



BE the BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 1, 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
- 10:15am On-Site Worship Service
- 11:15am Virtual Lobby via Zoom
- 6:00pm Won By One Concert

Upcoming Events

- Aug 3 Guys' Group (at CVCC)
- Aug 3 Final YG Dockweiler Summer Bonfire
- Aug 3 First Fruits Small Group (Zoom)
- Aug 4 HS Pod (at CVCC)
- Aug 5 T.O. Small Group (at Fosters' home)
- Aug 22 Bridal Shower for Jenna Wall

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Gabrielle Antonio | 8/1 |
| Ty De Long | 8/4 |
| Robert Charles | 8/6 |
| Steve Scott | 8/6 |
| Chris Stivers | 8/6 |
| Brooklyn Baird | 8/8 |

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 "Haunted House"

[**Editor's Note:** today's editorial is by Louise Valente of Santa Ana. Her meditation on grudge-bearing and the refusal to forgive invites us to pursue Jesus' blessed invitation to practice peacemaking.]

"For as pressing milk produces curds, and pressing the nose produces blood, so pressing anger produces strife." Proverbs 30:33

A little over a year ago, our family moved onto a cul de sac. Prior to moving, we had frequently walked the neighborhood with assorted dogs and babies and admired the peace and lovely homes—except one. You know the type—a crumbling two-story house with no grass, no paint, and no signs of life. This particular house is an extreme—black mold is easily visible, and the curtains are rotting from the bottom up. Windows are boarded up or covered with paper. The neighborhood kids call it the "haunted house"—and it backs up directly to ours. The rumor was that an old man still lived inside.

In moving, we learned the story behind this home. Thirty years ago, it looked just like the others on the street and held a family of five. Apparently, some neighborhood teenagers were doing "wheelies" in front of the house, and their parents were not properly responsive to requests for this behavior to stop. Tempers were lost, and the owner of the "haunted house" vowed that if others were not going to respect his property rights, he was going to sabotage the neighborhood by refusing to take care of his home.

Thirty or forty years have gone by. Children have grown. Houses have been sold. The elderly man now lives alone in his rotting home. Attempts by neighbors to reach out to him, even when his wife was hospitalized and dying, were met with verbal and physical backlash. He will open the door to only one person, a child in the neighborhood who brings him cookies a few times a year. The neighbors expect that his house will continue to rot until he dies, at which point it will most certainly be torn down.

When I stand at the kitchen window or look out over the 12-foot fence from my children's bedroom, it is a physical testament to what anger and lack of forgiveness can do to hearts and lives. As I wash our dishes, I ask myself whom I need to forgive, and what bridges I want to build. When I rock our children and turn out the lights, we pray that we will never harden our hearts to others around us in spite of their actions. When I open the master bathroom window to let in the breeze, I remind myself of the breath of forgiveness of Jesus Christ. and how he never hardens his heart toward His children.

...

Dear Lord, help us to be gracious in our relationships with others and to avoid creating strife among those we meet, and help us to forgive others when they are less than gracious to us. Help us to keep our hearts soft and hold others gently when they are hurting. Let us be peace-makers and not peace-breakers. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

What's Happening At Conejo



"The Holy Ordinary"

The thesis of our current series, "The Holy Ordinary," is that God meets us in our everyday moments every bit as much as in the exceptional ones. In this week's message, we'll reflect on the life of domestic peacemaking that Jesus invites us to pursue.

Why is it that we save our harshest words and unkindest comments for our closest relationships? I'm not sure I have "the" answer but I believe there's a reason why Jesus taught us to "love your neighbor as yourself." We can talk a good game about peacemaking in the world and still be warmongers at home. First John 4 warns of the impossibility of saying we love the unseen God if we don't love our very visible brother or sister.

We have a tradition at the end of our worship to send the church out with the words "Go in peace." This weekly tradition reminds us that we are called to pursue peace in our conflict-laden world, starting with our everyday relationships. Peacemaking is hard work, making harboring resentment a tempting alternative. But if we are trained by the words we speak each week, we know that "earth is forgiveness school," in Anne Lamott's memorable phrase.

Won By One / 6pm Today



Join us this evening for a concert with Won by One at 6pm. Won by One is a six-member a cappella performing group representing Pepperdine University. A number of Conejo

members are alums of the group, which works in conjunction with the Office of Church Relations and the Office of Admission to strengthen ties between Pepperdine and Churches of Christ, and to recruit Christian students for the University.

Seeking Help with Worship Services

In addition to our weekly worship services at the building, we are continuing to offer an online "livestream" of the service for anyone who would like to be with us but cannot come in person. Each week a team of volunteers helps us to see and



hear well by operating our sound, projection, and video stations. If you are willing to help provide this valuable service for your church family, please contact reneheard@sbcglobal.net. Training will be provided.

"First Fruits" Small Group / August 3

Stu and Co Warford are hosting a small group to help and encourage all who are interested to grow their own food right where they live. This small group, "First Fruits," offers very practical tips and information and meets virtually via Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Topics such as planting schedules, soil preparation, seasonal fruits and vegetables, and a variety of other related topics are discussed as we reflect on how we can work together with God's creation. This small group is applicable for gardeners at all levels and gardens of all sizes. Click [here](#) [Zoom Meeting Link](#) to join the next meeting this Tuesday at 7pm.



Save the Date / Bridal Shower on August 22

Ladies, please mark your calendars! On Sunday, August 22, gather with other Conejo women at the home of Paula Marrs for a bridal shower honoring Jenna Wall. Watch the Family News for additional information in the coming weeks.

