

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

September 27, 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 Room
- 6:00pm MS Pod with Travis

### Upcoming Events

- Sept 28 Women's Group (Zoom)
- Sept 29 HS Pod #1 with Jack
- Sept 29 Guys' Group (Zoom)
- Sept 30 HS Pod #2 with Travis
- Sept 30 Hungry/Thirsty Group (Zoom)
- Oct 1 TO Small Group

### Birthdays This Week

- |                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Wendi King        | 9/27 |
| Clanton Begin     | 9/28 |
| Jonathan Ditmore  | 9/29 |
| Bob Pratt         | 9/29 |
| Loretta Katch     | 10/2 |
| Sandy Stivers     | 10/2 |
| Sarah Jane Norris | 10/3 |
| Rosie Patenaude   | 10/3 |
| Christina Eng     | 10/4 |

### 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.

## The Most Difficult Command

By Landon Saunders

[**Editor's note:** Today's guest column, by Landon Saunders, provides for us a gentle but timely invitation to do the difficult work of loving and listening to one another.]

*"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness."* **James 1:19-20**

I've always loved the old Quaker story of the man who said to another with whom he was very displeased: "Friend, I love thee, but thou art standing where I'm about to strike!"

The story suggests the great difficulty of loving our neighbors. The words, "love your neighbor as yourself," glide easily off the tongue. But, in reality, it is one of the most difficult things for us to do throughout our lives.

So maybe think of it like this: the one thing in which we each should try to excel is the right treatment of another human being. This would be a good daily goal.

The people we encounter in our daily lives may be different in myriads of ways. They may disappoint us. They may offend us. They may violate our sense of values, morals, and beliefs.

But hurting them, demeaning them, excluding them, choosing words that diminish them, using words that suggest another person is just a little less human than the rest of us—this is unbecoming.

Not valuing others lowers our own value. This is an insidious poison that creeps into our hearts, corrupting our view of both self and neighbor. Such poison breeds fear, distrust, division, and hostilities.

I mourn the present state of things in our nation. Language is coarse, often nasty and mean. Ugly name calling and misrepresentation of views threatens decency and reason—healthy debate.

***To any extent we find ourselves a part of such behavior, maybe a good place to begin to change things for the better would be to say in our hearts: this is wrong. I will not be a part of it. I will represent something different to every person I meet—I will treat every person as a neighbor. Beginning today.***

Make no mistake about it: living together in peace is a goal we must never give up on if we are to survive—personally, and as a nation.

The story above of the Quaker brings a smile. Not a bad place to end these thoughts.

# What's Happening at Conejo



## Deeply Rooted: Exploring The Message of Colossians

The New Testament letter to the Colossians presents the Lord Jesus Christ as an integral part of life, faith, relationships, and work. Indeed, Colossians presents Jesus Christ as the unifying center of all creation and all humankind. In our Sunday morning sermon series this fall, we're exploring the letter to the Colossians, which will help us be more centered and courageous, more hopeful and mature, all through seeing the Lord Jesus Christ afresh.

In Colossians 1:15-20, Paul takes us to the summit of biblical Christology (teaching about Christ). If the gospels present to us a blended image of Jesus as fully human but also as displaying mysteriously divine powers and prerogatives, Colossians 1 pulls back the curtain and helps us see Christ as the exalted Lord over all things. Not only is Christ the Lord of the Church but also the ruler of the universe; not only is Christ the Savior of humankind but also the one who reconciles all things in heaven and on earth; not only is Christ God's agent in our Redemption, but also God's agent in all creation. Paul presents this indelible, luminous image of Jesus Christ that has forever impacted our understanding of him.

## Welcome to Conejo!

It's our pleasure to welcome Lynn Nacsca (pronounced "Nasa") to the Conejo Church family following her recent move to Thousand Oaks from the San Fernando Valley. Lynn, we're delighted to have you join the spiritual journey of this congregation and pray that we can share in faith, life, ministry, and friendship as we get better acquainted.

## Change at the Office

We've recently updated our church office job descriptions. Kathia King, our "Office Manager," will be "in office" on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and will be checking emails, voicemails, and regular mail Monday through Thursday. Rene Heard, our "Media and Worship Manager," will be working remotely. Since there will be times when no one is available to immediately answer your phone calls or emails, please allow 24 hours for replies. If you require an immediate response, please contact one of our ministers.

Below is helpful information about our new division of labor.

