CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 18, 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
2:00pm	Sunday Afternoon Hoops
3:30pm	MS Pod
6:00pm	HS Pod

Upcoming Events

Sept 19	Women's Bible Study
Sept 19	Monday Guys' Group
Sept 21	Flourishing Families
Sept 25	Many Mansions Tour
Sept 25	Men's Cornhole Tourney
Sept 25	Crafty Women
Sept 28	Hungry-Thirsty Group
Sept 30	Family & Friends Outreach

Birthdays This Week

Callan Blankfein	9/18
Ausome Harrington	9/18
Cindy Stephens	9/19
Amber Johnson	9/20
Taylor Wooton	9/21
Bill Foster	9/22
Travis Moore	9/22
Darlene Rivas	9/22
Daphne Green	9/24
Sonia Smithers	9/25

Called to Community

By Andy Wall

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."
– African proverb

Lasting relationships require hard work. Anyone who's sustained a friendship for more than a year or two knows this. So does anyone who's been married for any length of time. I will sometimes say to Carrie, only half in jest, that "It's a minor miracle that any two people can consent to love each other and stick with each other for a lifetime!" This is why I believe it's a major miracle when an entire community of Christians can consent to love each other and stick with each other for years on end.

If being a healthy Christian community was easy, everyone would be doing it. But as Eugene Peterson has noted, "Church is composed of equal parts mystery and mess." We sometimes erroneously believe that the "early Church" represented some golden or pristine era of the church. But have you read the New Testament? Go check out Mark 10, or Acts 5, or 1 Corinthians 5, or Galatians 1, or Philippians 4, and you'll be reminded that the first century followers of Jesus had the same human struggles with sin, pride, immorality, tribalism, and self-centeredness that we do. Living out the Christian faith in an intentional and shared community has never been easy.

But if we want to grow in Christlikeness, so that our lives reflect Jesus' character and goodness, the way to spiritual maturity is through community. There simply is no other way. Even monastic communities are, well, communities! Why is this? Here are three of many reasons: First, we were created for community. God called Israel to be his treasured possession for the sake of the world. Jesus gathered his disciples to preach the good news of his kingdom reign. The Holy Spirit empowered the earliest churches to go into all the world. Our human communities echo the eternal community of love that is present in God the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Second, without community, our commitment fades. Saint John of the Cross observed that "the virtuous soul that is alone… is like the burning coal that is alone. It will grow colder rather than hotter." Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that we need each other "because the Christ in my heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of my brother."

Third, to thrive in community, we must acquire the virtues that make this possible. By joining oneself to a community, one of necessity must learn better to share, to give way, to consider the needs of others, to practice good manners, and to speak the truth in love. In other words, God's curriculum for becoming more generous, grace-filled, forgiving, and righteous includes the hard work required to sustain shared community. Without the joys and frustrations of living in community, we cannot hope to practice and hone the virtues of Christlikeness.

We are called to be a robust community of faith. Some aspects of community are easy and fun. Others are challenging and difficult. But I'm convinced that the best way for us to grow in the image of Christ is on the bumpy, exhilarating, up-and-down road that we call "community."

What's Happening At Conejo

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

Today's sermon in our Acts series deals with a foundational text for the Christian Church. Whole theologies and entire denominations can trace their origins to these verses conveying the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost. Within the Churches of Christ, Acts 2:38 (among other like passages) has molded our understanding and practice of baptism as a response to the message of Jesus.

Acts 2 narrates the drama and wonder of God's outpouring of the Spirit (in fulfillment of Joel's ancient prophecy), Peter's sermon bearing witness to Jesus' resurrection, the response of Jewish pilgrims from all over, and what the fledgling church did to build up and sustain faith after the excitement was over.

Welcome to our Guests!

We are so glad to have people visit with us from time to time. Whether you are new to the area or have just decided to visit this congregation today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning worshiping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that information enables us to share with you about the upcoming events and ministry of this church. At the end of each week, the church sends out an email with the electronic version of the Family News to all CVCC members. We are happy to share this electronic bulletin with our guests as well.

Women's Bible Study Potluck / September 12

The Women's Bible Study will meet at 7pm via Zoom and will be studying Acts 1. Please join us for a time of prayer, study, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome! Zoom Meeting Link.

