CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 27, 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
12:00pm	CM Harvest Festival Planning Meeting
5:30pm	YM Devo at the Fosters

Upcoming Events

Oct 2-4	HS Pismo Retreat
Oct 4	CM Parents' Meeting
Oct 4	Health Ministry Seminar
Oct 10	Crafty Women
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

Upcoming Birthdays

Bob Pratt	9/29
Sandy Stivers	10/2
Rosie Patenaude	10/3
Christina Eng	10/4

What About Unsolvables?

Andy Wall

"Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

– Jesus, Matthew 13:52

Ask any couple that has been together for more than ten minutes and they'll admit that they don't always agree on a variety of subjects. The old saying, "Opposites attract" deftly and positively summarizes what in fact can be an ongoing source of relational conflict, frustration, and misunderstandings. Even among friends who are closely matched in temperament and life experiences there can be any number of disagreements and squabbles (exhibit A: siblings!).

In his research on marital dynamics, John Gottman has observed that every marriage has a significant number of perpetual, irresolvable issues. The good news, according to Gottman, is that "you don't have to resolve your major marital conflicts for your marriage to thrive." Couples can remain very satisfied in their marriages if they can find a way to deal with their unresolvable problem areas with humor, non-defensiveness, and mutual respect. Gottman advises going into marriage understanding that regardless of who you marry, "you will inevitably be choosing a particular set of unsolvable problems that you'll be grappling with for the next ten, twenty, or fifty years." Choose wisely!

If this is true for two people, consider the complexity involved in a group of people trying to form a community around deeply held shared values, while at the same time holding a diversity of opinions, perceptions, understandings, experiences, and preferences. Consider, for example, what can happen in the church. In every church there are those who value consistency, stability, and belonging as well as those who cherish vitality, change, and newness. Talk about perpetual and unresolvable problems! You can just hear the arguments: "You traditionalists are strangling the life out of this church." "You progressives are dismantling everything this church has ever stood for."

Instead of acting surprised when we discover that we have these ever-present but disparate groups in the church, we would be better off cultivating the virtues of civility, graciousness, empathy and respect. Chances are, people who have diverse personality types coupled with differing life experiences are never going to fully "get" each other. But learning to keep a civil tongue, to assume the best of each other, to express disagreement respectfully, and to work hard to understand what doesn't make sense can carry us a long way further than jumping to conclusions and assumingthe worst of others.

Just as John Gottman has observed about managing unresolvable issues in marriages, we who comprise the body of Christ would do well to treat one another with mutual respect, non-defensiveness, and a dash of humor (especially being quick to laugh at our own foibles). In my marriage, choosing to view Carrie's and my differences as an asset rather than a liability has gone a long way toward enabling me to enjoy our life together. Choosing to see our brothers and sisters in the Lord as precious and valuable in God's sight, despite the substantive ways in which we differ, can lay a foundation for a creative, collaborative, and growth-inducing shared life together.

What's Happening At Conejo

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

In this week's sermon, we'll look at several parables that at first glance appear to be pulling in different directions. Jesus told a pair of parables concerning putting a new patch on an old garment and pouring new wine into old wineskins, explaining why no one does this. Some have inferred that Jesus is saying that "the radical new dynamic of the Kingdom of God cannot be contained within the rigid, old religious framework of Judaism." But this oversimplifies things. In Matthew 13:52, Jesus told a parable about a householder who "brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." Jesus saw both continuity and discontinuity between God's covenant with Israel and his proclamation of the Kingdom of God—there is newness in the ministry of Jesus but it is built on the ancient faith and wisdom of God's covenantal people. As Christians today, we continue to wrestle with the tension between the new and the old, between tradition and innovation.

Fall Adult Education Offerings

Sunday Auditorium Class. "What are the 'first things' of Christian belief and practice? This fall, our auditorium class will reflect on these questions in a series titled, "Back to the (not so) Basics." Through class discussion and communal reflection, we hope to deepen our understanding of the foundations of Christian belief and practice. Join us as we explore topics like the Holy Spirit, the nature of the Church, the Christian life, and more. This Sunday, Andrew Sutherland will be leading a class on "God the Father."

Young Professionals Class. If you're in the post-college years of young adulthood and seeking to grow in your faith and building community, come take part in our Young Professionals group. The class meets on Sundays at 9am in the overflow classroom nearest the coffee and donuts. Mike and Darlene Rivas are helping coordinate this class; volunteers take turns leading.

Endeavor Together Class. 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 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. The class meets on Sundays at 9am in the overflow room nearest the front entrance with facilitators Ty De Long and Connie Horton.

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.

Elder Affirmation

The last day to submit your affirmation ballot is **Thursday, October 1.** Our church needs a number of good shepherds, making this an important process for all of us. Please click Elder Affirmation and check the Affirm box for any/all nominees listed on the form who you feel should serve as Elder. Leaving this box blank indicates you do not affirm that person. If you prefer a hard copy of the ballot, these are available on a table in the foyer. Please contact the Committee at cvccnominations2026@gmail.com if you have questions.

Fifth Commandment Group / September 29

The fifth commandment tells us, "Honor your father and mother." How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and often live far away? Meet with us on Tuesday, September 29, at 7pm via Zoom. We share current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and pray together for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. Contact office@conejochurch.org for the Zoom link.

