CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

July 12, 2020

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for virtual worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

10:00am	Virtual Meet and Greet via YouTube Chat Box
10:15am	Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
11:15am	Virtual Lobby via Zoom
12:00pm	KidZoom
7:00pm	QuaranTEENS
7:00pm	Virtual Craft Skype

Zoom Group Meetings

July 14	Guys' Group
July 9	TO Small Group
July 11	Enneagram Group

Birthdays July 12 - 19

Yashica Budde	7/16
Chris Heard	7/19

Welcome and Response

Please call, text, or e-mail the office, ministers, or elders if there are ways that the ministry team can pray for you or those you love.

Redefining Failure

By Andy Wall

Question: *What do you call a losing football coach in Texas?*
Answer: *Unemployed.*

Americans, as a rule, have an uneasy relationship with failure, as seen in the many adaptations of the old proverb, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Those adaptations include the following: "If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your style." "If at first you don't succeed, find out if the loser gets anything." "If at first you don't succeed, destroy all the evidence."

The fear of failure is a powerful motivator, whether in sports, academics, business, or relationships. No one wants to be seen as a "loser," which is signified by holding the index finger and the thumb in a right angle over the forehead. People will engage in all sorts of shady behaviors if it will help them "save face," avoid public failure, and escape the epithet of "Loozaaah."

However, failure is not really an event but the way we interpret an event. Failure is a judgment we place on an outcome. And our judgments and interpretations are very often short-sighted and narrowly conceived. From one perspective, a basketball team that loses several games because its coach sat its best three players could be viewed, in the short-term, as a failure. But a coach who has clenched the division and is willing to rest the players before the playoffs and accept some "failure" to gain a better chance at playoff victory could be viewed as success. Failure depends on one's perspective.

Consider the following quotes that help redefine failure in a broader, more positive light. "Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently" (Henry Ford). "What we call failure is not the falling down, but the staying down" (Mary Pickford). "Don't worry about failure; worry about the things you miss when you don't even try" (Teddy Roosevelt). These sayings point to the idea it is not failure that defines us but the way we respond to failure.

> ***The apostle Paul's perspective in 2 Corinthians 12 is that God's power is made perfect in our human weaknesses. Where we come up short and, dare I say it, fail, Christ's power is free and alive to do its work in us. Paul goes so far as to say, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." Our failures, perhaps more than anything else in our lives, provide us with the crystal clear reminder that we must deeply rely upon God.***

The question is not whether we will fail; the question is how we will respond to failure. Seeing our failures in light of God's overarching work in our lives enables us to avoid viewing them as debilitating catastrophes and more as learning occasions and growth opportunities. May God's power be made perfect in your weakness, even your failures!

What's Happening at Conejo

Standing By Grace

During our current sermon series titled, "Standing By Grace," we're taking a look at various lesser-known biblical characters (mostly) and reflecting on where God's grace met them and how God transformed them.

Today's sermon, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" takes a look at Jacob, Leah, and Rachel in Genesis 29-30. This story provides a fascinating jumping off point as we consider God's grace, human standards of beauty, and reckoning with our own perceived inadequacies. Many humans spend their lives haunted by a sense of "not good enough." Ultimately, we are wise if we trust in God's grace rather than in our beauty, successes, or other human criteria.

Small Groups Meet Virtually!

Our small groups gather via Zoom to share in life, to check in with each other, and to encourage and pray for one another.

Virtual Lobby Sundays at 11:15am
QuaranTEENS Sundays at 7pm
Virtual Crafting Sundays at 7pm
Monday Night Women's Prayer Group next meeting will be on July 20
Tuesday Night Guys' Group at 7pm
Thursday Night Thousand Oaks Group at 7pm
Enneagram Group Saturdays at 6pm

Postponed Activities

Due to the spike in Coronavirus in our area, both the Ice Cream Social (Distancing) event (originally scheduled for this evening) and the Summer Hike (originally scheduled for Saturday, July 18) have been postponed. Please know that we are eager to schedule opportunities for us to join together and enjoy one another's company as soon as we reasonably can.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Thanks to the volunteers who came out to help reload the recently relocated storage sheds this past week. Materials were moved; relationships were enriched. Thank you, church, for responding to such requests. Many hands made lighter work!

Staying Connected While Staying Safe

During this time of social distancing to minimize the spread of COVID-19, let's get creative with ways to encourage one another. Here are a few suggestions:

- Write notes of encouragement.
- Call, text, or email to check in with a friend or acquaintance just to see how they're doing.
- Text a funny meme to a friend. Comic relief is seriously needed and amazingly helpful at times like these!
- Share encouraging verses, songs, photos, ideas, devotional thoughts on the CVCC Facebook Group page.

