CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

October 4, 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
11:45am	CM Parents' Meeting in children's worship area
1:30pm	Health Ministry Seminar
2:30pm	ETA Return from Pismo

Upcoming Events

Oct 5	Monday Guys' Group
Oct 5	Women's Bible Study
Oct 7	Flourising Families
Oct 7	Life Group at the Reynolds'
Oct 8	Tutoring Orientation
Oct 8	Life Group at the Fosters'
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

Christina Eng	10/4
Nico Heard	10/5
Robert Katch	10/7
Connie Horton	10/8
Philomena West	10/8
Nick Odenath	10/10
Phil Daringer	10/11
Rene Heard	10/11
James Stephens	10/11

Living Graciously

Andy Wall

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." **– Paul, the Apostle**

After two months of leader nominations, prayer, conversations, a town hall meeting, affirmation ballots, and more prayer, our 2026 elder selection process has come to its conclusion. The results will be announced during our Sunday morning service and I'm eager and curious, to say the least, about who we have affirmed as a congregation.

As a pastor, I've been reflecting on the reality that our congregation is not of one mind concerning the gifts that are given to God's people, with some of us holding to an egalitarian understanding of gender and leadership and some of us holding to a complementarian understanding. This is not the only theological question about which we hold diverging convictions, but it's one we feel keenly during our elder selection process. So how are we to be community when some of us are pleased and some of us displeased with the results of the same elder selection process?

As I think of this moment, I'm drawn to the last part of Paul's letter to the Romans, in which he addresses some tensions between Jewish and Gentile followers of Jesus who are trying to do life together as Christians. Before that discussion in chapters 14-15, Paul lays out some important practical exhortations in Romans 12:9-16:

> "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer… Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are."

What do you think of Paul's exhortation to "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn?" Is that possible for us to do simultaneously at this moment? Can we be happy that someone else is happy even when it goes against our conviction? I am willing to say this—I will continue to try to better understand those who don't agree with me, though I am not neutral on the theme of gender and leadership in the church.

A few exhortations for us going forward. If you're pleased with the elder selection results, it's fine to be grateful, but it's not okay to gloat. If you're not pleased with the results, it's fine to feel disappointment, but it's not okay to grumble. We would all do well to remember that our convictions are fallible, subject to our own limited perspectives, and can change over time. Within our own biological families, we spend time each holiday with family members who don't share our voting habits, ideological commitments, or theological understandings. We still find ways to love them. May we do the same for one another. Finally, please pray for the new team of elders. They desire and appreciate our prayers. Thank you for participating in the elder selection process.

What's Happening At Conejo

Recent Infant and Child Dedication

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

In this week's sermon, we'll look at several parables from the gospel of Luke on the theme of prayer. Two of these parables teach the importance of persistence in prayer, presumably because life in the early church communities was not easy. Luke reflects that, "Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart," The third parable contrasts two very different approaches to prayer, that of smug self-righteousness and of humble dependence. In all three of these parables, we are encouraged to humbly trust in and rely upon God.

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, Derek Estes will lead a class on "Jesus Christ."

Young Professionals Class. If you're in the post-college years of young adulthood and seeking to grow in your faith and to build community, come take part in our Young Professionals group. ***Most*** Sundays, this class meets at 9am in the overflow classroom nearest the coffee and donuts. This week, it will meet from 8:30-9:45am at **1848 Rock Spring Street in Newbury Park** at the home of Mike and Darlene Rivas. Come for breakfast, then head on to CVCC for our worship time together.

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 and at a variety of locations. Please click ***Fall 2026 Small Groups***, or scan the QR code.

Health and Care Ministry Seminar / October 4

Our Health and Care Ministry will present a seminar today 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 for more information.

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.

October Crafty Women / October 10

Ladies, please plan to bring your current craft project(s) and share in a time of fellowship with friends from church on Saturday, October 10 from noon to 6pm at CVCC.

