CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

October 17, 2021

Welcome!

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

Today

9:00am	Bible Classes for all ages
10:00am	Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat Box
10:15am	Worship Service On-Site and via YouTube
10:30am	Infant-Toddler Dedication
11:15	Virtual Lobby via Zoom
4:00pm	Middle School Pod

Upcoming Events

Oct 18	Women's Study (Zoom)
Oct 19	Guys' Group (various sites)
Oct 20	High School Pod (at CVCC)
Oct 20	Hungry / Thirsty (Zoom)
Oct 21	Life Group (at Fosters)
Oct 21	Tutoring at Conejo (Zoom)
Oct 24	Taco Fest Youth Group Fundraiser
Oct 30	Trunk or Treat

Birthdays This Week

Patty Starkey	10/19
Pam Isaac	10/22
Mary Labnow	10/22
Lori Rushford	10/22
Amaya Harrington	10/23
Adrianna Patenaude	10/23
Linda Katch	10/26

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 Dream of God

By Andy Wall

When it came time for Jesus to preach and teach, his most frequent theme was the kingdom of God (or in Matthew, the Kingdom of heaven). A reminder may be in order: the kingdom of heaven is not first and foremost about where we go after we die but about God's sovereign, saving rule here on earth (as the Lord's prayer asks: "your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"). The kingdom of heaven (God) is the range of God's effective will, everywhere God's authority is acknowledged, wherever God's calls the shots, and anyplace people and their communities honor God's will. Many of Jesus' parables talked about God's kingdom, inviting his readers to reflect on their participation in and engagement with God's kingdom reign in the present.

I wonder what metaphor Jesus would have chosen if he were communicating to today's world. My guess is probably not "kingdom", since in our world we have democracies, republics, and nation states. Instead of kings and queens, we (mostly) have presidents, prime ministers, and premiers. As the brilliant communicator he is, Jesus would choose a metaphor with contemporary currency. One possible metaphor is that of God's dream. (For what follows, I must give credit to Brian McLaren's inspiration and insight.)

Consider: What dreams, desires, and visions does God have for the world? A mother today, has a dream for her child; an artist has great dreams for a symphony he's creating; a teacher has big dreams for her students. God, too, has a will, a dream, for how his creatures live on earth. The dream metaphor can also be a helpful way to envision evil and sin in the world—these are God's nightmares. When God created our world, God wasn't dreaming of prisons and kidnapping, child abuse and racism, greed and poverty, pollution and exploitation, narcissism and chaos. God's dream was for freedom and creativity, kindness and justice, generosity and peace, hospitality and harmony.

Such a metaphor gives us a responsible and creative role to play. If we dream of controlling others, abusing the world God made, ignoring the poor, or perpetuating hatred, we are ruining God's dream. The call to discipleship is the call to trust God's dreams enough to realign our dreams with God's. When we are baptized, we are declaring to the world that we are embracing the dream of God and that we will be active in helping God's dreams come about in our corner of the world.

What metaphor would you use to convey the meaning of the kingdom of God to contemporary ears? Would you envision the Kingdom as the story of God? Or the school of God? How about the symphony of God? God's team? God's revolution? The table of God? May God grant us fruitful images to help us envision and embody the holy purposes he has for us in following Jesus and serving in the world today.

2019-2021 Dedication Service

September 2019-September 2021

Today, we offer blessings and prayers for these children as we dedicate the babies born between September 2019 and September 2021. We will follow the biblical examples of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:27-28) and Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:22) in dedicating our infants and toddlers to the Lord and dedicating ourselves to their spiritual training. As a congregation, we believe that God has called us to be the spiritual family of these little ones and that it is our privilege to partner with their parents to support their spiritual development. Please **click here** to connect to the "insert sheet" which contains written blessings from all of the parents or click the child's name below to connect to each child's individual parental blessing.

Callan Grey
September 18, 2019
Daelan and Lauren B.

Evie Mae
April 19, 2020
Vincent and Holly C.

Jasper William
February 27, 2021
Erin O. and Eric S.

Eliza Jane
March 26, 2021
Carlton and Sarah Jane N.

Cooper Joshua
August 23, 2021
Josh and Cassie H.

What's Happening At Conejo

Welcome to the World, Philomena!

Philomena Helen West was born to Rob and Alyssa West on Friday, October 8. She weighed in at 6 pounds 12 ounces. Congratulations to the parents on this newest member of your family. Our prayer is that Philomena will grow in wisdom, stature, and in love and devotion to God and God's creation. We welcome this precious little one to the world.

Some of Alyssa's friends from work set up a mealtrain for Rob and Alyssa as they adjust to life with little Philomena. Please **click here** to sign up for a day to deliver a meal and be a blessing for this family.

Also, please remember "Baby Shower In a Box" that is being prepared for the West family. They are registered at Babylist and already have many of the larger items that they need from their registry list. If you would like to browse items that they would like which have not yet been purchased, please **click here**. Or, if you prefer, we are also encouraging people to provide gift cards. Please bring your gifts and gift cards to Paula M. or Rene H. this Sunday, October 17.

