



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 13, 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

- Nov 14 Women's Bible Study
- Nov 14 Guys' Group at CVCC
- Nov 16 Flourishing Families
- Nov 16 Hungry / Thirsty Group
- Nov 17 Life Group at Fosters
- Nov 17 Conejo Tutoring
- Nov 18 Moms Better Together
- Nov 19 Hiking Ministry
- Nov 20 Armloads of Love
- Dec 4 Family Advent Experience
- Dec 9 All-Church Christmas Party at Rick and Paula's
- Dec 11 Carols and Candlelight

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| John Latson | 11/14 |
| Marcus Williams | 11/14 |
| Troy Labnow | 11/17 |
| Michael Ditmore | 11/19 |
| AJ Rivera | 11/19 |

Salutary Suffering

Andy Wall

"The saints all passed through many temptations and trials to profit by them. There is no state so holy, no place so secret that temptations and trials will not come."

Thomas à Kempis

Perhaps you have had the experience, as I often have, of coming across something in the Bible that causes you to pause and wonder. You're reading down the page when you are arrested by a fresh insight from a passage you've read dozens of times; or an unexpected paradox ties up your logic in knots; or a shocking event causes you to wonder, "How could this be in there?!"

Such was my experience as I was reading through Philipppians. I stopped rather abruptly, as one who stubs their toe, while reading Philipppians 1:29, in which Paul writes: "For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well..."

Excuse me? Did I miss something? Did Paul really place "suffering" and "graciously granted" in the same sentence? That same root word (grant, give, bestow upon) is used throughout the New Testament to describe Jesus' healing of the blind, God's generosity and forgiveness toward many, the canceling of debts, and the way Christians are called to forgive one another. Paul takes this word and implies that the same generosity that forgives sins and cancels debts can grant suffering to those who follow Christ. How can this be?

Though I can't address all the questions relating to human suffering here, I do observe that several New Testament writers articulate an understanding of suffering as something that can be useful, beneficial, or bring about a good result, regardless of the source of that suffering. Peter expresses such a view when he states that when Christians suffer, they follow in the footsteps of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21). In Philipppians 3, Paul declares that he wants to share in Christ's sufferings and even become like him in his death. In our suffering, we may more deeply identify with Christ's sufferings on our behalf and in some sense participate in them.

Paul speaks out of this background when he states that some may be granted the privilege to suffer for Christ. He is not advocating that Christians should have a death-wish or be obsessed with being martyred. Rather, Paul affirms that seen in the light of Christ's sufferings, our human sufferings can have a deeper purpose, even though on the surface they appear to be meaningless. When we place our lives in God's service, as Paul did, there may well be times in which we experience trials or suffering as a consequence. In the midst of his hardships, Paul was able to see God's purposes being worked out. May we also develop the eyes of faith to see God's work unfolding throughout all the ups and downs of our lives, seeing God's grace even in our trials.

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: Let's Go! Adventuring Through Acts

Today's message in our series on the book of Acts will explore Paul as a prisoner who actively bears witness to Jesus as he stands before high priests, magistrates, tribunes, and kings. In these situations, Paul is "on trial" for various accusations and is a model of courage, forthrightness, and thoughtfulness.

Through all his trials, Paul resolutely declares the resurrection of Jesus as central to his hopes and invites his listeners to produce deeds consistent with repentance. While there's plenty of room in our faith for questioning, discouragement, and doubts (for example, see 2 Corinthians), Paul's story in Acts 21-26 provides us with a model of trusting in God's provision, come what may. Whether that trust is expressed in quiet confidence or articulate defiance, Paul serves as an important example for us.

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, Jack Williamson will be leading our discussion on the Biblical teaching regarding spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.

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.

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.



City of Children Visits / November 18-20

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 mrkwdds@gmail.com.

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.

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!



Armloads of Love / November 20



As we approach Thanksgiving, we have a wonderful opportunity to provide holiday meals for families in need from the Conejo Elementary School. You're invited to bring various food goods to church with you next Sunday. 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.

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 our goals. If you have a passion for missions and are interested in joining us, we would welcome you! We are seeking 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 welcome your ideas. Please 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.

High School + Middle School

IMPACT 2022—"Be Real"

We had a great weekend at Angeles Crest Christian Camp for Impact 2022. We learned that our deepest identity is connected to God, our Creator. We discovered that we are God's beloved, made in His image, and His great love is extended toward us because that's who God is. He meets each of us where we are, teaches us about the value He has given us, and tells us to lean into the real life found in following Jesus.



Middle School Christmas Party / December 10

On Saturday night, December 10, the middle school group is invited to the Johnson's home for a Christmas party. Stay tuned for more information on timing and what to bring!

Extravagodysey 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!

Strengths Finder Workshop / February 4

Those who are a part of a mentor group should know that the Strengths Finder Workshop previously scheduled for Saturday, November 19, has been postponed to Saturday, February 4, 2023. The date for this workshop was changed to allow for more participation from our youth at Conejo, and also to allow us to invite youth from the Camarillo and University congregations to join the workshop.

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.

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.

Children's Ministry

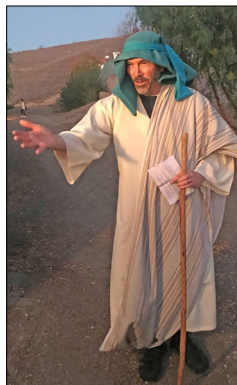
Family Advent Experience / December 4

Join us on December 4 for a walk-through Family Advent Experience. Families will travel to different stations where Bible characters and storytellers will share the story leading up to the birth of Jesus. The experience continues at our celebration station for a craft and a treat.

RSVP required for a start time.

Each start time is for up to 3 family units at a time. Please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA92FA7FEC70-family>.



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.

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.

Trunk or Treat Fun Memories

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Trunk or Treat a wonderful experience for our children.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

BAPTISM: **Taylor de Bruyn**

For the **rain** that fell this week

Stan Thomas – awarded an Emmy for sports coverage video editing

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

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 – no cancer was found during lung biopsy! Still dealing with spinal stenosis and seeking to improve mobility

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 – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

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

November 6 Attendance

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| On-Site Service | 118 |
| Online Viewing | 245 |

November 6 Giving

\$10,342

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Giving Average | \$13,991 |
| Weekly Giving Budget | \$14,116 |
| Be the Blessing Giving (To Date) | \$1,638,301 |
| Property Settlement | \$225,000 |

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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