

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

September 11, 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
- 10:15am On-Site Worship Service
- 10:15am Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 12:00pm Fall Kickoff Habit Truck Lunch
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:30pm MS Pod
- 5:30pm Kindergarten Blessing
- 6:30pm HS Pod

### Upcoming Events

- Sept 12 Women's Bible Study Potluck
- Sept 12 Monday Guys' Group
- Sept 16 Moms Better Together
- Sept 16-18 HS Pismo Retreat
- Sept 17 Hiking Ministry
- Sept 21 Flourishing Families
- Sept 25 Many Mansions Tour
- Sept 25 Men's Cornhole Tourney
- Sept 28 Hungry-Thirsty Group

### Birthdays This Week

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Shannon Latson   | 9/11 |
| Cassie Horton    | 9/12 |
| Callan Blankfein | 9/18 |

### Welcome and Response

Please contact the ministers or elders if there are ways that they can pray for you or those you love.

### Lifeboat Fourteen

By Andy Wall

On April 15, 1912, the ship Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and began taking on water. Passengers were loaded into lifeboats and the lifeboats were lowered into the icy waters. Of the twenty lifeboats lowered into the water, most of them were less than half full and had room for more people. Despite numerous cries for help, those in the lifeboats were afraid to return lest their boats be swamped. Resisting the cries for help, the boats rowed away from nearly 1,500 people floating in the water. In Lifeboat Fourteen, Fifth Officer Harold Lowe thought and acted differently. He transferred many of his passengers to other lifeboats and returned to the sinking ship to pick up more survivors.

The grand story of Scripture tells of a God who relentlessly seeks us out, calling humanity to Himself, inviting all peoples into covenant relationship. The New Testament gospels recount how God came to earth as a human, Jesus the Messiah, to continue this tireless pursuit of humanity. This Jesus was crucified as a sacrifice for human sin and was raised again on the third day by God's power. Jesus then commissioned His followers to be about the business of serving others and bearing witness to God's eternal purposes of reconciliation.

Today we begin our fall sermon series, "Let's Go! – Adventuring Through Acts," which will explore great themes from the book of Acts. Under the powerful guidance of God's Holy Spirit, the cast of characters in Acts draws together as the Church and begins a Lifeboat Fourteen ministry, pulling drowning people out of the frigid waters of idolatry and emptiness and caring for the physical and spiritual needs of others.

***The picture of ministry that emerges from the pages of Acts is a compelling one for the Church of today, particularly as we come out of the disruptive season of COVID-19. It is a Lifeboat Fourteen ministry, calling us, like Fifth Officer Harold Lowe, to look beyond the safety and warmth of our lifeboats, into the cold, gray ocean swells in which countless people struggle for life, purpose, and hope. Lifeboat Fourteen is a fitting metaphor for the externally-focused ministry to which the Holy Spirit would guide us. May our study of Acts provoke us and energize us for just such lives of service and witness to others.***

# What's Happening At Conejo



## Sermon Series: Let's Go! - Adventuring Through Acts

The book of Acts chronicles the exciting spread of the early church following Jesus' ascension. Empowered and mobilized by the Spirit's guiding presence, these early Christians spread the message of Jesus among Jewish people and then among Gentiles. Acts narrates select high points of the earliest years of the Christian movement, along with stories of its key leaders and the challenges they faced. In a nutshell, Luke narrates God's ongoing work in the world to gather humankind as one family in Christ Jesus. The story of Acts will be our preaching focus for this fall and serve as our invitation to enter a fresh and energetic season of ministry in the Conejo Valley and beyond.

### Welcome to our Visitors!

We are so glad to have people visit with us from time to time. Whether you are new to the area due to a job or academic pursuit, or have just decided to visit this congregation today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning with you singing praises, sharing in community, and receiving encouragement and challenges from God's word as we seek to love and follow him better each day. We hope that you will linger after services and let us get to know you better. If you are willing, please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Please drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that tidbit of information will help us be able to share with you more easily about the upcoming events and ministry of this church. Each weekend, the church sends out communication via email with the electronic version of the Family News to members, as well as to those interested in learning more about our congregation, to help everyone be aware of the events for the upcoming weekend.