Worship Participant Thank You and Request

Thanks to the many people who have filled out this year's "Let Me Serve" form. ***If you have not already done so***, please **click here** and take a few minutes to help us update our records. We would like to have one form from each individual member. Thank you!

Meeting and Masking

Due to strong recommendations by Ventura and Los Angeles county health officials, we ***expect*** everyone to wear a mask while indoors, regardless of your vaccination status. Please do this for the well-being of others. We have a small supply of disposable masks available.

Bible Classes and Adult Education

We have resumed live Sunday morning Bible classes for all ages. Classes begin at 9am. Our adult Bible class meets in the auditorium and is entitled "Come Together." The class focuses on various "one another" passages from the New Testament and is designed to encourage us to find strength and connection within our community of faith.

Fall Small Groups

Our small group fall program is in progress with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond—some in person, some via Zoom. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Some groups include children, some are for teens, some are for adults, and some include all generations. Please **click here** for detailed listing about our 2021 small groups. If you have questions, please contact Andy Wall or Jack Williamson.

Conejo Elementary Tutoring

This past Thursday, October 14, we began tutoring students via Zoom. Please contact Suzanne Reynolds at (310) 266-9734 or send an e-mail to **tutoringatconejo@gmail.com** if you can serve as a tutor.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

Throughout the month of October, YG pods will be studying a series called "True Story." We will be looking at a variety of people in the Bible to see how we can best understand who we are as we come to understand who God is. **Click here** to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Our high school and middle school groups are meeting together in the back yard on Sunday mornings at 9am for a time of Bible study together. Come encourage one another and be encouaged by one another!

TACO FEST Mission Trip Fundraiser / October 24

Save the date for Sunday night, October 24. On that night, the youth group and their families will host the our second ever Taco Fest! This event will make you think you died and went to taco heaven. A plethora of different tacos will be present, along with ice cream and churros for dessert! Come join us outside in the church backyard at 6pm on October 24 for a tasty event and help raise money toward the 2022 Mexico mission trip! **Click here** to sign up for items to bring so you can help us make this a great night of food and fellowship!

Friday Night FRIGHT!

On Friday night, October 29, from 6-9pm the middle school and high school groups are invited over to the Moores' home (12904 Sleepy Wind St. Moorpark, CA) for a backyard showing of the movie "The Nightmare before Christmas!" Bring a lawn chair and a nightmare before Christmas themed dessert! Drinks, popcorn, and other snacks will be provided!

IMPACT Middle School Retreat

Impact 2021 will be the weekend of **November 5-7!** Our theme this year is "Prince of Peace." We will look at how Jesus, our King, gives peace to those who trust Him and draw near to Him. In this life there are many storms, but we have a God who stills those storms and is the source of true and lasting peace regardless of what rages around us. The cost is $105 and registration is now open for Impact 2021! **Click here** for registration form. Don't miss out on a powerful weekend!

Children's Ministry

Fall Scripture Memory Verse

Look, God is my deliverer!
I will trust in him and not fear.
For the Lord gives me strength and protects me;
He has become my deliverer.

Isaiah 12:2 New English Version

Trunk or Treat on October 30!

Our upcoming fall celebration includes a walk-through Trunk or Treat, Costume Parade, Snacks, and Special Activities. Mark your calendars for October 30, 6:30pm.

Volunteers needed *(adults & teens)*:

- to decorate trunks or truck beds and deliver treats.
- to help with games, snacks, and special activities.

Please contact Penny White at (818) 857-6213 or pennymwhite502@gmail.com or **click here** for details about this event.

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: **Kellie Thiel** (January)

BIRTHS: **Philomena Helen West,** daughter of **Rob and Alyssa** was born on October 8

Lorelei Diane Sanders, daughter of **Arthur and LIndsey** and granddaughter of **Ed and Sheryl,** was born on August 13

ENGAGEMENT: **Brian Sanders and Molly McCann**

Gregoria Hernandez, Maxi McAfe, Kelly Collins, Charlotte (mother, sister, niece, and great niece of Rosie Patenaude) – all have made improvements in their battle with COVID-19

Barbara Sanders (mother of Ed Sanders) – no recurrence of colon cancer since cancerous polyp removed

Researchers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, and **patients** who persevere through COVID-19

THOSE GRIEVING

Sue Ann Meador - loss of father, Joe Burroughs

Darlene Rivas – loss of mother, Sara Hodges

Ron MacPhee – loss of sister, Linda Clark

Spicer Family (former Conejo members) – loss of Ken

David Gibson – loss of wife, Pat Gibson

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

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

Rachel Miner – loss of mother, Shera Miner

Joe Cocke – loss of wife, Kathy

Joy Rhoades – loss of sister, Lani Shearn

FIGHTING CANCER

Caitlin Scarberry (daughter of Mark and Suzanne) – in coma following removal of brain tumor and severe brain trauma

Muriel Meador (sister of Judy Tapper) – cancer is spreading and requires stronger treatment; please pray that it will work

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

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

Luke McAllister (former member) – COVID-19

Lindy Spicer (former member) – grieving death of husband, Ken

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

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

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

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

October 10 Attendance	
On-Site Service	90
Online Viewing	

October 10 Giving	$12,823
Weekly Giving Average	$13,354
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,613,247
Property Settlement	$225,000

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