CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

November 15, 2020

Welcome!

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

Today

10:00am	Limited In-person Worship Service (registration required)
10:00am	Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat Box
10:15am	Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
11:15am	Virtual Lobby via Zoom
4:00pm	MS Pod with Travis

Upcoming Events

Nov 16	Women's Group (Zoom)
Nov 17	Guys' Group (Zoom)
Nov 18	Combined HS Pod with Travis at CVCC
Nov 18	Hungry / Thirsty Group (Zoom)
Nov 19	TO Small Group
Nov 22	Armloads of Love
Dec 6	Family Advent
Dec 13	Carols and Candlelight

Birthdays This Week

Troy Labnow	11/17
Liz Hinkle	11/18
Michael Ditmore	11/19

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.

Words of Blessing

By Andy Wall

One of the most pathos-filled scenes in all of Scripture is when Esau, the older of Isaac's sons, realizes that his twin brother Jacob has stolen his father's blessing that in his culture rightfully belonged to the firstborn. Esau is heart-broken that his father cannot also give him a blessing and pleads three times for Isaac to reconsider:

> *"When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, 'Bless me, me also, father!'*
>
> *...Then Esau said, 'Have you not reserved a blessing for me?'*
>
> *...Esau said to his father, 'Have you only one blessing, father? Bless me, me also, father!' And Esau lifted up his voice and wept."* **Genesis 27:34, 36, 38**

We can certainly debate the relative merits of Esau and Jacob as potential recipients of Isaac's fatherly blessing. In Genesis 27 and following, neither brother looks exactly like a worthy contender. At the end of the day, however, Jacob has secured Isaac's blessing and goes on to become the namesake of Israel.

One observation I make based on the story of Jacob and Esau is that no one wants to live a life that's unblessed. Though many do live such a life, we all yearn to hear special words spoken that connect our lives with a significant past and a promised future. To live unblessed is to live disconnected from the previous generation.

We hear often about the power of the spoken word; but words unspoken can also be enormously powerful. And painful. The child who never hears "I love you" or "You can do this" begins to question her own value. The teen who never hears "I'm proud of you" or "You're growing up beautifully" can spend the rest of his adult life searching for such affirmation. Worse yet is living with that gnawing feeling that "I'm a disappointment to someone I love."

I'm not going to question the ancient practice of giving the blessing and birthright to the oldest child. But I will observe that in our day, we are wise to speak words of blessing and affirmation into the lives of each of our children, as well as in the lives of those we influence. We ought not keep our loved ones guessing. Instead, we should tell them we love them. We should tell them we're proud of them, whenever we legitimately can. We should catch them doing good. We should tell them early and often that we appreciate them and are glad they were born.

We must know and understand the power of words of blessing, both the ones we speak but especially the ones we withhold! We say that "talk is cheap." But words of affirmation and blessing paired with actions showing our commitment and care send the clearest message. So speak words of blessing that your children and those you love may know of the hopes you cherish for them.

What's Happening at Conejo

Armloads of Love / Sign-ups Still Needed

For many years, we've shared Thanksgiving groceries with our neighbors at Conejo Elementary School. Though this year is complicated by the pandemic, we believe it is even more vital to show our neighbors we remember and care for them. We will have a drive-by grocery pickup on Sunday, November 22 at 11:45am. This is the last week to sign up for non-perishable groceries from our online signup list—**we still lack about 100 items so please sign up soon!** Most of us will not be at the building on Sunday, November 22—if you'd like to drop your groceries off there during the previous week, our staff will be at the building to receive your groceries as follows:

- Wednesday, November 18, 3-7pm
- Thursday, November 19, 3-7pm
- Friday, November 20, 3-7pm

On Sunday the 22nd, we'll need a number of masked volunteers immediately following the in-person service to help bag up groceries and stage them outside on tables for the families as they drive through starting at 11:45am. If you are able, please sign up to donate food or come take part in this community service project.