### Fall Kickoff Sunday

This Sunday is our annual Fall Kickoff Sunday, in which we'll highlight various fall ministries, Bible classes, and small groups. We plan to meet for Bible classes at 9am as usual and worship together from 10:15-11:45. We're excited to be joined by the praise team following their summer hiatus! Following our worship time together, we'll share a meal in the church building, courtesy of the Habit truck.

### Fall Adult Bible Classes

This fall, our auditorium class will explore "The Spirit Shaped Life," a scripture-based class about our life in the Holy Spirit that will include discussions and occasional experiential practices. This 11-week class will fall into two parts, with the first half exploring how we manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our lives and the second half focusing on how the gifts of the Spirit impact our community.

Our class in the north overflow room begins with a five-week video series based on Romans 8 featuring Mark Batterson. The series is titled "If" and highlights lives without regrets. God wants us to live with the "what if" attitude that looks confidently to the future because the answer to the question, "If God is with us, who can be against us?" is "No one." God is always on our side.

### Sunday Afternoon Hoops

**What:** Outdoor basketball  
**When:** Sunday afternoons at 2pm  
**Where:** Three Springs Park, 3000 Three Springs Drive, WLV  
**Who:** Anyone who likes to hoop  
**Contact:** Bill Foster at (757) 272-2653

### Fall Small Groups

Our small group fall program is launching over the next several weeks with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond. 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 a detailed listing of our small group ministries.

### Women's Bible Study Potluck / September 12

The Women's Bible Study will resume Monday, September 12, at 6:30pm with an outdoor potluck at the home of Lynn Burke, 415 Pacific Circle in Newbury Park. We will determine the specifics for our study that night. Please join us for a time of prayer and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

### Moms Better Together / September 16

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of a new ministry at Conejo. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, September 16 from 5:45-7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Please [click here](#) to sign up for the event. Since we will share a meal, we need to know how many are coming.

### Hiking Trails Ministry / September 17

The Conejo Hiking Trails Ministry hikes once a month in the Ventura County area. Hikers of all levels are welcome. The focus is fun, faith, fitness, friendship, and fellowship while enjoying the beautiful gifts that God has given us in the wilderness areas that surround us. We look forward to exploring Ventura County trails and parks with others in our church and in our community. For more information please contact Lynn at (805) 273-4565, or Jon at (805) 284-1111. See you on the trail!

### Many Mansions Tour / September 25

On Sunday, September 25, following our worship time together, Stu Warford will help lead a tour of the Many Mansions Hillcrest Villas and possibly one or two of the other Many Mansions properties in the area. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about our neighbors and how we can better be a blessing for people who live in the neighborhood.

### Men's Cornhole Tourney / September 25

Join CVCC guys at the building on Sunday, September 25, from 3-6pm for a cornhole tournament and time of fellowship.

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Class



Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly bible class times together at 9am. [Click here](#) to learn more about this month's theme.

A separate middle school pod is held on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-5pm at the church building. Stay tuned for an update on when the high school group will begin meeting and where.

## Youth Group Events Calendar

There are many opportunities for our teens to grow in their faith and in their friendships with one another. Please [click here](#) to see the Fall 2022 calendar of events.

## High School Pismo Retreat / September 16-18



On the weekend of September 16-18, the high school group will head out on their annual Pismo Beach retreat. The theme of the weekend is "Frequency."

**God is constantly communicating with us.**

In a world full of noise and distraction, it's easy to miss what God is saying. Sometimes, he speaks in predictable ways. Other times, God uses the unexpected to get his message across. God is speaking to all people and he's calling us to a lifelong adventure. Followers of Jesus are in the process of learning

how to sort through the myriad of messages and distractions in life and tune into hearing God's voice. This is no easy task and comes with the temptation of putting words into God's mouth that we want to hear. When God speaks, he calls. Are you willing to listen to what he says and let him change your life? The cost to attend the retreat is \$90 per person. This offsets housing, transportation, and food costs for the weekend. **RSVP to Travis no later than Sunday, September 11.**

## Family & Friends Event - K1 Speed Go Kart Racing

Mark your calendars for Friday night, September 30! We are heading to K1 Speed in Thousand Oaks for some indoor kart racing. The cost is \$80 per person for 3 races (36 laps) and dinner, but if you invite a friend/family from outside of Conejo it is free for you and the friends you invite. Riders have to be 48 inches tall to race. There will be races for kids and races for adult riders. This event is for families at Conejo with kids.

