



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 30, 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 Middle School Pod
- 6:00pm High School Pod and Movie Night

## Upcoming Events

- Oct 31 Guys' Group @ Cafe Rio
- Nov 1 Fifth Commandment Group
- Nov 2 Flourishing Families
- Nov 2 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Nov 3 Life Group at Fosters
- Nov 3 Conejo Tutoring
- Nov 4-6 IMPACT Middle School Retreat
- Nov 6 Missions Committee Meeting
- Nov 18 Moms Better Together
- Nov 19 Hiking Ministry
- Nov 20 Armloads of Love

## Birthdays This Week

- |                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Brian Smithers  | 10/30 |
| Luke Walsh      | 10/30 |
| Holly Chambers  | 11/1  |
| Jolyn Hays      | 11/1  |
| Tim Willis      | 11/3  |
| Raquel Daringer | 11/5  |
| Eliza Erickson  | 11/6  |

## Stubborn Prayer

Andy Wall

There are few things that feel better than answered prayer. A crisis arises. An illness flares. A conflict erupts. You go to prayer, asking God to intervene, to heal, to restore. And in due course, the crisis is averted, the patient recovers, the conflict is resolved. You go to prayer once again, thanking God for hearing your concerns and providing a fitting resolution to the problem.

But if answered prayer feels good, what are we to make of what seems for all the world like unanswered prayer? When we ask and the job goes to someone else. When we intercede and the divorce happens anyway. When we pray and the patient doesn't make it.

To make matters more confusing, we find in Scripture a cluster of promises related to answered prayer. Here is a sampling: "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7). "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive" (Matthew 21:22). "If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it." (John 15:14). "So I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Many a sensitive soul through the years has asked me, "Was my prayer not answered because I'm not righteous enough?" "Did I not pray with enough faith?" I too, have been perplexed by unanswered prayers, especially when hundreds of people have prayed for the healing of a friend or the transformation of a family member, to no avail.

Let me offer several responses. First, I don't believe that any of the verses quoted above invite us to expect God to sign a blank check for anything and everything we pray for. God is not a vending machine and we are not entitled customers.

Second, as many of you have reminded me over the years, God can answer our prayers by saying "Yes," "No," or "Wait." Often, the most growing we do is when we persevere through a season of God's "Wait."

Third, the premise underlying the verses above is that God is a loving and caring Father and that we are his beloved children. But as any parent can tell you, just because you love your kids, doesn't mean you give them everything they ask you for. A wise parent may foresee many things that a child cannot.

Fourth, God sometimes does allow the suffering of those he loves. I don't fully understand why. But I also don't believe God causes the horrible suffering we see in the world; but I do see how God can work through suffering to form us into the grace-filled and compassionate people he desires us to be.

Fifth, we need to be more stubborn in our faith, both in terms of praying persistently and in terms of humbly trusting that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Jesus invited us to be persistent in prayer, perhaps most memorably through the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8).

***Finally, we should remember that Jesus prayed all night before choosing the Twelve and still got a Judas. He also prayed that the cup of suffering might pass from him, before submitting himself to the will of the Father. Prayer isn't primarily about getting what we desire, but about aligning our wishes with God's desires. May we stubbornly ask, seek, and knock at God's door, while always recognizing that God is God and we are not!***

# What's Happening At Conejo

## "Fall Back" / November 6

Please remember to set your clocks back one hour this coming Saturday, November 5. Daylight Savings Time ends in the early morning of Sunday, November 6.



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

Today's message in our ongoing series on the book of Acts, "The Curse of Success," will explore Acts 15 and the Jerusalem Council. The positive reception for the good news of Jesus among the Gentiles created a challenge for the Jewish Christian community. The new Gentile converts did not meet all the Jewish religious and cultural norms, and the Jerusalem church struggled with how Jewish someone had to become before they could be embraced as a Christian. The church leaders convened to wrestle with this issue.

This narrative is instructive for us in today's church. Luke illustrates that healthy discussion and debate is a necessary part of the process of discernment. In Acts 15, the church looked to scripture for illumination and guidance while at the same time discerning what God was doing among them through the Holy Spirit, providing a model of communal discernment for the church throughout history.

## 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, Andy Wall will be providing an overview of the Biblical teaching on the spiritual gifts.

Our class in the north overflow room is studying: "Work as Worship," a Bible Study, by J.D. Greear. This is a six-part Bible study that will challenge all of us to consider the reason God calls us to work. We have been called to work with excellence, integrity, and diligence, and our careers are opportunities to be on mission for Christ in the marketplace. God gives us great potential for impact on our families, churches, communities, and the world through the blessing of our work.

## 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.

## Conejo Elementary Tutoring

Our fall tutoring season takes place at the Conejo Elementary School on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm and will continue through December 15. If you have an hour each Thursday to help first grade students with their reading, with math, or just playing games, please contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or [tutoringatconejo@gmail.com](mailto:tutoringatconejo@gmail.com).

## Missions Committee

The Conejo Church Missions Committee has had a vital part in our congregational efforts to spread the message of Jesus here and abroad. Our current responsibilities include helping churches and missionaries financially and staying connected to them by encouraging and praying for them. Currently we are helping to support the Lord's work in Cambodia, City of Children in Mexico, Made in the Streets in Kenya, Metro Church in Panama City, and Teach Beyond (Megan Randolph), as well as national and local endeavors.

