

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

January 17, 2021

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
- 4:00pm MS Pod with Travis Moore
- 4:00pm "Hard Pressed But Not Crushed" Class via Zoom with Connie Horton

Upcoming Events

- Jan 18 Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Jan 19 Guys' Group (Zoom)
- Jan 20 Hungry / Thirsty Group (Zoom)
- Jan 20 High School Pod
- Jan 21 TO Life Group (Zoom)
- Feb 2 Start of First Fruits Small Group (Zoom)
- Feb 20 Baby Shower Sarah Jane Norris (Drive-Through)

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Allan Argano | 1/18 |
| Joel Cox | 1/20 |
| Kathy Stephens | 1/21 |
| Joella Michael | 1/23 |

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.

A Quiet Word

By Landon Saunders

[Editor's note: today's timely meditation by Landon Saunders invites us to reflect on our humanity in light of Micah 6:8.]

I woke up this morning thinking about the question that has guided my life and work most: What does it mean to be a human being?

It's Tuesday morning, January 12, 2021. It's early. The temperature outside reads 18 degrees. I sense stillness. I'm letting the ravens sleep in a bit; I'll rouse them in a little while and throw out some egg yolks—I eat the egg whites!

I've spent a few moments aligning myself for the day—what kind of human being I want to be, what kind of words I want to say, what kind of feelings I want to nurture.

I've checked in with several newspapers across the country. I, first of all, look for stories about human beings—their loves, struggles, failures, successes, stories of what children are going through, stories of the inevitable injustices suffered. This helps connect me to what matters most to me—the deep humanity I share with every human being in this country and around the world.

I won't recount here the events of this past week except to note how perilous it feels, how difficult conversation is, how challenging it is to be—what word should I choose here—I'll choose the word discerning, yes, I think that is the right word. The word suggests thoughtfulness, showing good judgment, using care in complicated times and situations. To that end I am examining my own heart.

I ask, what does it mean to be a discerning human being in a nation of three hundred thirty million and a world of over seven billion?

The ancient prophet, Micah, who also lived at a time of great peril and upheaval, asked something similar. He wondered about what was required of a human being. His answer was majestic in its brevity and profundity: a human being should do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

These words, repeated thousands and thousands of times in social, religious, and political speeches, still provide guidance for us now. Who should we be? In all my thoughts and feelings, in the words that I say, in the actions I take—let them all reflect the chosen desire of my heart to do justice, to be kind, to walk humbly in this perilous moment in our complex world.

Indeed, what does it mean to be a human being?

What's Happening at Conejo



Walking Together In Hope

This Martin Luther King weekend, our third sermon in our series "Walking Together in Hope" reflects on our calling as Jesus' followers to love all peoples and nations. Within the grand story of Scripture, the trajectory of God's designs has always included all peoples and nations. The final words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 emphasize that trajectory with the commission to "go make disciples of all nations." When Jesus cleansed the temple, he criticized Jewish leaders for turning what God intended to be "a house of prayer for all nations" into a den of thieves.

As we learn better how to walk together in hope, we learn from Jesus to welcome all seekers after God, regardless of nation, ethnicity, language, or tribe. We can be sure that Jesus is working deeply within us when we cease balkanizing into "us" and "them," resisting the easy human tendency to distrust (and soon enough, hate) those who may look and sound "different" from us.

Hard Pressed but Not Crushed: A Class on Resilience in Challenging Times

This LONG season of the pandemic has brought many challenges to the world. Our Conejo community has certainly not been exempt.

How can our faith, our church family, and our practices sustain us? Throughout history, God's people have endured many trials, remained faithful, and allowed their faith to provide an anchor. How can we do that? This very practical class will include some instruction and some discussion as we encourage each other in resilience. Led by Conejo's own Connie Horton, the class will begin via Zoom today, January 17, at 4pm. [Zoom Meeting Link.](#)



Thank You from the Guevara Family

I have no words to express my gratitude to Conejo Church for all of the love and everything else you have done for my family and myself. We are going to miss you so much! May God Bless Conejo Church always.

*With all my love,
Maribel Guevara*



And the Angels Rejoiced!



On Saturday, January 9, Justus Baird was baptized into Christ. Justus, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism. Our prayers are that as Christ's follower, you will be filled with a spirit of joy as you share your time, talents, and God's love with everyone around you. May God bless you in your decision and empower you to walk faithfully in Jesus' steps.



Worship Participant Thank You and Request

As we start 2021, we want to make sure that we are not overlooking any willing worship participants as we prepare weekly. Several of you have already filled out the Google form which was e-mailed to you from "Church Office" on Thursday, January 14. Thanks to the many people who have filled out this form. ***If you have not already done so***, please take a few minutes to click on this blue link and fill out our [2021 Abbreviated "Let Me Serve"](#) Google form. We would like to have one form per individual member. Thank you!

Service Outreach Opportunities

There are many opportunities to help and encourage others in the neighborhood and nearby community. ***Please click the links below*** or see the Service Opportunities spotlight item on the CVCC website for details about how to participate in the following ongoing or upcoming community outreach efforts.