If you need a mailing address or an e-mail address for notes of encouragement, please reach out to the church office (office@conejochurch.org) or to Rene Heard (reneheard@sbcglobal.net). Know that the elders and ministers are praying for you and want to help as they can. Please reach out to the church leaders if you need their assistance.

Online Giving

For the last few years, we have offered online giving as one way to participate in congregational giving. Our hope is that online giving will provide flexibility in how and when we give. This has been particularly helpful during seasons like the one we're currently in with the Coronavirus.

There are three ways you can access our online giving.

1. The **Conejo website**: go to conejochurch.org and click on the "online giving" link.
2. Go directly to **conejochurch.churchcenter.com**.
3. **Text** a dollar amount **to 84321**.

You may make a one-time donation or schedule regular donations directly from your checking account, your debit card, or your credit card. You may even designate giving toward the regular offering, the Be the Blessing campaign, or the youth group mission trip. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Wendi King at finance@conejochurch.org.

If you prefer to make your contributions by a **hand-written check**, please mail it to the church office address:

31225 La Baya, Suite 214
Westlake Village, CA 91362

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Virtual Gatherings on Zoom

QuaranTEENS: Sunday nights at 7pm
Middle School only
Meeting ID: 221-435-162
Host - Travis Moore

High School Girls Group
Meeting ID: 299-832-3266
Hosts - Miranda Brawner & Madison Williams

High School Boys Group
Meeting ID: 386-474-8913
Host - Noah Socquet

TNT Summer Gatherings– Tuesday and Thursday Nights with Travis

Due to constant COVID-19 changes, we are holding off on gathering together as a large group. There are many questions and safety protocols that need to be worked out before we can feel safe about gathering as a youth group. Rising COVID numbers have caused us to pause and reconsider recent plans to begin large youth group physical gatherings. These constant changes have made it difficult to effectively make solid plans. However, we see the need to remain connected and find some way to continue to build relationships.

Every Tuesday and Thursday there will be an opportunity for groups of 2-4 to gather for a variety of activities. These activities may include frisbee golf, soccer golf, outdoor walks/hikes, picnics in the park, and ice cream runs. Youth group friends are encouraged to reach out to Travis about a day that works best for them. Please bear with us during this difficult time as we try to be prayerful about what is the best way to connect with your students.

"Subject to Change" Devotional Thought

Although change happens in all of our lives and so many things are subject to change, God isn't.

What do you find yourself thinking about the most? Maybe it's school and an upcoming test or project. Or perhaps it's your friends, a hobby you love, or your favorite video game. During times of uncertainty though, it's unknown outcomes that often consume our minds. What will the move from JV to Varsity bring? What if she breaks up with me? However, God tells us that we are to think about things that are eternal and lasting, not the temporary worries of this world. As you enter seasons of change, ask a friend or your Small Group Leader to help you keep your thought life in check and stay focused on the things that matter most.

"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things."
—Colossians 3:2

Children's Ministry

KidZoomRoom

Penny is coordinating a Zoom opportunity for our children to chat and pray each week. Details will be delivered by Ms. Penny.

Scripture Memory

Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other,
just as in Christ, God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Collaborative Scripture Banners Project

Our children are such amazing artists and often work on collaborative projects during children's worship and bible classes. While we are not able to meet together right now, I wanted to provide an opportunity for our children (and their families) to engage in a collaborative project to bless our church family. Large banners featuring scriptures from the Psalms were purchased from Illustrated Ministry for our project.

This week, packets were mailed to our Children's Ministry Families with instructions and banner sections to color for our collaborative scripture banner project. Seven scripture banners 24" X 36" were divided into 8 sections for coloring with markers by our children and their families. When the sections are returned (addressed and stamped envelopes provided in the packet) they will be reassembled and used in our weekly Scrolling Announcements for our Conejo Church Worship Services, for backdrops in our Children's Worship Videos and used as encouragement displays in our building when we return for in-person services. I am excited to see the creativity and beauty of this group effort.

If you have questions, please contact Penny White at (818) 857-6213 or pennymwhite502@gmail.com.

CVCC Kids Leading in Ministry

Thank you children for always bringing encouragement and joy to our community—through welcoming, leading in scripture memory, and growing in God's grace, love, and kindness. You are a treasure; we love you!