### Please contact Kathia about:

- Day-to-day office management
- Maintenance of calendar and organization of church events
- Management of building use by members and groups
- Management of building and grounds upkeep matters

### Please contact Rene about:

- Worship participant line up
- Worship and announcement media preparation
- Updates to and maintenance of church website
- Weekly management of Family News

## Farewell to the Lasiters

Following a lengthy process, Paul, Alexis, Alannah, and Jackie Lasiter have completed their move to Montana. Today we say farewell and thank you to these dear friends who have been a great blessing in our church family since May of 2004.



Alexis has always been ready to jump in and help on a variety of ministry projects, whether in children's ministry, youth ministry, or in our larger congregational life. Her creativity and resourcefulness have been legendary in the arts and crafts department for Vacation Bible School. She's been a great resource with children's projects at the fall retreat, created lovely scenes for our Good Friday services, and supported our ministries at Conejo Elementary School. Paul served on our church finance team, was a regular participant in our worship services, and could always be found manning the grill at Cowboy Church and our Memorial Day picnics. Alannah and Jackie, we have loved walking with you along your faith journey as you grew from small enthusiastic children to capable young adults. Please know that you always have a family here in Southern California. May the Lord bless you and keep you!

## Current Small Groups at Conejo

Several of our small groups gather via Zoom to share in life, to study the Word, to check in with each other, and to encourage and pray for one another. Those not meeting virtually meet in an outdoor and/or socially distanced setting.

**MS Pod on Sundays** with Travis at 6pm

**Virtual Monday Night Women's Bible Study** at 7pm

**HS Pod #1 on Tuesdays** with Jack at 6pm

**Virtual Tuesday Night Guys' Group** at 7pm

**HS Pod #1 on Wednesdays** with Travis at 6pm

**Virtual Hungry/Thirsty Group on Wednesdays** at 6:45pm

**TO Thursday Night Group** with Fosters at TO parks at 7pm

**"I'm Still Here"** Virtual Book Discussion every other Thursday at 7pm

## God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent online survey about future meeting options. Know that you are missed, and we long for the day when we can all again share the sentiment expressed in Psalm 122, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Pods

Instead of going back to a virtual Refresh via Zoom format, the youth group is now meeting weekly in "pods." We are prayerful that this format will better meet our needs for building relationships. The pods are small groups that meet outdoors, keeping in accordance with state safety protocols and our youth group wellness policy. Please help our middle school and high school students stay connected by encouraging them to sign up for a pod.

### Middle School Pod

Pod Leader(s) – Travis & Amy Moore

When – Sunday Nights from 6-7:30pm (starting this week!)

Where – 12904 Sleepy Wind St., Moorpark, CA 93021



### High School Pod #1

Pod Leader – Jack Williamson

When – Tuesday Nights from 6-7:30pm

Where – 261 Quinta Vista Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

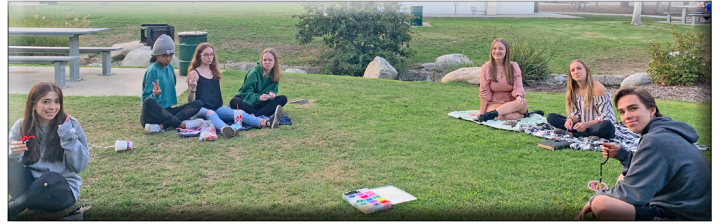


### High School Pod #2

Pod Leader – Travis Moore

When – Wednesday Nights from 6:00-7:30pm

Where – Conejo Creek North Park (1379 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362)



### "Rooted" Devotional Thought

*We can stand firm and welcome whatever change life brings us when we're rooted in an unchanging God.*

Do you ever have doubts about your faith? Of course you do! Doubt is normal for everybody. We have all struggled with doubting some parts of our faith. And when we do, Jesus reminds us to "have faith." Have faith that He sees the situation your family may be going through. Have faith that He has a great plan for your life. And have faith that He can meet you in the middle of your doubts, pain, and whatever you may be going through. Do you have a doubt that you're dealing with right now? Share it with a mentor or close friend and ask them to help you have faith in the middle of whatever you're facing. Often our friends and those closest to us are in a unique position to help remind us of what is good and encourage us as we move through doubt.

