



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 9, 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
- 6:00pm Tacofest Mission Fundraiser

Upcoming Events

- Oct 10 Women's Bible Study
- Oct 10 Guys' Group Begins
- Oct 12 Flourishing Families
- Oct 12 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Oct 13 Life Group at the Fosters
- Oct 15 Family / Friends Outreach
- Oct 16 Crafty Women
- Oct 21 Moms Better Together
- Oct 22 Hiking Ministry
- Oct 29 Trunk or Treat

Birthdays This Week

Nick Odenath	10/10
Phil Daringer	10/11
Rene Heard	10/11
Sabrina Socquet	10/11
James Stephens	10/11
Sebastian Calderon	10/13
Joel Hurley	10/14
John Katch	10/14
Cheryl Argano	10/16
Lisa Scott	10/16

Soul Nudges

[**Editor's note:** The following piece, by occasional columnist Heather Burke Cody of north Georgia, invites us to pay attention to "soul nudges," which I might call nudges of the Spirit. It has been edited for length.]

I was thrift shopping for dorm stuff. The cashier appeared to be one of the most unhappy people ever. I was six people deep in the line and it seemed like she got more and more exasperated with each passing customer. She was especially incensed when one of my unmarked items needed a price check. It sent this poor woman toppling right over the edge and I bore the brunt of her fall.

But as she rang up my items, I felt a little tingle in my spirit. A soul nudge. I tried to bargain with Jesus and told him that the extra little bit of cash in the back side of my wallet was not meant for her. It surely should go to someone sweeter and kinder, more deserving, or at least appreciative maybe. Not someone downright mean and angry.

But God did not budge. Nor did the tingle. So I paid my bill and reluctantly found the backside of my wallet. I slipped her some cash as she handed me my receipt.

She was caught off-guard by the gesture. She gripped the folded bill with one hand and paused. Then slid her mask down with the other hand. Her loud, stern voice got quiet when she whispered a single word: "Why?" To which I answered two words back: "Soul nudge."

There was another pause. A brief reckoning of sorts. When she grabbed my hand and held on, I was the one caught off-guard. "Today's my 75th birthday and ain't nobody called me. Not my sister. Not none of my kids. None these people here. Nobody. Nothing. I don't think I can remember ever being so sad. Ain't nobody even remember it's my birthday."

She bit her bottom lip when her eyes threatened to leak. And I noticed a deep hurt and sweet humility under the figurative and physical mask she wore underneath her chin.

The birthday news had made its way beside me and two more customers connected. Talk is cheap and words seem too few—until they aren't. There was a small chorus of chirping happy birthdays. She just stood there, patting her heart and taking it all in. The words penetrated. Anger dissipated. Hope manifested.

We just never know what someone else may be navigating or battling. Things are not always as they seem. We are living in an upside down world right now. We may be tempted to return hatefulness with hate. To retaliate. To alienate. To trade out judgment for grace. But there's a better way.

I thought I needed dorm stuff today. Turns out I needed reminding—maybe you do too? Let's be slow to judge. And quick to obey. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead the way.

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: Let's Go! Adventuring Through Acts

Today's sermon text in Acts 9 tells the story of Saul's dramatic conversion and God's gracious call to ministry. Luke carefully shows that Saul was an avid enemy of the church before he "saw the light." Paul's conversion involved a journey from violent religious zealot to passionate missionary for Christ.

This well-known story prompts reflection about conversion. Is conversion a sudden, overwhelming moment of spiritual insight that results in a total life transformation? Is it a gradual, day by day journey, by which God remakes us in the image of Christ? Acts 9 is an example of sudden conversion, but this story is not intended to prescribe the experience of every believer. Consider, for example, those who are nurtured and raised in the faith. Regardless of how we come to faith, conversion involves an encounter with a gracious and loving Savior who does not wait for us to come find Him but pursues us along our journeys.

Welcome to Conejo!

We're delighted to welcome Rodney Smithers to the Conejo Church family. We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with you! Rodney's contact information is:

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Fall Adult Bible Classes

Our auditorium class is exploring "The Spirit Shaped Life," a scripture-based class about our life in the Holy Spirit. 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, Christopher Chesnutt will be teaching on faithfulness and joy, two of the fruits of the Spirit.

Our class in the north overflow room is currently a 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. God is always on our side. Bill Foster leads this class.

Fall Small Groups

Our small group fall program has launched with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond. Please [click here](#) for a detailed description of our current small groups. This week's topics for discussion include:

- 10/10 Women's Bible Study Acts 3
- 10/10 Guy's Group Ch. 1 John Ortberg book
- 10/12 Flourishing Families Faith Formation
- 10/12 Hungry/Thirsty Group Read Daniel 7; watch [link](#)
- 10/13 Conejo Tutoring Encouraging help for kids!
- 10/13 Foster Life Group "One At A Time," Discipleship Video series

Men's Bible Study / October 10

The Guys' Group meets each Monday from 6:30-8pm at the CVCC building. This fall, they plan to spend time reading and discussing John Ortberg's book, "If You Want To Walk On Water, You Have To Get Out of the Boat." For more information, please reach out to Bob P. or Mike R.

Conejo Elementary Tutoring / October 13

The Fall Tutoring Season has begun, and we are looking for both weekly volunteers and also substitute tutors.