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Progress made on **CVCC building projects** with vision for the future

THOSE GRIEVING

Ty De Long – loss of uncle, Paul De Long

Lisa Scott – loss of friend, Dana Sheehan

Hannah Parmelee – loss of sister, Naomi Smith

Kathy Cocke – loss of brother, Alan Burgner

Kay Falletta – loss of sister, Mary McQuillan

Tammy Ditmore – loss of uncle, Everett Clare

Rick Marrs – loss of mother, Vivian Marrs

Jack Williamson – loss of mother, Melva Williamson

Erin Opdahl – loss of infant daughter, Maelyn; loss of husband, Silas

Darlene Rivas – loss of father, Harry Hodges

George de Bruyn – loss of mother, Veronica de Bruyn

Neil Socquet – loss of brothers, Scott and Ben

FIGHTING CANCER

Ida Falletta (mother of Bob Falletta) – age 97, congestive heart failure and cancer

Marilyn Aurand – cancer in lymph nodes; acute spinal stenosis; upcoming eye surgery

Joella Michael – mucosal melanoma in liver and lymph node; undergoing immunotherapy

Stu Warford – prostate cancer

Barbara Sanders (Ed's mother) – colon cancer

Deb Schultz (neighbor of Christina Eng) – breast cancer

Lucinda Hodges (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis

Iesha Moreno (niece of Mike Rivas) – stomach cancer

Amy (friend of Maribel Guevara) – cancer

Jenna Sepulveda (sister of John Downey) – metastatic thyroid cancer

Michael Smith (friend of Coupe family) – 4-year-old with neuroblastoma

Shirley Moore (mother of Nicole Montanez) – leukemia

Ted McAllister (former member) undergoing stem-cell treatment

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Ryan Lohoff (Julia Chesson's teacher) – stage IV brain cancer

Yashica Budde's friend, **Ruth** – final stages of cancer

Marlene Michaels (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer

Justice Howard (Yashica Budde's cousin) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

Researchers, doctors, nurses, and **patients** who are battling COVID-19

All impacted physically, financially, or emotionally by COVID-19

Matt and Brittany Joyner – diagnosed with COVID-19

Alessandra Glaser (sister-in-law of Katie Charles) – ER doctor working with COVID patients

Derek Russell (son-in-law of Rivases) – works in ICU; must socially isolate from wife and small children

Johny Garner (former member) – broken pelvis and torn shoulder ligament

Darlene Fielder (mother of Tammy Ditmore) – recovering from recent stroke

Steve Kliest (father of Lauren Kliest-Blankfein) – fighting fires in Arizona

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

Lee Schiel (friend of Jim and Shannon Latson) – car accident limited use of hands and legs; Lee's fiancée, **Donna** as she works with him and his doctors

Lani Shearn (sister of Joy Rhoades) – diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor

Ashlyn Thomas – continued health issues; pray for answers and successful treatments

Marilyn Burrows (mother of Connie Horton) – continued healing for jaw following surgery

Nicole Montanez – lupus

Pat Tudor – on chemo for blood plasma disease

Adria Ballard – relief from chronic pain

Sarah Ballard – relief from chronic pain

Sarah Ballard's mom, **Becky**, chronic pain in back and shoulder

Kathy Cocke – pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension

Margie Caldwell – heart issues

Sam Audenino – recovery from bicycle accident

Harriet Nutter (Daphne Green's mother) – struggling with depression and loneliness

Betty Brown – pain relief, healing, and regaining of strength

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – serving in the Navy in Camp Lejuene, NC

Micah Smith – serving in the Army Rangers

Derek Willis (Tim Willis' nephew) – serving in PA in the Army

Michael Warford – stationed in San Diego with the Navy

MISSION EFFORTS

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

Raul & Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Charles & Darlene Coulston – mission work in Kenya

Tom Bonner – mission work in Albania

David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

Ryan Campbell – mission work in Philippines

Attendance + Giving

July 5 Attendance	
Livestream Views*	128
* at communion	

July 5 Giving	$16,906
Weekly Giving Average	$12,625
Weekly Giving Budget	$12,812
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,467,584
Property Settlement	$225,000

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

OFFICE
31225 La Baya Drive #214
Westlake Village, CA 91362

Rene Heard / Kathia King
Office Managers
(805) 371-1381 office
office@conejochurch.org

Travis Moore
Youth & Family Minister
(520) 591-8246 cell
travis.moore926@gmail.com

Andy Wall
Preaching Minister
(805) 331-0187 cell
andy@conejochurch.org

Penny White
Children's Minister
(818) 857-6213 cell
pennymwhite502@gmail.com

Jack Williamson
Outreach Minister
(805) 331-0183 cell
jack@conejochurch.org

Elders: Greg Brawner, Michael Ditmore, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – **elders@conejochurch.org**