Annual Guys' Yosemite Trip / October 15-19

If you're a guy who loves to get out in nature, go on epic hikes, drink coffee and have deep conversations with brothers, we still have a few spots left for our annual Guys Yosemite Trip, taking place Wednesday through Sunday, October 15-19. Contact Doug Hurley soon for more information at douglashurley2909@gmail.com.

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. Sign up here so that we can adequately prepare for food and childcare.

Fall Fair for Many Mansions / October 23

Many Mansions is sponsoring its annual Fall Fair for children residing in MM 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 carnival-type stations. Please click Many Mansions Fall Fair or scan the QR code to volunteer.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry Bible Classes

The youth group continues in our series on Luke-Acts. This week, we explore the Parable of the Sower and the story of Jesus calming a storm. We are gleaning fascinating insights and making intriguing connections as we move through Luke's Gospel and look ahead to the book of Acts. Thanks to Johnelle Opel and Tony Baird for guest-teaching!

Youth Ministry Sunday Evening Devos

This week, the youth group is at Pismo Beach for our annual high school retreat! We're looking forward to next Sunday, October 11th, for our community-wide Mexico Mission Trip Fundraiser event from 6-8pm. You won't want to miss it!

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. A few of the dates currently on the church calendar are listed below. Also, parents and teens, please share your extra-curricular activity schedules with Kari Odenath (kariwhit@gmail.com) for the CVYM Events Calendar.

Oct. 2-4	Pismo Beach High School Retreat
Oct. 11	Mexico Mission Trip Fundraiser Event 6-8pm at CVCC

CVYM Mexico Mission Fundraiser / October 11, 6pm

We are kicking off this fall with our first Mexico Mission Trip Fundraiser event on Sunday, October 11, @ 6pm. This year, join us for **Café Conejo Youth: 50s Diner Edition!**

Follow these instructions so you can transport into the 1950s like greased lightning!

1. Don't be a square! ***Wear your best 50s apparel!***
2. ***Get your song*** in the Jukebox queue! We'll have a Karaoke section of the night. If you'd like to sing, RSVP using the QR code below and indicate your chosen song. You must RSVP to perform; space is limited, so don't delay! All ages are welcome, 50s songs are encouraged, but any appropriate tune will do!

RSVP HERE
SCAN ME

C'mon and swing over to Cafe Conejo's 50s Diner!

We look forward to seeing all you kool kats there!

Children's Ministry

What Our Kids Are Learning

During **Bible Classes**, our ***Little Lights*** are 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.

In **Children's Worship,** our ***Little Lights*** begin a series called, "Pumpkin Prayers: Connecting With God." Prayer is a treat we can enjoy as believers. It's our chance to connect with God and to grow our faith. This series focuses on Biblical examples of the importance of prayer.

Our ***Kingdom Kids*** begin a series titled, "Pumpkin Parables: Small Stories With Big Meaning." Parables are short stories that Jesus told with a much bigger meaning. In some ways a parable is a lot like a pumpkin seed. It starts out as just a small story, but after you spend time thinking about it you realize it has a really big and important message to tell. Four different parables will be the focus of this series.

Memory Verse

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

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.

- ***TODAY*** after church in the Children's Worship Area
- **Oct 11**, 9:15am

Fall Harvest Festival October 24, 4-6 pm

Planning for our annual Harvest Festival has begun! It promises to be a wonderful night of fun and fellowship for everyone.

Who: Open to our entire community—friends and neighbors are welcome!
Action: Grab a few invitations on the CM table to hand out and bring a friend.
RSVP: Please let us know if you're coming so we can accurately plan for food. RSVP Link Harvest Festival

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 27 Attendance		September 27 Giving	$9,195
On-Site Service	144	Weekly Giving Average	$12,188
Online Viewing	73	Weekly Giving Budget	$13,590
		BtB Giving (Funds Remaining)	$1,803,823

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