



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 6, 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
- 12:30pm Return from IMPACT
- 12:30pm Adult Education Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:00pm Missions Committee Meeting
- 6:00pm HS Pod

Upcoming Events

- Nov 7 Women's Bible Study
- Nov 7 Guys' Group @ Cafe Rio
- Nov 9 Flourishing Families
- Nov 9 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Nov 10 Life Group at Fosters
- Nov 10 Conejo Tutoring
- Nov 11 Young Families Gathering
- Nov 18 Moms Better Together
- Nov 19 Hiking Ministry
- Nov 20 Armloads of Love

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| Eliza Erickson | 11/6 |
| Alex Vasquez | 11/7 |
| Zachary Labnow | 11/10 |
| Julie Waters | 11/11 |

Beholding Tokens

Andy Wall

"Discerning signs has to do with comprehending the remarkable in common happenings, to see portents of death where others find progress or success, but simultaneously, to behold tokens of the reality of the resurrection or hope where others are consigned to confusion of despair."

— William Stringfellow

The above quote by lawyer and social activist William Stringfellow provides his description of the nature of doing theology. On one side, "to see portents of death," is a call to serious social critique, to name the sources of decay and degradation in our world. On the other, "to behold tokens of the reality of the resurrection," is a charge to look for new possibilities rather than molder in despair or cynicism.

Kate Bowler, a Canadian historian, writer, and cancer survivor, reflects in her own way on beholding tokens of the resurrection in part of a recent poem.

*"Right in the midst of the pain and fear and uncertainty,
may we hunt for beauty and meaning and truth ... together.*

*Not to erase the pain or solve the pain,
(though surely that would be nice),
but to remind us that beauty and sorrow coexist.
And that doesn't mean we're broken or have been forgotten."*

What tokens of the reality of the resurrection do you see, even where pain, fear, and uncertainty dominate? Here are some places I've seen such tokens of late.

- Kindness in the face of grief
- The smell of petrichor (look it up!) after rain this week
- Bridge-builders who overcome social divides
- Flowers growing in sidewalk cracks
- Perseverance in the midst of pain
- Friends sharing a road marked with suffering
- The guileless hug of a child
- Gestures of simple kindness
- Receiving hospitality from an unexpected person
- Laughing till you cry at something ridiculous
- Cooking with friends on a cold evening
- The comforting touch of a trusted friend

In seasons of distress and grief, as well as of joy and delight, may we as followers of Jesus behold tokens of the reality of the resurrection. Or as Kate Bowler concludes her poem above:

*"In our hope. In our disappointment. In our joy. In our pain.
God is here and we are never—were never and will be never—alone."*

What's Happening At Conejo

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](#) to sign-up for the specific items you can bring. We also need for people to work behind the tables passing out food. Please [sign up here](#) to help distribute food on Sunday, November 20.

Thank you for your willingness to take part in this tangible expression of gratitude to God for his many blessings.



Sermon Series: Let's Go! Adventuring Through Acts

Today's message in our ongoing series on the book of Acts will explore the theme of Christian leadership. As Paul wrapped up his third missionary journey, he passed near Ephesus and invited the leaders of the church there for a farewell conversation. Tears flowed as Paul shared the heartfelt concerns of a "father" for his spiritual "children." In his parting words, we see a picture of Paul's ministry and his deep love both for Christ and these believers. In the end, Paul commended the Ephesian believers to the Lord and to the message of his grace.

Models of faith play a vitally important role in our Christian journey. The Christian faith is something that is even better "caught" than "taught." Paul's ministry summary here elaborates on his teaching in his letters: "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." May we pay closer attention to those models of faith within our congregation whose lives bear the marks of the grace of Christ and the Spirit's work.

Fall Adult Bible Classes

Our auditorium class is exploring "The Spirit Shaped Life," a scripture-based class about our life in the Holy Spirit. Today, Mike Rivas will be leading our discussion on the Biblical teaching regarding the spiritual gifts in Romans 12:1-8.

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. God gives us great potential for impact on our families, churches, communities, and the world through the blessing of our work.

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 designated funds may best be used in meeting these goals. Our next meeting will be today at 3pm. If you have a passion for missions and would be interested in joining us, we would welcome you! We are 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, Christian Socquet, Judy Tapper, or Andy Wall for more information.

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.

Parents Potluck / November 11

On Friday, November 11, from 5:30 to 7:30pm, there will be a potluck dinner for parents of children ages 3 and under at the home of Rob and Alyssa West. Babysitting will be provided. RSVP to Alyssa at (805) 468-5430. The Wests live at 1193 4th Street in Simi Valley. [Click here](#) for printable flyer.

Moms Better Together / November 18

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, November 18 from 5:45-7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Since we will share a meal, we need to know how many are coming. [Click here](#) to RSVP for the event. Please [click here](#) for a printable flyer to share with friends.

Hiking Trails Ministry / November 19

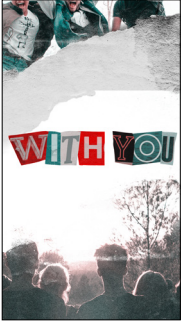
Hikers of all levels are welcome. The focus is fun, faith, fitness, friendship, and fellowship while enjoying the beautiful gifts that God has given us in the areas that surround us. We look forward to exploring Ventura County trails and parks with others in our church and in our community. For more information please contact Lynn at (805) 273-4565, or Jon at (805) 284-1111. Please [click here](#) for a flyer with details about this month's hike. See you on the trail!

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.

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.

Family & Friends Event MOVIE NIGHT at Cinepolis Westlake—POSTPONED

The family & friends event that was previously scheduled for Saturday, November 19 will have to be postponed to a later

date. Due to misinformation about which movies were available for us to select from and participation being low the weekend before Thanksgiving, we have decided to postpone the event to a future date centered around a new family-friendly movie that we would want to see. We will let you know when plans are made for a future date.

IMPACT Middle School Retreat / Registration Open

Impact Retreat is finishing up this morning. The theme this year was "Be Real." Our prayer is that our youth find their deepest identity connected to God, their Creator. We pray they understand that they are God's beloved, made in His image, and He meets each of them where they are in order to take them where He wants them to go. May our youth lean into what God says about them and discover His great love that ushers in new life full of grace and truth.

EXTRAVAGODY SSEY 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 S., Sarah G.

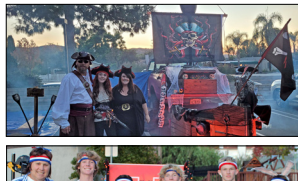
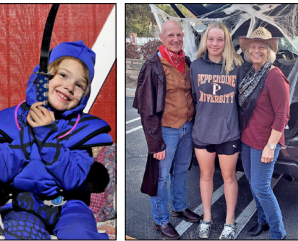
4's-5th grade - Paula M., Patti F.

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.



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! Throughout November, we'll have photos of this event to help us recall the fun evening we had together.

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, wind, and storms

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 30 Attendance	
On-Site Service	155
Online Viewing	115

October 30 Giving		\$11,188
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,074
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,637,301
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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