CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

Febuary 13, 2022

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for 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
10:15am	Worship Service On-Site and via YouTube
3:30pm	MS Pod

Upcoming Events

Feb 14	Women's Bible Study
Feb 15	Tuesday Guys' Group
Feb 16	HS Pod
Feb 16	Hungry / Thirsty Group
Feb 17	Conejo Tutoring
Feb 17	Fosters' Life Group
Feb 27	Bowls of Hope Outreach Project
Mar 5	Baby Shower for Jodi Davis
Mar 6	Start of 40-Day Spiritual Adventure
Mar 11-13	HS Winter Retreat

Birthdays This Week

Claudia de Bruyn	2/14
Troy Odenath	2/16
Christian Socquet	2/16
Drew Hurley	2/17
Al Harrington	2/17
Andy Caldwell	2/17
Noah Socquet	2/18
Reese Odenath	2/20

On Becoming Receivable

By Andy Wall

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."
– Jesus, Matthew 10:40

You may have heard about a big game today between the Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals. As an LA guy, I'm pulling for our local team to win Super Bowl LVI. I'm hoping that the Rams defense has a great day behind all-stars Aaron Donald and Von Miller. And I'm hoping that the Rams offense can light up the scoreboard with quarterback, Matthew Stafford, connecting with star receivers, Odell Beckham Jr., Cooper Kupp, and others. Though I admit it's a stretch, my theme for today's article concerns receivers and receiving. But not the kind of receivers who play in the Super Bowl.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out twelve disciples on a short-term mission trip to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They are instructed to proclaim the good news of the kingdom, cure the sick, and cast out demons. Jesus warns the disciples that they will not receive a warm welcome from everyone and concludes his instructions with a reminder: "Whoever receives you receives me."

I have always understood this verse as a word of comfort to Christians who seek to bear witness in a sometimes hostile world. But recently, I've been challenged to reflect more deeply on this verse. In his book *Love Kindness: Discover the Power of a Forgotten Christian Virtue*, Barry Corey shares about his missionary father, Hugh. Hugh had a unique strategy for communicating the message of God's grace through Jesus. He called it "being receivable," and it was based on Jesus' words in Matthew 10:40.

To Hugh Corey, this meant that in everything he did, he sought to make himself receivable to those God placed in his life. Hugh asked his son, "Barry, if the lives God intersects with mine don't have the opportunity to receive me, how will they ever know the love God has for them?" Hugh Corey's insight was that living a life of kindness was the best way to be receivable. He saw Jesus' words in Matthew 10:40 as an invitation to remove the obstacles that keep others from seeing Jesus within us.

What might "being receivable" look like for us? Dropping defensive and combative postures and practicing listening and civility. Showing kindness and being respectful toward ideological rivals. Not expecting a "thank you" or a commendation for showing kindness. Entering a room, not with the attitude of "Here I am!" but rather of "There you are!" May God grant that we grow in the grace of being receivable, for the sake of God's kingdom reign.

What's Happening At Conejo

Today's Sermon: Firm Center, Soft Edges

In every generation, God's people must navigate through a variety of faith tensions. Wisdom is required to discern what season we are in and what response is most appropriate. Whenever we go through such seasons of discernment, we must give our deepest attention to the central, weighty, and foundational teachings of Scripture. As we focus on what Biblical authors highlight as central, our sermon today is titled "Firm Center, Soft Edges." Taking such an approach means we seek to operate out of a firm commitment to our core faith convictions in a way that is gracious and kind, especially toward those with whom we don't see eye to eye.

Adult Bible Classes

Live Sunday morning Bible classes meet each week at 9am.

Our Growing Families class, primarily for our families with children living at home, has resumed this quarter. This class meets on the front porch area and includes coffee.

Our auditorium class is exploring the Letter to the Hebrews this spring in a series of classes titled "Encouragement for a Weary Church." Hebrews emphasizes at least two central themes: the superiority the primacy of Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God and the importance of faithful perseverance through challenging times. This Sunday, Chris Heard will be leading our discussion of the message of Hebrews 2 in a class titled "Nurturing Our Salvation." Our schedule for the next four weeks is as follows:

Feb 20. Every Day is a New Today (3:1-19)
Feb 27. Working for the Weekend--the Sabbath-Rest (4:1-13)
March 6. A High Priest Who is Weak Like Us (4:14-5:10)
March 13. Time to Grow Up (5:11-6:12)

Elder Selection Process

Recently, our elders announced the start of our 2022 elder selection process. We are inviting all Conejo Church members to submit their nominations for prospective new elders between now and **February 19**. You can do so either by:

1. Submiting your nominations via the following email: cvccnominations@gmail.com. Each member should use their personal email address.
2. Pick up a hard copy of the nomination form at the church building, and return it to the locked nominations box in the foyer. Please be sure to print your name and provide your signature on your nominations ballot. You must include your printed name and signature in order for your nominations to be counted.

Meeting and Masking

Until the mask mandate is removed by the state of California and Ventura County, we expect everyone to wear a mask while indoors, regardless of your vaccination status. Please do this for the well-being of others. We will have a small supply of disposable masks available.

Potluck and Singing / February 26

Our next Potluck and Singing is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, beginning at 5pm. It will be at the home of Jeremy and Amber Johnson. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share and be ready to enjoy a time of fellowship and singing outdoors.