*"Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.'"* **Matthew 21:21**

# Children's Ministry

## KidZoomRoom

Kids, plan to join Ms. Penny again today at noon! It will be great for us to be able to see each other, talk together, and pray with each other. Bring paper and a marker or a whiteboard and a marker with you! We will be 'praying in color' together for a part of the time.



## Collaborative Scripture Banners Project

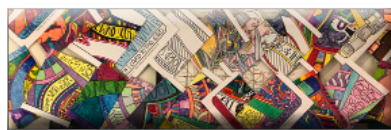
I'm on the lookout 👁️ for the last **9** banner pieces. Please get them to me (colored or blank) **by September 30!**

Our first two banners have been completed and are beautiful. Seeing the creativity and collaboration of our children and families engaging in a joint art project is so uplifting.

### Scripture Memory

I lift my eyes to the hills  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

**Psalm 121:1-2 NIV**



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**Stu Warford** – received a clean report from cancer check up!  
**BAPTISM: Byron Wilson**  
**NEW MEMBERS: Lynn Nasca, David and Joy Rhoades, and Sue Wilson**

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Andy Caldwell** – loss of mother, Margie Caldwell  
**Ewing Family** – as they grieve the loss of LoRee Ewing  
**Bob Falletta** – loss of mother, Ida Falletta  
**Kathy Cocker** – loss of brother, Alan Burgner  
**Kay Falletta** – loss of sister, Mary McQuillan  
**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**  
**Joella Michael** – mucosal melanoma in liver and lymph node; undergoing immunotherapy  
**John Lamm** (brother-in-law of Tim Horton) – has terrible cancer; Tim's sister, **Scheri**, as she cares for John

**Shera Miner** (mother of Rachel Miner) – new treatments for aggressive cancer

**Barbara Sanders** (mother of Ed Sanders) – colon cancer

**Deb Schultz** (neighbor of Christina Eng) – stage IV breast cancer; undergoing chemo

**Ted McAllister** (former member) – chemo following successful stem cell transplant

**Lucinda Hodges** (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis  
**Ilesha Moreno** (niece of Mike Rivas) – stomach cancer

**Amy** (friend of Maribel Guevara) – cancer

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

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

**Ruth** (friend of Yashica Budde) – final stages of cancer

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

**Justice Howard** (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

## VARIOUS CONCERNS

**Jim Latson** – fighting infection following removal of wisdom teeth; on a liquid diet for multiple weeks; antibiotics through IV

**Sara Hodges** (mother of Darlene Rivas) – navigating serious health issues as she grieves recent loss of her husband

**Linemen and firefighters** as they work to serve the community

during extreme conditions

**Teachers, students, and administrators** as the new academic year begins

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

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

**Matt and Brittany Joyner** – recovering from COVID-19

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

**Lucia Campbell** (aunt of Guy Patenaude) – kidney problems

**Roscoe Marrs** (father of Rick Marrs) – recently suffered mild heart attack; grieving loss of wife after 73 years of marriage

**Pat Tudor** – recovering from chemo; prayers for renewed energy

**Layne Reeves** (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – 10-month-old boy recovering in rehab after fall

**Marilyn Aurand** – spinal stenosis

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

**Mary Zollman** (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

**Lee Schiel** (friend of Jim and Shannon Latson) – debilitating car accident; Lee's fiancée, **Donna** as she works with him

**Lani Shearn** (sister of Joy Rhoades) – inoperable brain tumor; also, for Lani's husband, **Steve**, as he cares for her

**Ashlyn Thomas** – continued health issues; pray for answers

and successful treatments

**Sarah and Adria Ballard** – relief from chronic pain

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

**Kathy Cocker** – pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension

**Harriet Nutter** (mother of Daphne Green) – 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** – stationed in HI with the Navy

**Michael Warford** – stationed in FL with the Navy

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

## MISSION EFFORTS

**Raul & Betty Alvarado** – mission efforts in Panama

**Tom Bonner** – mission work in Albania

**Julie Broyles** – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

**Ryan Campbell** – mission work in Philippines

**Charles & Darlene Coulston** – mission work in Kenya

**Megan Randolph** – teaching in Thailand

**David & Danna Willis** – mission work in Samoa

## Attendance + Giving

### September 20 Attendance

Livestream Views\* 110

\* at communion

### September 20 Giving

\$8,409

Weekly Giving Average \$12,572

Weekly Giving Budget \$12,812

Be the Blessing Giving (To Date) \$1,525,267

Property Settlement \$225,000

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