Deeply Rooted: Exploring the Message of Colossians

As Paul winds up his section of ethical exhortations in Colossians, he focuses on two themes: 1) Paul commends the practice of personal prayer, urging devotion, alertness, and thanksgiving in our prayers. Paul asks for prayers for his mission efforts, even as in our day we offer our prayers for our missionaries around the globe. 2) Paul urges wise conduct toward nonbelievers, with a focus on how one speaks. Christians have always lived in the uneasy tension of "in but not of the world." We are called to live in such a way that others are drawn to the faith. One of the quickest ways we betray our faith is in our speech—whether in speaking ill of others, engaging in character assassination, responding to another's anger with anger, passing on lies and half-truths, or speaking callously concerning the suffering of others. Paul urges us toward speech that is gracious, appropriate to the occasion, and responsive to the questions others have concerning faith.

Limited In-Person Worship Services Have Begun

As we make preparations to eventually return to live services, we have launched a limited in-person worship each Sunday at 25% of capacity (70 people). At this point, the service will not be live but simply an opportunity to watch the pre-recorded YouTube video together. You will also be able to view the service at home on YouTube, as usual. The service at the building will include singing with masks as well as communion with individually wrapped unleavened bread and grape juice.

An RSVP is required and will be first-come, first-served. Each Wednesday afternoon, we'll send out an email with a registration link. If registration fills up, please notify us at office@conejochurch.org to help us make adjustments going forward, as needed. If you have any health concerns, or if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, please enjoy the service from the comfort of your residence.

Livestreaming Services Soon! A Note of Thanks

Over the past several months we have really enjoyed the YouTube presentations of our virtual worship services. During that time we have also been working behind the scenes to get ready to livestream our services from the church building once COVID restrictions allow us to gather back together for worship. There is a long list of people who have worked to make this possible. We want to thank them as we are getting closer to livestreaming becoming a reality.

- ***Fiber optic connection and internet capability:*** David Stephens and Jack Williamson
- ***AV table construction*:** David Stephens
- ***WIFI network:*** Neil Socquet and Stu Warford
- ***Construction, installation, cable pulls, painting:*** Phil Daringer, Suzanne and TJ Reynolds, Stu and Co Warford
- ***AV equipment consulting, purchase, installation and set up:*** Chris Heard, Jacob Michael, Chris Stivers, Stan Thomas

Here's a huge "Thank You!" to all of you who have diligently worked to prepare for the day we can worship live together at the church building and broadcast our worship service over the internet.

Many Mansions Holiday Gift Program

There are over sixty children whose names have not been chosen from the Many Mansions gift list. This has been a tough year for Many Mansions to solicit donations so we've been invited to step up as a good neighbor. We have been given the OK to post this need on Nextdoor, so please feel free to list it on your neighborhood sites as a charity need. Many of the kids (especially older ones) have requested gift cards, which are very easy to shop for. Gifts must be turned in by December 3rd, so the clock is ticking. If anyone has difficulty getting to the drop off point options, contact Suzanne Reynolds at 310-266-9734 to set up delivery of the gifts. Please sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da4ab2daafbc70-many or go to Sign up Genius on the Many Mansions website. Feel free to contact Kellie Van Atta at vanattakellie@gmail.com or Heather McLeod at HeatherM@manymansions.org if you have any questions.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

This fall, our youth group meets in pods. Pods are small groups that meet indoors with masks or outdoors during the pandemic. PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE: Due to recent restrictions on indoor gatherings becoming more loose, we will combine both of the high school pods into one that will meet weekly on Wednesday nights at the church building starting this week.

Please help our middle school and high school students stay connected by encouraging them to attend a pod regularly.

Middle School Pod

Pod Leader(s) – Travis & Amy Moore
When – Sunday Nights from 4-5:30pm
Where – 12904 Sleepy Wind St., Moorpark, CA 93021

Combined High School Pod

Pod Leader – Travis Moore
When – Wednesday Nights from 6:00-7:30pm
Where – CVCC Backyard (2525 E. Hillcrest Dr. Thousand Oaks, CA 91362)

Save the Date - Extravagodyssey 2020 Edition

Please mark your calendars for Friday, December 18th!! Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Conejo Valley Youth Group will celebrate this year's extravagodyssey without other youth groups that normally join us. However, that won't stop us from putting a positive mark on the end of a difficult year. More details coming soon!!