We meet monthly to discuss how our designated funds would best be used in meeting these goals. Our next meeting will be November 6 at 3pm. If you have a passion for missions and would be interested in joining us, we would welcome you! We are also looking for proposals for new national and international works for us to support. If you know of places abroad or nationally that you would be interested in seeing the church support, we would welcome your ideas. You can also refer to our website that includes a [Missions Scholarship Form](#) and a [Mission Support Form](#). Contact Mark Davis, Susan Pratt, Mike Rivas, Judy Tapper, or Andy Wall for more information.

## Missions Committee Update - Panama

Raul and Betty Alvarado are the missionaries that Conejo supports in Panama. The Alvarados work with the Metro Church and are in the process of building a church building for their worship services, classes, and fellowship. They are thankful that they have the funding that they need, but ask that we pray for them as they begin the process of obtaining construction permits so that they can begin construction once the rainy season is over in early December.

## Armloads of Love

As we approach Thanksgiving, we have a wonderful opportunity to provide holiday meals for families in need from the Conejo Elementary School. On Sunday, November 20, you're invited to bring various food goods to church with you. Please [click here](#) for a printable list of the food items we would like to provide; please [click here](#) to sign-up online for the specific items you can bring. Thank you for your willingness to take part in this tangible expression of gratitude to God for his many blessings.

## City of Children Visits



For many years the Conejo church has supported the City of Children, a home for kids without parents to care for them near Ensenada, Mexico. The City of Children will celebrate 50 years of service in 2023, and Conejo members are invited to attend the celebration at the home on January 15, 2023. To prepare for the event, Conejo members are helping to update the photo history wall in the Americano kitchen where all the visitors eat with the kids during group visits. Mark Davis will be visiting the home on November 18-20 and December 9-11 to work on this project. There will also be time to interact with the kids. For more information about the visits, please contact Mark at (310) 892-9986 or [mrkwdvs@gmail.com](mailto:mrkwdvs@gmail.com).

# 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.

## 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. Registration ends November 3; please [click here](#) to register today!

## 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 MOVIE NIGHT at Cinepolis Westlake

The next family & friends event is scheduled for Saturday, November 19. We have bought out a theater at Cinepolis Westlake for a showing of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The movie will start at 5pm. Guests will want to arrive at 4:15pm to get food and drink orders in. The cost is \$50 per person, which includes dinner, drinks, and the movie ticket. As usual, this event is free if you invite a friend or family from outside of Conejo. Please [click here](#) for a printable flyer to share with friends. Reserve your tickets now using this [Google sign-up form](#).



## EXTRAVAGODYSSEY 2022 / December 16

Friday night, December 16, the youth group will gather for an all-nighter of epic proportions! Other youth groups may join us for a fun night before the close of the year. More details will be coming soon. For now, please save the date!

# 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

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

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

4's-5th grade - Mark D., Amber J., and Dwayne H.

## Mr. Dwayne's Challenge

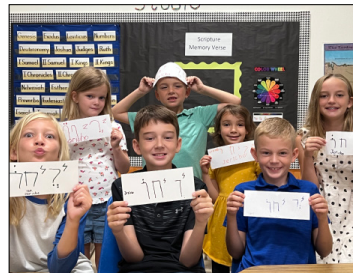
Congratulations to Zach Johnson for completing Mr. Dwayne's Challenge of memorizing the 66 books of the Bible. Zach received gift cards for movie tickets and dessert. Way to go, Zach! We're proud of you.



## Trunk or Treat Thank You

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with the games, activities, set up, and clean up for our Trunk or Treat this year. What creative vehicles, fun games, and great treats you provided. Starting next week, we will showcase photos in Family News for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you, families, for coming and bringing friends. What a special blessing to enjoy such a fun time with our church family!



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**BAPTISM: Taylor de Bruyn**

**Stan Thomas** – awarded an Emmy for sports coverage video editing

**Pat Tudor** – doing well on maintenance therapy; energy level is improving

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

**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

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Joella Michael** – worsening of cancer in liver

**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

**Bill McQuillan** (brother-in-law of Kay Falletta) – stage IV kidney disease as well as heart issues; difficulty breathing and talking

**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) – 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

**Barb Suhr** (friend of Char Hurley) – dealing with memory loss issues

**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

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

**Marilyn Aurand** – physical therapy for spinal stenosis and to improve mobility; recent PET scan revealed two nodules in right lung

**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 23 Attendance	
On-Site Service	144
Online Viewing	104

October 23 Giving		\$7,905
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,142
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,637,301
Property Settlement		\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

[www.conejochurch.org](http://www.conejochurch.org)

### Haylie Douglas

Children's Minister  
(979) 676-1529 cell  
haylie@conejochurch.org  
R&R Wednesdays

### Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager  
(818) 665-8598 cell  
reneheard@sbcglobal.net  
R&R Tuesdays

### Kathia King

Office Manager  
(805) 371-1381 office  
office@conejochurch.org  
R&R Thursdays & Fridays

### Travis Moore

Youth & Family Minister  
(520) 591-8246 cell  
travis.moore926@gmail.com  
R&R Mondays

### Andy Wall

Preaching Minister  
(805) 331-0187 cell  
andy@conejochurch.org  
R&R Fridays

### Jack Williamson

Spiritual Formation Min.  
(805) 331-0183 cell  
jack@conejochurch.org  
R&R Mondays

**Elders:** Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – [elders@conejochurch.org](mailto:elders@conejochurch.org)



## CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362