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.

Tutoring Begins / October 8

Tutoring at Conejo Academy is returning in October for our 22nd season of tutoring first graders in the community. Orientation takes place on October 8 and tutoring with kids begins on October 15. Tutoring will take place in classroom 7 on the Conejo Academy campus from 6:15-7:15 each Thursday evening. We need both weekly tutors and substitute tutors. We also have a special request for volunteers who speak Spanish, to help with new English learners.

Please let Rob West know at tutoringatconejo@gmail.com if you'd like to be a weekly tutor or sub. Thank you for your commitment to this program.

CVWM Dinner Save the Date! / October 16

The next Conejo Valley Women's Ministry (CVWM) Dinner is set for Friday, October 16. All women are invited to meet at CVCC from 6-7:30pm to share a meal and enjoy fellowship with sisters of all ages. Christina Eng and Penny White will share about their journeys. Childcare will be provided.

Fall Fair for Many Mansions / October 23

Many Mansions is sponsoring its annual Fall Fair for children residing in their homes on Friday, October 23, from 4-6pm. The fair will be at the Villa Garcia Apartments located at 1419 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd. Our church is collaborating with Many Mansions on this year's fair. We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help run these stations. Please click Many Mansions Fall Fair or scan the QR code to volunteer.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

As a part of our series on Luke-Acts, the youth group will explore three different stories this week from Luke 7: the faith of the Centurion, Jesus' raising of the widow's son, and Jesus' addressing John the Baptist's doubt. We're getting into some profound narratives in Luke's Gospel and building on our reflections from weeks prior. Join us as we discover themes in Luke-Acts and reflect on their meanings for our lives today. Thanks to Matt Joyner and Jon Burke for teaching this week!

Youth Ministry Sunday Evening Devos

Join us from 5:30-7pm tonight for a special youth group gathering at the Foster's! There will be pizza, pool, games, and a time of worship and devotion!

Upcoming CVYM Events and Google Calendar

As we welcome the fall season, there are many opportunities to get together to support and encourage one another, share in studies and devos, and share in service projects for others in the community. This week's events are listed below.

Tonight	Pool Hangout & Devo @ 5:30-7pm, Bill and Melissa Foster's home
Oct. 2-4	Pismo Beach High School Retreat

Also, ***parents and teens***, please share your extra-curricular activity schedules with **Kari Odenath** (kariwhit@gmail.com) for the **CVYM Events Google Calendar**. Sharing this information enables our church family to "show up" and support our teens at their events. ***Members***, please access the CVYM Events Google Calendar to learn of the dates, times, and locations for our teens' upcoming events. Call up a friend and go together to spend an hour or two supporting CVYM teens as they perform in choir, band, theatre, or dance OR as they compete in a variety of sports.

Mexico Mission Fundraiser / October 11, 6pm

Our inaugural CVYM Mission Trip Fundraiser event is on Sunday, October 11, from 6–8pm. We will gather at church for dinner, entertainment, and some specialty treats! We've got some exciting ideas brewing for this year's theme and festivities. Stay tuned for the big reveal, and don't forget to mark your calendars now! Please don't miss this opportunity to gather as a community and support our teens as we raise funds for the 2027 Mexico Mission Trip!

CVYM Information Booth

On Sunday, September 20, the families of the CVYM gathered for our first parent meeting of the season. During this meeting, parents of our teens were invited to reflect on the previous year of ministry and to collaborate on our upcoming youth events and initiatives. Updated information for the 2026-2027 CVYM slate and more is available at the CVYM booth in the lobby. This CVYM table is on display for a limited time; please stop by!

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

During **Bible Classes**, our ***Little Lights*** are learning from the gospels about Jesus and how he loved and served others. Our ***Kingdom Kids*** are continuing in the series, *"Problems and Promises."* God fulfills his promises by making a way through any obstacle.

In **Children's Worship,** our ***Little Lights*** are 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. We look at friendships in the Bible and talk about how to be a good friend. Most importantly, we 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."*

Fall Harvest Festival Planning / September 27

Today after church, we will meet in the children's worship area to work on planning the upcoming Fall Harvest Festival, taking place on Oct. 24. Pizza lunch and childcare will be provided. Please plan to attend to learn how you can help this to be an enriching and fun event for our kids, families, and visitors!

CVCM Information Booth

Be sure to stop by the CVCM table in the foyer to grab a calendar, sign up for helping with events or children's worship, and to learn about the "Live Scan" for volunteers.

CVCM Teachers

Thank you to our amazing children's ministry leaders. Please consider serving this fall as a worship teacher, assistant, 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

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

THOSE GRIEVING

Julie Waters – loss of mother, Peggy Allin

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

FIGHTING CANCER

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

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

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

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

Sue Ann Meador – currently recovering at Mary, Health of the Sick in Thousand Oaks

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

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

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 20 Attendance		September 20 Giving	$7,618
On-Site Service	160	Weekly Giving Average	$12,267
Online Viewing	60	Weekly Giving Budget	$13,590
		BtB Giving (Funds Remaining)	$1,803,672

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
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**