## Youth Group Mentor Groups

As a supplement to the normal youth ministry programming, we have mentor groups that our kids are involved in. These groups are an opportunity for our kids to develop relationships with older members (apart from their parents), who are following Christ. The groups also encourage deeper relationships and provide support throughout the school year. During the school year, these groups meet once a month to check in, and often meet at other times for fun activity together! Each group decides when the best time to meet will be. They will begin meeting this month. Talk to Travis about getting your child plugged in if they aren't already.

# Children's Ministry

## Sign In Please!

Parents, please be sure to sign in your kiddos for Bible class and worship time. This will help Haylie be able to best prepare for future classes. The sign-in pages are on green paper and are placed on a table in the entry way which leads to the Children's Ministry area.

## Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9:00-10:00am

2's/3's - Leslie, Sarah

4's-5th grade - Paula, Patti

## Children's Worship

Opportunities are available for children during our sermon time, including a new nursery class for our littlest members:

**Nursery:** Katie C. with teen helper Olivia A.

**2's/3's:** Tami W., Shaya B.

**4's-5th:** Dwayne H., Mark D., Amber J. with teen helper Kiley H.

## Rattlesnake Awareness

Just a reminder to our parents and children. During the warm weather there are snakes on the property from time to time.

The playground will be checked prior to children going onto it each week. **Parents, please be sure that children stay out of the flowerbeds and plant areas between the upper and lower parking lots.**

## Kindergarten Blessing / September 11

Our Kindergarten Blessing Celebration will be held September 11 at 5:30pm at the church building. We will have a time of celebration for this wonderful beginning with



a potluck dinner followed by a family blessing time as well as a blessing from our church community. Additional CVCC members are invited to attend to support and encourage as well. We ask that all who plan to attend RSVP to Haylie Douglas at [haylie@conejochurch.org](mailto:haylie@conejochurch.org) or text her at (979) 676-1529.

# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**PREGNANCY: Sonia Smithers** (September)

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Jim and Susie Lindley** – loss of sister-in-law, Jan Randolph; prayers appreciated for Bob, Jan's husband, and Margaret, their daughter

**Shannon Latson** – loss of sister-in-law, Patricia Sparks Feet

**Tim Willis** – loss of mother, Evelyn Willis

**Jim White** – loss of father, Donovan White

**Maureen Thomas** – loss of mother, Barbara Lewis

**Tim Rockey** – loss of father, Steve Rockey

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

**Christian Socquet** – loss of father, Johnny Cowan

**Phil Daringer** – loss of mother, Joyce Daringer

**Judy Tapper** – loss of sister, Muriel Meador

**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

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Joella Michael** – worsening of cancer in liver; prayers for finding effective clinical trial quickly

**Cecilio Rivera** (father of Jose Rivera) – battling Stage 3 lung cancer and prostate cancer

**Lucia Campbell** (mother of Guy Patenaude) – recovering from surgery for uterine cancer and follow-up surgery for infection; currently home recuperating

**Ted McAllister** (former member) – CAR T treatment not as effective as hoped; exploring treatment options

**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

**Carina Grant** (infant granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – recent hip surgery; will be in a Spica cast for 3 months. Prayers

for Carina's health and comfort, and for parents' and grandparents' peace and stamina as they care for her  
**Firefighters, Linemen, and all who work outside** – during these periods of extreme heat

**Linda Rice (mother of Char Hurley)** – recently placed on hospice with inoperable right ventricular aneurysm

**Barbara Schlosser** – recovery from a serious illness

**Jed Martin** (cousin of Haylie Douglas) – Recovering from pectus excavatum repair surgery

**JoAnna White** (mother of Jim White) – recovery from broken hip from recent fall

**Jonathan Meador** (brother of Judy Tapper) – having variety of health issues

**Sonia Smithers** – safety for friends and family who reside in Ukraine

**Pat Tudor** – tolerating immunotherapy

**Martha Condley** (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

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

**Marilyn Aurand** – physical therapy for spinal stenosis and to improve mobility; recovery from numerous infections

**Mary Zollman** (friend of Lisa

Scott) – multiple sclerosis

**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** – retiring from mission work in Albania; prayers for his transition to life stateside

**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

September 4 Attendance	
On-Site Service	112
Online Viewing	89

September 4 Giving	
	\$ 11,293
Weekly Giving Average	\$ 15,005
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14.116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,635,795
Property Settlement	\$225,000

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