First Fruits Limited Due to Drought

The First Fruits group will not meet during the severe drought. Once watering regulations are lifted, Stu and Co plan to resume meetings. They will monitor the First Fruits Facebook Group page for gardening conversations during the drought .

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 other Many Mansions properties in the area. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about how we can better be a blessing among our neighbors.

Crafty Women / September 25

Ladies, please join us next Sunday from 1-7pm at the church building for a day of making progress on your crafts and deepening friendships with your sisters.

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. RSVP to David Rhoades, (805) 231-8670 by Friday, September 23.

Fall Adult Bible Classes

Our fall adult Bible classes have begun. Our auditorium class is exploring "The Spirit Shaped Life," a scripture-based class about our life in the Holy Spirit that will include discussions and occasional experiential practices. This 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. Today, Jack Williamson is introducing the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

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 living 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. Bill Foster will lead the discussion.

Fall Kickoff Sunday

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 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.

Weekly

Sunday Afternoon Hoops	Sundays 2pm
Middle School Pod	Sundays 3:30-5pm
High School Pod	Sundays 6-7:30pm
Women's Bible Study	Mondays 7-8:30pm
Monday Guys' Group	Mondays 7-8:30pm
Flourishing Families	Wednesdays 6:15-7:30pm
Hungry / Thirsty	Wednesdays 6:45-8:pm
Conejo Tutoring	Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm
Life Group at Fosters'	Thursdays 7-8:30pm
Saturday Guys' Golf Outing	Saturdays early am

Monthly

Crafty Women	Sunday TBA 1-7pm
Fifth Commandment	Fourth Tuesday 7-8:30pm
Moms Better Together	Third Friday 5:45-7:45pm
Hiking Trails Ministry	Third Saturday time varies

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The combined group (middle and high school) gathers at 9am each Sunday.

Then, separate pods meet at the church building on Sunday afternoons—the middle school pod meets from 3:30-5pm; the high school pod meets from 6-7:30pm. Click here to learn more about this month's theme.

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

This weekend, the high school group spent some extended time in beautiful Pismo Beach honoring God's presence, building relationships, having fun with each other, and learning about being open to the messages that God has in store for us. In a world full of noise and distraction, like static on a radio, it's easy to miss what God is trying to say to us and the life He wants us to lean into. As people come to know Jesus and learn to follow Him, we are all in the process of sorting through the myriad of messages and distractions in life. It is our prayer that our kids will learn to be more open to seeing and hearing from God throughout their daily lives. It is our prayer they will notice His presence and blessing in their conversations with people, in the moments when it seems all is lost, and in the ordinary everyday meanderings of life. God is present, and we can learn to broaden our "frequency" so that we can see and know Him better!

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 a guaranteed 2 races (24 laps) and dinner, but if you invite a friend/family from outside of Conejo it is $10 per person to attend. 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 Raquel D.
2's/3's: Tami W., Shaya B. with teens Audrey C. and Josh M.
4's-5th: Dwayne H., Mark D., Amber J.

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

Thank you to everyone who attended our Kindergarten Blessing. We had a wonderful time showering Eleanor and Freya with love as they start the new adventure of Kindergarten! Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they adjust to this fun new phase of life.

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, Donovon 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

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – worsening of cancer in liver; prayers to find 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) – beginning a new treatment at City of Hope; prayers for effectiveness

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

Cathy Kiel (sister of Connie Horton) – recovering from emergency brain surgery

Judy Long (mother of Loree Hunnicutt) – receiving hospice care; in end stage heart failure

Andy Long (father of Loree Hunnicutt) – dealing with tremendous stress as he cares for Judy

Carina Grant (infant granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – recent hip surgery; in a Spica cast for 3 months. Prayers for Carina's health and comfort, and for her family's peace and stamina

Healing, peace, and **justice** in our nation and communities

For **moderate rain** throughout the fall to give **relief from drought**

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) – 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 11 Attendance	
On-Site Service	157
Online Viewing	76

September 11 Giving	$ 9,005
Weekly Giving Average	$ 14,843
Weekly Giving Budget	$14.116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,635,881
Property Settlement	$225,000

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