[Helping Hands Food Distribution](#)
[Conejo Elementary Tutoring Program](#)

First Fruits New Small Group



Beginning on February 2, Stu and Co Warford will be hosting the First Fruits, a small group focusing on helping and encouraging you to grow your own food right where you live. This small group will be very practical, and will discuss things like planting schedules,

gardening areas, vegetable types, planting, harvesting, and many other topics as we reflect on God's creation. This small group is applicable for gardeners at all levels and gardens of all sizes. This group will meet virtually via Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month starting February 2 at 7pm. If you are interested in joining us, please click on and fill out the [interest questionnaire](#) prior to the first meeting. [Zoom Meeting Link.](#)

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

The youth group is meeting weekly in "pods." We are prayerful that this format will better meet our needs for building relationships. 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 attending a pod.

For the next four weeks, each pod will be going through a series called "Soul Searching." This series is designed to dive into questions such as:

- What is a soul?
- Why is my soul important?
- How do I take care of my soul?
- How does my soul impact people around me?

Middle School Pod – Sunday Nights from 4:00-5:30pm

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

High School Pod – Wednesday Nights from 6:00-7:30pm

Location – Conejo Valley Church Backyard (2525 E. Hillcrest Dr.)

"Over It" Devotional Thought

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

As we know, it takes a small amount of light to get rid of the darkness. Our eyes are even trained to automatically expand in a dark room to find the light! The same is true with kindness. Just a small act of kindness can bring great light to touch circumstances around us. We show kindness by forgiving, looking at people with compassion, and treating them with respect. It seems this is becoming a harder task to carry out in the world as of late. But, as followers of Jesus we have the awesome privilege of being a light. Acts like showing kindness and treating others with respect can bring a lot of light to someone's life. This week, look for opportunities God will give you to let kindness shine from your life. Make a point to be a light of kindness to all the people around you.

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

Children's Ministry

Valentine Outreach Opportunity

We are excited to be making valentines for senior citizens in our community again this year. Since the valentines cannot be delivered in person, Kellie Van Atta has provided us with the names/addresses of various care facilities in our area so we can mail valentines directly to the facility. Next week, I will mail out valentine-making supplies and addressed and stamped envelopes to families with children. Each family will create their valentines and then mail them.

Church, everyone is invited to send valentines to residents and caregivers! The facilities we are focusing on this year include:

Sunrise of Westlake Village

3101 Townsgate Road
Westlake Village CA 91361

Sunrise at Wood Ranch

190 Tierra Rejada Road
Simi Valley CA 93065

Hillcrest Royale Retirement Living

190 E Hillcrest Dr
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Belmont Village Senior Living

3680 N Moorpark Rd
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Meadowbrook of Agoura Hills

5217 Chesebro Rd
Agoura Hills, CA 91301



Scripture Memory

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NIV



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Sarah Jane Norris (March), Erin Opdahl (April)

RECOVERING FROM COVID-19:

Darlene Fielder (mother of Tammy Ditmore)

Betty and Miranda Brawner

Fernando and Rinah Quintanilla (parents of Guillermo and Kate [Guevara] Quintanilla)

THOSE GRIEVING

Mary Jo Hardman and family – loss of husband, Stu Hardman

Joy Rhoades – loss of sister, Lani Shearn

Mike Rivas – loss of niece, Ilesha Moreno

Guy Patenaude – loss of aunt, Chris De La Rosa

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 Coker – 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

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – recovering from liver surgery related to mucosal melanoma; immunotherapy

Marilyn Aurand – neuro-endocrine cancer; has completed radiation; chemotherapy treatments upcoming

Karen Kennedy (friend of Lisa Scott) – Stage IV kidney cancer

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

Steve Hallman (brother-in-law of Larry McNutt) – having difficulty with treatment for rare melanoma in lungs

Nan Fox (aunt of Matt Joyner) – undergoing chemotherapy

Shera Miner (mother of Rachel Miner) – aggressive cancer

Barbara Sanders (mother of Ed Sanders) – colon cancer

Deb Schultz (neighbor of Christina Eng) – breast cancer; receiving hospice care; prayers for her mom, Vi, age 91, as she cares for Deb

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

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

Jim Bishop (friend of Lisa Scott...) – cardiac issues and leukemia

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

Kathy Coker – receiving home hospice care

Pat Tudor – working with doctors regarding stem cell transplant

Imogene Wilson (mother of Lisa Scott) – COVID-19

Andrea Thomas Carter (friend of Lisa Scott) – several medical issues and COVID-19

Al Odenath (father of Nick Odenath) – dehydrated and confused by isolation due to COVID-19

Roger Dillion (father of Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens) – suffered recent stroke

Tom Dunsworth (brother of former member, Jackie Murrie) – hospitalized with pneumonia and congestive heart failure

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

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

Sara Hodges (mother of Darlene Rivas) – navigating serious health issues

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

Roscoe Marrs (father of Rick

Marrs) – grieving loss of wife

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

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

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

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

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – stationed in HI with the Navy

Michael Warford – stationed in FL with the Navy

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

Attendance + Giving

January 10 Attendance		January 10 Giving	
Online Viewing	118	Weekly Giving Average	\$18,634
		Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,812
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,573,086
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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