Bowls of Hope / February 27

We are glad to announce that our 2nd Bowls of Hope Painting Party to support Many Mansions has been rescheduled. We will meet at the church building on Sunday, February 27 at 3pm. Each person will paint a bowl that will be glazed, fired, and displayed at their largest fundraising event. There is a $20 tax-deductible fee per bowl to cover expenses. We need a minimum of 10 people to paint a bowl, but we can have up to 30. This is a great opportunity to connect with friends and to use your creativity to be a blessing for others.

If you can join us, click here to RSVP. Contact Stu Warford at stu@conejochurch.org or Kellie Van Atta at vanattakellie@gmail.com with any questions.

Baby Shower Par-Tea / March 5

Matt and Jodi Davis are expecting a baby girl soon! Ladies, we would love for you to come and enjoy an outdoor celebration of the new baby on the way. The Baby Shower Tea Party will be at the home of Joy Rhoades on Saturday, March 5, at 2 pm. Joy's address is 6035 Kerrmoor Drive, Westlake Village. Please contact Carrie Wall at (805) 331-0178 before **February 20** if you would like to contribute to the group gift. Jodi is registered at Babylist.com. Please click here to see her list.

Member Access to Website Directory

If you are a CVCC member and need assistance accessing the password-protected area of our website, please contact Rene Heard at reneheard@sbcglobal.net for instructions on how to set up your password and receive access.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

Throughout the month of February, YG pods will be studying a series called "Justice For All." This is a 4-week series on the story of Joseph. Click here to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme. Let's make 2022 a year in which we commit to gathering together to encourage one another in our faith journeys.

Summer Mexico Mission Trip RSVP Deadline

This summer, we're heading back down to Mexico to build a home for a family in need! The mission-trip dates are Sunday, June 26 - Friday, July 1. This trip is for students who are currently in 8th grade through 12th grade. The RSVP deadline to join the mission team is Sunday, **February 27**. Don't miss out on this powerful trip!

High School Winter Retreat / March 11-13

High schoolers, mark your calendars for a winter retreat in Big Bear the weekend of March 11-13. We all feel the need to hide sometimes. Whether it's because of some acne, a bad haircut, or an embarrassing fall down the stairs in front of your friends, sometimes you just don't want to be seen for awhile. But, other times, we want to hide because we're afraid to be honest about who we really are or what we really believe. When we transform in order to fit in, sometimes that means we choose to hide or minimize our faith in Jesus except when it feels safe to follow him openly. On this retreat, we'll see how Jesus calls us not to hide in plain sight but to, instead, be like salt and light. If we're going to follow Jesus in plain sight, we're invited to **stop hiding** and instead **be unashamed** and **decide to shine**. The cost is $90 per person.

Chaperones are needed for this trip. If you would like to help out, please talk to Travis.

Middle School Madness / March 18

Middle schoolers mark your calendars for Friday, March 18th! That night will be a night of games, scavenger hunts, crazy (and safe) challenges, and prizes! Invite your friends and join us for a great night of adventure!

Children's Ministry

Spring 2022 Memory Verse

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works
which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Valentine's for Seniors Outreach

Thank you Conejo children for making such beautiful and encouraging Valentines for seniors in our community! Your love for others is shining in each and every card!

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: **Elaine Overton** (March), **Jodi Davis** (April), **Lauren Kliest-Blankfein** (July)

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

NEW MEMBERS: **Daniel, Elaine, Eleanor,** and **Harriet Overton**

THOSE GRIEVING

Melissa and Zachary Hearn (sister-in-law and nephew of Chris Heard) – loss of father, Ross Anderson

Eric Short and Erin Opdahl – loss of father, Sam Short

Christian Socquet – loss of father, Johnny Cowan

Phil Daringer – loss of mother, Joyce Daringer

Charee Landis – loss of step-dad, Mario Pacifici

Judy Tapper – loss of sister, Muriel Meador

Lisa Scott – loss of cousin, Margi Dalmas

Lauren Kliest-Blankfein – loss of grandmother, Marylee Illiff

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin; loss of Mark's brother, Dan

Sue Ann Meador - loss of father, Joe Burroughs

Darlene Rivas – loss of mother, Sara Hodges

Jacqueline Dillion – loss of father, Roger Dillion

Joe Cocke – loss of wife, Kathy

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – recovering from recent surgery to remove cancer from liver

Patricia Sparks (sister-in-law of Shannon Latson) – prayers for her as she begins a new round of a different type of chemo

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

Ted McAllister (former member) – test results showing 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

Elder nomination and affirmation process – congregational wisdom and discernment from the Spirit

Children's Ministry 2022 – smooth transition for children, location of wonderful candidates, smooth transition of Penny into next chapter

Shirley Pacifici (mother of Charee Landis) -- as she grieves the loss of her husband, Mario

Kendra Davis (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – recovering from recent surgery; undergoing additional tests

Michelle Grant (daughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – at week 33 of pregnancy; has experienced some problems during pregnancy

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

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) – dealing with anxiety and confusion in memory care unit

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

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

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

February 6 Attendance	
On-Site Service	115
Online Viewing	260

February 6 Giving	$10,942
Weekly Giving Average	$15,439
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,626,492
Property Settlement	$225,000

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