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 and will also help us better develop the habit of giving regularly. This has been particularly helpful during the pandemic and is always helpful during the summer when so many are traveling.

There are three ways you can access our online giving.

- 1) The **CVCC 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'll be able to make a one-time donation or to schedule regular donations directly from your checking account or from your debit or credit card. You can 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 hand-written checks, please either leave these in the box in the foyer or mail them to the church address:

**2525 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362**

Meeting and Masking

In response to the recent Ventura County public health advisory, the recommendation for our indoor worship gatherings is as follows: Masks are welcome, and even recommended (but not required), if you have been fully vaccinated. Masks continue to be required for those who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (including children).

High School + Middle School

Summer Camps

Thankful beyond words for the blessing of spending two weeks with amazing young people at camp. Please continue to pray for the lives of our children and teens as they grow in understanding of what it means to be God's child.



Youth Group Pods



Throughout the month of August, YG pods will be studying a series called "Squad Up: We're Better Together." Let's encourage our teens to embrace more fully their part in the family of God and as they seek to help one another, grow together, and stand strong in their faith. [Click here](#) to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme.

Last Summer Bonfire / Tuesday, August 3

The last Dockweiler Beach event and summer bonfire with the youth groups from Hilltop, Culver Palms, CVCC, and University Church is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3. We will meet at the CVCC building at 3pm and return at 10pm. Look for an email with an opportunity to sign up for a spot in the church



van. Since this is the last summer bonfire, we will need a few other parents who are willing to help drive so that no one is left out.

Children's Ministry

Rocky Railway VBS: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through

Thank you to our awesome VBS group leaders and helpers:

Justus, Audrey, Ally, Jackson, Carrie, Jett, Kellie, Charee, Sandy, Holly, Stacy, Shelly, Amy, Kirsten, Cheryl, and Staci.

Thank you to our awesome helpers for set up, prep, errands, clean up, photography, and special projects:

Jim, Jonathan, Judy, Tammy, Andy, Stu, Bonnie, Phil, Nick, Robert, Michelle, and Rene.

Special thanks to all our volunteers who stayed for clean up!

Children's Worship at the Building!

We are back with two on-site worship programs for our children. **Toddlers/2's/3's** will be in

the 2's/3's classroom with doors open to the outside for air circulation. A child safety gate has been installed in the classroom door to keep the little ones in! Children **ages 4-5th grade** will worship outside on the playground on the bleacher area.

Online Children's Worship Links will be available via the weekly email from Penny or via the all-church email from the church office which goes out by noon on Saturday.

Note: For the summer we are enjoying a second look at previously recorded videos.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Cassie Horton (September)

WEDDING: the marriage of **Michaela Wall** and **Keith McGuire** on July 10

Jim Kutil (friend of Shannon Latson) – recovering from double lung transplant; scheduled to go home within the week

NEW MEMBERS: Rick and Patti Furino, Barbara Schlosser, Brian Smithers

THOSE GRIEVING

David Gibson – loss of wife, Pat
Kay Falletta – loss of brother, B.J. Reckman

Kevin Jenkins (former member) – loss of sister, Dee-Ann Jenkins

Jacqueline Dillion – loss of father, Roger Dillion

Chris Heard – loss of nephew, Regan Hearn

Shannon Latson – loss of cousin, Rodney Feet

Carol McNutt – loss of brother-in-law, Steve Hallman

Rachel Miner – loss of mother, Shera Miner

Matt Joyner – loss of aunt, Nan Fox

Christina Eng – loss of aunt, Cathy Littlefield

Scarberry family – loss of Frances Scarberry, mother of Shirley, stepmother of Mark

Joe Cocke – loss of wife, Kathy

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

Joy Rhoades – loss of sister, Lani

Shearn

FIGHTING CANCER

Muriel Meador (sister of Judy Tapper) – recent surgery; currently undergoing radiation and chemotherapy

Joella Michael – recovering from surgery to remove cancer from lymph node in neck; immunotherapy continuing

Dan Scarberry (brother of Mark Scarberry) – metastatic kidney cancer

Patricia Sparks (sister-in-law of Shannon Latson) – recurrence of uterine sarcoma carcinoma following treatment; immunotherapy

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

Barbara Sanders (mother of Ed Sanders) – colon cancer

Ted McAllister (former member) – test results showing worrisome increase in cancer numbers

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

Unrest in South Africa – swift resolution to the strife; George

DeBruyn's brother (Sean) and Claudia's brother (Stephen) and their families

Christina Eng – recovering from surgery, pray for good results and improved health

Michael Jenkins (son of Kevin and Nelda) - struggling with numerous issues and declining health

Marvin Shipley (father of Michelle Hagemann) – in rehabilitation following stroke

Gary Tiner – (brother of Sandy Stivers) – encouragement during the long recovery from recent heart surgery and leg wound

Calleigh Hunnicutt – difficulty standing and walking; some improvements

Pat Tudor – tolerating immunotherapy

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

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

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

Al Odenath (father of Nick Odenath) – on hospice dealing with anxiety and confusion in memory care unit

Family and friends who have battled with COVID-19 or lost someone during the pandemic

Andrea Thomas Carter (friend of Lisa Scott) – several medical issues

Marilyn Aurand – physical therapy for spinal stenosis and to improve mobility

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

Made In The Streets – ministry to street kids in Nairobi, 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

July 25 Attendance	
On-Site Service	89
Online Viewing	93

July 25 Giving		\$7,647
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,598
Weekly Giving Budget		\$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,599,158
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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