregation, we believe that God has called us to be the spiritual family of these little ones. It is our privilege to partner with their parents to support their spiritual formation. Please click 2026 Dedication Blessings or use the **QR Code to the right** to connect to the document and read the parental blessings for these six children.

Jackson Reilly Ihan
August 2025
Phil & Jordan Cho

James Edward Juhan
February 2022
Phil & Jordan Cho

Judah Richard
June 2026
Andrew & Lexy Clark

Banks Tran
August 2024
Chandler & Yvonne Darby

William Hartley
October 2024
Jason & Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens

Evangeline Therese
May 2026
Rob & Alyssa West

What's Happening At Conejo

Sermon Series: "Kingdom Stories: Parables of God's Present Future"

In this week's sermon on the parables of Jesus (Weeds Among the Wheat), Jesus' parable invites us to wrestle with a perennial tension: If the kingdom of God has arrived, why does evil persist in the world? The parable affirms that God will ultimately put things to rights and that our job is neither to disengage from nor to overthrow the world. We are called to plant mustard seeds of faith and to infuse the leaven of godliness into our world.

Auditorium Class: "Back to the (not so) Basics"

"What are the 'first things' of Christian belief and practice? Or, what self-understandings and behaviors give our faith its unique contours and ways of being in the world? This fall, our auditorium class will reflect on these questions in a series titled, "Back to the (not so) Basics." Through class discussion, group dialogues, and communal reflection, we hope to deepen our understanding of the foundations of Christian belief and practice—to have what the theologian Anselm once called "faith seeking understanding." This Sunday, Chris Heard will lead a discussion about the theology of the Bible.

Endeavor Together / Starts September 20

What does it mean to live a good life? Are you living one? Join us to explore these questions in a Sunday morning discussion-oriented class centered on what it truly means to live well. Using podcasts (assigned between sessions) and supplementary materials, participants will engage in meaningful conversations each week. We'll be listening to *No Small Endeavor*, a podcast with a wide variety of guests from a range of fields and perspectives. Lee Camp, who recently concluded three decades of service as a professor of theology and ethics at Lipscomb University, hosts the podcast.

Not sure? You're welcome to come to the introductory session on Sunday, September 20, at 9am in the overflow room nearest the front entrance. You may also talk with facilitators Ty De Long and Connie Horton to see if this is for you.

Young Professionals Class

If you're in the post-college years of young adulthood and seeking to grow in your faith while building community with your peers, you're invited to come take part in our Young Professionals group. The class meets Sundays at 9am, in the overflow classroom nearest the coffee and donuts.

Fall Small Groups

Our small group program is launching over the coming weeks. These groups meet for a variety of purposes. Please click ***Fall 2026 Small Groups*** for a detailed listing, or scan the QR code.

Hiking Ministry / September 26

On Saturday, September 26, at 10am, you are invited to meet at Marina Park in Ventura (just north of Ventura Harbor Village at 2950 Pierpont Blvd. in Ventura). This is family friendly and perfect for all ages. Marina Park features a playground for the kids, and the main walking area is stroller-friendly. The 0.7-mile out-and-back Jetty Trail is surrounded by water on both sides.

Upcoming Health Ministry Seminar / October 4

Our Health and Care Ministry will present a seminar on Sunday, October 4, from 1:30–3pm on ***"Recognizing Medical Emergencies: What to Do When Seconds Matter."*** Please click CVCC Health and Care Ministry Seminar or scan the QR code to learn more. RSVP to Suzanne Scarberry by September 28 at mecmom@yahoo.com, or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

This week, we take a step back from our series on Luke-Acts to consider our first fundraising event on October 11. We will begin by exploring the "Why" of the event and how it is the first step in the larger ministry initiative of the Mexico Mission trip. After reflecting on our role in the stewardship of the church for this mission, we will collaborate on the theme and planning for the fundraiser event. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of how our first fundraiser event takes shape!

Youth Ministry Sunday Evening Devos

The youth group will meet at Paige Lane Neighborhood Park tonight for our "Devos at the Park" series. Tonight's theme: Capture the Flag! After some fun team-building, we will continue planning for the upcoming fundraiser event.

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.

Upcoming CVYM Events

Tonight	Devo at the Park @ 5:30-7pm, Paige Lane Neighborhood Park
Sept. 27	Pool Hangout & Devo @ 5:30-7pm, The Foster Home
Oct. 2-4	Pismo Beach High School Retreat

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

During **Bible Classes**, our ***Little Lights*** will be learning from the gospels about the life of Jesus and how he loved and served those around him. Our ***Kingdom Kids*** are continuing in the series, *"Problems and Promises."* God fulfills his promises by making a way through any obstacle. Kids will explore how God helped Israel conquer the Promised Land through the miraculous victories of the Jericho spies, the falling walls, and the sun standing still.

In **Children's Worship,** our ***Little Lights*** will be continuing a series called, *"We Go Together."* As a child, one of the best and easiest ways to shine your light for Jesus is to be a good friend. The friendships in the Bible display friendships that protect, mentor, and are honest with each other. Most importantly, we can learn what a friendship with Jesus is all about. Our ***Kingdom Kids*** are continuing a series entitled, *"Donuts and Disciples: The Sweet Life of Following Jesus."* This series uses kids' favorite sweet breakfast treats to look at what the Bible says about becoming and growing as a disciple of Jesus.

CVCM Teachers

Thank you to our amazing volunteers. Please consider serving this fall in the Children's Ministry as a teacher or helper for our nursery, preschool, or elementary classes. Contact Char Hurley.

Memory Verse

He will keep his covenant forever.
He will keep his promise for all time to come.
1 Chronicles 16:15

Children's Ministry Newsletter

All of this information and more can be found in our Children's Ministry Newsletter! Check it out! Click Children's Ministry Newsletter or use the QR code to the right.

Parent Meetings: Mark Your Calendar

Join us for one of two parent meetings to connect with Char and hear what's happening in our Children's Ministry. Come ready to share your ideas, questions, and hopes for our kids' faith journeys. Please pick the time that works best for you.

- **Oct 4**, after church 11:45-ish
- **Oct 11**, 9:15am

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Pregnancy: Kelly Collins (January), Taylor Duenes (March)

New Members: Johnny Warwar; Emma Perkins; Gabriel Levai; Jerry Mehler; 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

THOSE GRIEVING

Joe Cocke – recent loss of 3 brothers, Tony Demth, Paul T. Cocke and Larry Cocke

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

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

Hayven Gaffga – healing and recovery from recent accident that required stitches

Peggy Allin (mother of Julie Waters) – recently placed on hospice

Sue Ann Meador – hospitalized after recent medical crisis

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

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

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

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 Lewis– 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

September 13 Attendance		September 13 Giving	$9,803
On-Site Service	165	Weekly Giving Average	$12,393
Online Viewing	60	Weekly Giving Budget	$13,590
		BtB Giving (Funds Remaining)	$1,803,420

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