Tutoring will take place in-person at Conejo Elementary School on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The fall season continues through Thursday, December 15.

Being a tutor means spending an hour of your time each week with first grade students, helping them with their reading, with math, or just playing games. This ministry takes place on the school campus in the students' classrooms, and tutors have access to a wealth of exciting educational tools and supplies. Please contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or you can email tutoringatconejo@gmail.com if you can serve as a tutor or substitute, or if you would like additional information.

Crafty Women / October 16

Next Sunday, CVCC women are invited to spend the afternoon together (1pm-6pm) working on their crafts or hobbies. Pack up your craft or hobby of choice and come make some headway toward completion of your creation while deepening friendships with other women from the congregation. Please let Rene Heard know (reneheard@sbcglobal.net) if you plan to come.



Moms Better Together / October 21

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, October 21 from 5:45-7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Please [click here](#) for this month's printable flyer for this event. Since we will share a meal, we need to know how many are coming. Please [click here](#) to sign up.



Hiking Ministry / October 22



The Conejo Hiking 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 areas that surround us. For more information please contact Lynn B. at (805) 273-4565, or Jon B. at (805) 284-1111. Please [click here](#) for this month's flyer. See you on the trail!

High School + Middle School

TACOFEST Mission Trip Fundraiser / 6pm Today!

Join us for TACOFEST today at 6pm. The youth group and their families will host our 3rd annual Tacofest! Taco 'bout awesome! A plethora of tacos will be present, along with plenty of chips & salsa, and ice cream and churros for dessert! Join us for a tasty event that raises money toward the 2023 summer house building mission trip to Mexico. Please [click here](#) to sign up for the food item that you will bring to make this event a success.



Youth Group Pods

Today there will be no pod meetings. YG members are invited to come to the building at 4:30pm to help set up for Tacofest. This is our first fundraiser for the 2023 trip to Mexico!

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.

Family & Friends Event—BOWLING

The next family & friends event is scheduled for Saturday, October 15. We have 10 lanes reserved at Harley's Simi Bowl from 5:30-7:30pm. The cost is \$24 per person which pays for 2 hours of bowling, shoes, and pizza/soda for dinner. If you bring a friend/family from outside of CVCC it is free for your family and those you invited. This event is for anyone at Conejo that wants to join. Please [click here](#) to sign up now!



IMPACT Middle School Retreat / Registration Open

Impact Retreat will be the weekend of November 4-6. This year's theme is "Be Real." Our deepest identity is found when we connect to God, our Creator. We are God's beloved, made in His image, and He meets each of us where we are in order to take us where He wants us to go. The most real version of ourselves is found in God. Rather than rooting ourselves in what others say about us, let's *Be Real* and lean into what God says about us and discover where He plans to take us. It's time to *Be Real*. The cost is \$105. Please [click here](#) to register today!



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 the sermon.

Nursery: Katie C. with teen helpers Audrey C. and Paxton V.A.

2's/3's: Shaya B., Amy M., Kari O., and Sarah G.

4's-5th: Mark D., Amber J. with teen helper Gwen

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.**

Save the Date! Trunk or Treat on October 29!

Trunk or Treat is back and it is going to look a little different this year! Each family/group that signs up to decorate their trunk will also run their own carnival-style game or activity. Start thinking about fun costumes and exciting games! We need a little help from our members as we prepare for the evening. First, if you are willing to decorate the trunk of your car and set up a fun carnival-type game, please [click here](#) for details and to sign up. In addition, we need to know who will be coming so that everyone can bring enough candy for the kids. So, please [click here](#) to list the number of children (birth through 5th grade) that you'll be bringing to enjoy this evening of fun.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

BIRTHS: **Luka William Smithers**, son of **Brian and Sonia Smithers**, was born on September 17

Brian and Molly Sanders (son and daughter-in-law of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) expecting a baby in April 2023

THOSE GRIEVING

Friends and Family of **Connor Budge** – Pepperdine student killed in a car accident

Sam Jackson – loss of mother, Maudie Brown

Brittany Joyner – loss of uncle, Robin Miller

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Mildred Eckstein

Jim and Susie Lindley – loss of sister-in-law, Jan Randolph; please pray for Jan's husband, Bob, and daughter, Margaret

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 Rocky – loss of father, Steve Rocky

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – worsening of cancer in liver; prayers to find effective clinical trial quickly

Cecilio Rivera (father of Jose Rivera) - battling Stage III lung cancer and prostate cancer

Lucia Campbell (mother of Guy Patenaude) – home recuperating from recent uterine cancer surgery

Ted McAllister (former member) – prayers that new treatment will be effective

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

Judy Tapper – recovering from intestinal surgery

John Aurand (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) – recovering from surgery for aortic aneurysm

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

Cathy Kiel (sister of Connie Horton) – recovering at home following brain surgery

Carina Grant (infant granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – in a Spica cast for 3 months following hip surgery; prayers for health, comfort, 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 periods of extreme heat

Linda Rice (mother of Char Hurley) – hospice; 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 in Ukraine

Pat Tudor – tolerating immunotherapy

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

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

October 2 Attendance	
On-Site Service	124
Online Viewing	82

October 2 Giving		\$15,011
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,570
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,636,979
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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