"Over It" Devotional Thought

The power of forgiveness changes not only others, but also ourselves...

If we're honest, it's easier for us to want to get back at someone than it is to forgive. That's our human nature, or as Andy Wall has mentioned before, our "lizard brain" taking over. But God's way is so much better than ours! He knows what we don't know and sees what we can't see. We look at others from the outside in, but God sees us from the inside out. He looks at us with loving eyes, seeing beyond our actions and words. And when we can see others the way God sees them, we'll find forgiveness to be much easier. Have a chat this week with a mentor or a close friend about how you can see others the way God sees them.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." **1 Samuel 16:7**

Children's Ministry

Break From KidZoomRoom

We are taking a break from our Kids Zoom at Noon for a while. I am happy to meet up on FaceTime, Marco Polo, etc. with any children or parents - just contact me at (818) 857-6213 and we can schedule a time!

Save the Date—Family Advent—December 6

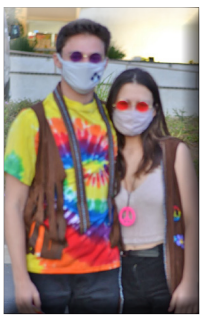
Mark your calendars and plan to participate in an early evening, socially-distanced family advent event on December 6.

More Trunk or Treat Family Fun

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.
He will not let your foot slip
He who watches over you will not slumber;
Indeed, he who watches over Israel
Will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord watches over you
The Lord is your shade at your right hand;
The sun will not harm you by day,
Nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm
He will watch over your life;
The Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121



Thanks to all who made this a wonderful evening for our kids!

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Jim Latson – recovered from infection following removal of wisdom teeth; enjoying life again!

PREGNANCY: **Sarah Jane Norris** (March)

NEW MEMBERS: **Arlene Leedy, Lynn Nasca**

THOSE GRIEVING

Guy Patenaude – loss of aunt, Chris De La Rosa

Burch and Long families – loss of Jack Burch

Maribel Guevara – loss of nephew, Julian Hernandez

Matt Joyner – loss of grandfather, Steve Eckstein

Tim Horton – loss of brother-in-law, John Lamm

Andy Caldwell – loss of mother, Margie Caldwell

Bob Falletta – loss of mother, Ida Falletta

Kathy Cocke – 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

Marilyn Aurand – diagnosed with neuro-endocrine cancer; undergoing radiation then chemotherapy treatments

Carlos Hermandez (uncle of Maribel Guevara) – diagnosed with inoperable cancer

Nan Fox (aunt of Matt Joyner) – undergoing chemotherapy

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

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

Iesha Moreno (niece of Mike Rivas) – on hospice care with stomach cancer

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

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

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Stu Hardman – (former member) – at Los Robles; fighting bacterial infections and sepsis

Kathy Cocke – recovering at home from acute respiratory failure and pneumonia

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – recently diagnosed with lupus

Billy Bacca (uncle of Katie Charles) – hospitalized with pneumonia

Scheri Lamm (sister of Tim Horton) – improving following hospitalization with blood clots; grieving loss of husband

Natalie Ditmore (daughter-in-law of Michael and Tammy Ditmore) – for a safe and healthy delivery; due on November 29

Sara Hodges (mother of Darlene Rivas) – navigating serious health issues; grieving loss of husband

Linemen and firefighters as they work to serve the community during extreme conditions

Teachers, students, parents, and **administrators** during this unusual academic year

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

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

Dan Scarberry (brother of Mark Scarberry) – recovering from COVID-19; no longer in isolation

Mildred Eckstein (grandmother of Matt Joyner) – recovering from COVID-19; grieving loss of her husband

Roscoe Marrs (father of Rick Marrs) – recently suffered mild heart attack; grieving loss of wife

Pat Tudor – recovering from chemo; pray for renewed energy

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis

Darlene Fielder (mother of Tammy Ditmore) – recent stroke

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

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

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

Attendance + Giving

November 8 Attendance	
Online Service	106
On-Site Service	32

November 8 Giving	$13,180
Weekly Giving Average	$12,793
Weekly Giving Budget	$12,812
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,561,105
Property Settlement	$225,000

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