



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 31, 2021

Welcome!

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

Today

- 8:30 am Donut Drive Through
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat Box
- 10:15am Virtual Worship Service via YouTube, James Stephens preaching
- 11:15am Virtual Lobby via Zoom
- 4:00pm MS Pod with Travis Moore
- 4:00pm "Hard Pressed But Not Crushed" Class via Zoom

Upcoming Events

- Feb 1 Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Feb 2 Guys' Group (Zoom)
- Feb 2 Start of First Fruits Small Group (Zoom)
- Feb 3 Hungry / Thirsty Group (Zoom)
- Feb 3 High School Pod
- Feb 4 TO Life Group (Zoom)
- Feb 20 Baby Shower Sarah Jane Norris (Drive-Through)

Birthdays This Week

- Becky Rockey 1/31
- Christopher Haye 2/7
- Keith Hinkle 2/7

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.

And If He Sees His Shadow...

By Andy Wall

"This is one time where television really fails to capture the true excitement of a large squirrel predicting the weather." —**Bill Murray, *Groundhog Day***

This Tuesday is Groundhog Day, a North American tradition observed in the US and Canada on February 2. Its origins come from a Pennsylvania Dutch superstition: if a groundhog sees its shadow on this day, then winter will last for six more weeks; if it doesn't see its shadow, spring will come early.

In the 1993 fantasy comedy *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray plays a world-weary TV weatherman sent to cover the annual Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. There, he gets trapped in a time loop and has to relive February 2 repeatedly. No matter what he does on that day, he wakes up the next morning to do it again.

Murray's character follows a fascinating progression. First, he spends each Groundhog Day trying to take whatever he can get. Then he begins pursuing his love interest in a self-serving way, to no avail. Growing despondent, he tries in several ways to take his own life, only to wake up again on Groundhog Day. Eventually, he decides to pursue his love interest for what he can give to the relationship, and finally spends his (repeated) days making life better for others, leading to the final resolution.

As I celebrate Carrie's and my 33rd anniversary this weekend, I'm struck by how in some ways marriage can mirror the movie *Groundhog Day*. I'm not saying that marriage is some long, repetitive slog through life; after all, there are countless changes that take place throughout a marriage. But from one day to the next and one week to the next, things may not look terribly different. And during such routine seasons, our daily choices can serve to move us closer or farther apart, deeper in love or further adrift.

Groundhog Day serves as a parable about life and how we choose to spend it. Though there is certainly variety in life, it is also true that many days are not terribly different from the days preceding and following, especially during this current season of COVID quarantining and isolation. We have choices about how we spend those "ordinary" days: in self-serving and self-interested pursuits or to bless, encourage, and lift up others; in cynicism and anger or in hope and kindness. How will you spend your "ordinary" days?

What's Happening at Conejo



A Call to Love

In today's sermon, Conejo's own James Stephens will be reflecting on how Christianity makes sense of a broken world. The arc of scripture recounts how God sets about the task of putting His creation right again. When Jesus announced to the disciples the blueprint of how the world should work, he started doing things that answered the question: How should we bring about the Kingdom of God in a broken world? The disciples had front row seats (and backstage passes) to the incarnation and, ironically, struggled to answer this question correctly.

John's gospel offers a rich narrative of the Apostle Peter as he struggles to make sense of his role in God's "putting-creation-right" story. Peter's example gives us clues about what it means to be a Christ follower, what is true power, and how it should be exercised to bring about the flourishing of God's people. Peter was chosen for his time; we are chosen for ours. It's possible for us, too, to be faithful Christ followers, even in our contemporary, pluralistic society, without having to resort to fear or anger. If we truly are made in God's image, then we are not called to be spectators. We have been given a spirit of freedom and power, and are called to be active participants in God's new creation story.

Senior Concerns Non-perishable Goods Collection

Senior Concerns, a private local non-profit organization, is dedicated to serving the senior community, especially frail seniors and their caregivers. Due to COVID-19, many of our community's seniors are self-isolating at home. Senior Concerns is collecting non-perishable items to distribute to seniors at their home. Please [click here](#) to see the list of items needed as well as where to drop them off.

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, this four week Zoom class will continue **each Sunday at 4pm**, through February 7. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

First Fruits New Small Group / February 2



Beginning this Tuesday, 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](#).

Book Club Resumes / February 11

Beginning February 11, there will be a bi-monthly discussion via zoom of "The Color of Compromise" by Jemar Tisby. Please contact Paula Marrs if you would like to be a part of this discussion group. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

Donut Distribution (Again) for Groundhog's Day

A huge thank you to Conejo's Thursday Night small group for serving donuts, drive-through style, from **8:30 to 9:30am on Sunday, January 31, at the Conejo building**. Thanks also to everyone who brought non-perishable goods for the Senior Concerns non-perishable goods collection. Thank you for sharing in this fellowship and fun while also remembering God's provision for us and remembering others in need.

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.

- [Senior Concerns Goods Collection](#)
- [Helping Hands Food Distribution](#)
- [Conejo Elementary Tutoring Program](#)

In Case of Technical Difficulties

As our recent technology challenges with our Sunday morning online service illustrated, even "the best laid plans" can go awry. As we continue to improve our live streaming process, one way you can help is by "subscribing" to our YouTube channel and setting the alert. This will enable you to automatically receive an email should we have to re-upload our worship livestream as we did two weeks ago. Here's how:

- Type "youtube conejo church of christ" in your Google search bar
- Click on the "Conejo Valley Church of Christ - YouTube" link that shows up in the search listing
- Click the "Subscribe" button
- Click the little bell (the notifications icon) and select "all"

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 to 5:30pm

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

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

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

Youth Group Backyard Movie Night / Feb. 5

Friday night, February 5th from 6:30 to 9pm the middle school and high school groups are invited over to the Moore's (12904 Sleepy Wind St. Moorpark, CA 93021) to watch the newest

Disney Pixar movie "Soul." This will unofficially be a wrap up to our series Soul Searching. Individual bags of popcorn, candy, and hot chocolate will be provided. Please bring a mask, a lawn chair or blanket, and dress warm.

"Over It" Devotional Thought

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

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God." What a great invitation for us to be people who make peace in all situations! When you determine to live in peace with others, you not only show others what it means to follow God, but you get to experience the peace of God for yourself, too. Is there a relationship in your life that needs more peace? Have you driven a wedge in a relationship because you don't see eye to eye? Make a decision in your heart today to do what you can to be a peacemaker and child of God in that relationship. If you need to start building a bridge in that relationship, take a tangible step towards that this week and ask God for His help! Do what you can so that at the end of the day you have no regrets on whether you did all you could to be at peace with others.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

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. Each family will create valentines and mail them.

Church, everyone is invited to send valentines to residents and caregivers!

The facilities we are focusing on 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)

THOSE GRIEVING

Christina Eng – loss of neighbor, Deb Schultz

Maribel Guevara – loss of uncle, Carlos Hernandez

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 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

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – recovering from

liver surgery related to mucosal melanoma; immunotherapy

Marilyn Aurand – neuro-endocrine cancer; chemotherapy treatments begin February 1

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

Vi Schultz (friend of Christina Eng) – 91-year-old neighbor grieving loss of daughter

Kathy Cocke – receiving home hospice care

Pat Tudor – working with doctors regarding stem cell transplant

Eileen Charles (step-mother of Robert Charles) – suffered recent stroke

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

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

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

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

CVCC FRIENDS WITH COVID-19

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

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

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Attendance
+ Giving

January 24 Attendance	
Online Viewing	121

January 24 Giving		\$ 5,950
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,488
Weekly Giving Budget		\$12,812
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,575,726
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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