



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

November 27, 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

Upcoming Events

- Nov 28 Women's Bible Study
- Nov 28 Guys' Group Dinner at Bandit's at 5:30
- Nov 30 Flourishing Families
- Nov 30 Hungry / Thirsty
- Dec 1 Conejo Tutoring
- Dec 1 Life Group at Fosters
- Dec 3 Guys' Golfing
- Dec 4 Family Advent Experience
- Dec 9 All-Church Christmas Party at Rick and Paula's
- Dec 10 MS Christmas Party
- Dec 11 Carols and Candlelight
- Dec 16 Extravagodysey
- Dec 17 Ladies' Christmas Cookie Exchange
- Dec 18 Christmas Caroling

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|-------|
| Alyssa Hunnicutt | 11/27 |
| Joy Rhoades | 11/27 |
| Hannah Labnow | 12/1 |
| Bridget Wooton | 12/1 |

The Power of Seasons

Andy Wall

First, let me acknowledge that as a Southern California native, I haven't really experienced four seasons in an annual, sustained way. I have, however, traveled sufficiently and seen enough pictures of fall colors and first snowfall to be able to say that I'm a big fan of the concept of four seasons, even if I only typically experience about two and a half. Fortunately for me, I really do love spring and summer.

That said, the seasons I'm speaking of in this essay are not winter, spring, summer and fall. I'm thinking about the Christian tradition of being actively mindful of the Jesus story throughout the year. Typically this is called "The Liturgical Year" and is anchored by four primary seasons: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. This is not a tradition that the Churches of Christ have typically followed; but neither is it a practice that we would find much biblical objection to, generally speaking. After all, how can one be against Christians paying attention to the story of Jesus in a thoughtful, annual rhythm?

Here's a cursory outline of the seasons: During the season of Advent we enter into Israel's anticipation of the coming of the Messiah while also preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ at the end of the age. The Christmas season focuses on the incarnation and birth of Jesus, celebrating the mystery of God's love for the world and the reality of Emmanuel, "God with us." The Lenten season focuses on humility, repentance, and renewal, following Jesus' suffering on the way to the cross. The season of Easter focuses on newness of life, based on the power of the resurrection, while leading to the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church on Pentecost. The remainder of the year, from Pentecost to Advent (about seven months), is sometimes called "Ordinary Time" or "Season After Pentecost." This season emphasizes the growth and development of the Church as the people of God.

So why do I love the various "seasons" of the church year? Here are a few reasons: 1) Any practice that roots me in the story of Jesus—and brings me back to it year after year—is a good thing. 2) Any practice that focuses me on the most significant aspects of the Christ story—and causes me to reflect deeply upon the central aspects of his life—is a good thing. 3) Any practice that causes me to challenge secular notions of time as a hopeless, endless, and meaningless cycle is a good thing. 4) Any practice that cultivates in me seasons of hopeful waiting, joyful celebration, focused self-control, and grateful service is a good thing. 5) Any practice that challenges the commercialization of Santa Claus and the Easter bunny is a good thing. 6) Any practice that draws me together with my fellow believers into the sharing of candlelight services, seasons of fasting, Good Friday observances, and service projects is a good thing.

This Advent, I hope you might (re)discover some of your own reasons for loving these seasons of faith as well.

What's Happening At Conejo



Advent Sermon Series: The Light of Advent

This Sunday begins the season of Advent with a sermon titled "Living in the Overlap." Advent comes from a Latin word meaning coming or arrival and is the four-week period preceding Christmas. In it, we celebrate the first Coming of Christ while also focusing on his promised second Coming. During Advent, the Church enters into the longing of Israel and the prophets for the coming of the Messiah. The Church also renews her yearning for the coming of Christ at the end of the age, when he will fully establish God's kingdom reign.

The season of Advent begins with a sense of longing and hope for God's deliverance and restoration. We Christians live in this tension: in one sense, we are already adopted, redeemed, sanctified, and saved; in another sense, these experiences are not yet fully ours. Underneath this theological and practical tension are the two comings of Christ. In his first coming, he inaugurated the last days; in his second coming, he will complete them. In the meantime, we live for now in "the overlap of the ages," what some call "the already and the not yet."

Advent Adult Bible Class

Starting this morning, and continuing through December 18, our Advent-themed auditorium class will be exploring "The Colors of Christmas." We'll move from Gold Christmas (11/27), to White Christmas (12/4), then Blue Christmas (12/11), and finally, Green Christmas (12/18). Join our class today as Andy Wall introduces the series with reflections on Gold Christmas and living in the "Already/Not Yet."

City of Children Visits / December 9-11

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.

All-Church Christmas Party / December 9

The congregation is invited to a very special Conejo holiday gathering on Friday, December 9, beginning at 7pm at the home of Rick and Paula Marrs. Make plans now to come share in a delightful evening filled with warm holiday fellowship, Christmas carols, and tasty treats. Please bring substantial hors d'oeuvres or a favorite dessert to share.



Amazon Non-Profit Program

Amazon.com has a program to support nonprofits based on certain product sales. We've registered with Amazon to allow the Conejo Church to participate in this program. For this to work to our benefit, simply shop at smile.amazon.com and designate the Conejo Valley Church of Christ as your chosen charity. Amazon will send the Conejo Church 0.5% of sales on certain products.

Carols and Candlelight / December 11

At 6pm on Sunday, December 11, you are invited to our annual Carols and Candlelight Service. This special service will feature the singing of favorite holiday carols, the lighting of candles, the reading of the birth narratives of Christ, and the renewing experience of the wonder of Christ's radiant coming. We will enjoy cookies and fellowship following the service. Be sure to invite friends and loved ones to this favorite holiday tradition as we enjoy the season of Advent together.



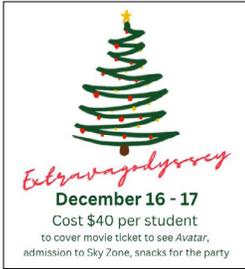
High School + Middle School

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. The party will be from 5:30 - 8:00pm, will include dinner, games, prizes, and festive fun! Just like last year, prizes will be waiting for those who dress for a festive occasion!



Extravagodysey 2022 / December 16



Friday night, December 16, the youth group will gather for an all-nighter of epic proportions! Other youth groups from SoCal join in on the fun before the close of the year, making it a large party. The goal is to remember 2022, reflect upon what we have learned, and take the next step of faith as we look toward 2023. The cost per person

is \$40. This cost includes supplies for the evening, snacks/drinks, a middle-of-the-night trip to Sky Zone (formerly Defy/Dojoboom), a movie ticket to *Avatar: The Way of Water*, and breakfast.

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 Camarillo & University churches 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.

Most weeks, 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. Due to holiday travel, pods will not meet this Sunday. [Click here](#) to learn more about December'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>.



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., Staci D., and Cheryl A.

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 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

BIRTH: Caleb Michael Rivas (brother of Josiah; son of Michael and Sarah; grandson of Mike and Darlene Rivas) – born on November 5

Thomas Reuben Lovett (great nephew of Chris and Rene Heard) – born on November 21

Stan Thomas – awarded an Emmy for sports coverage video editing

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

THOSE GRIEVING

Jose Rivera – loss of father, Cecilio (Chilo) Rivero

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Friends and family **Stella Sale** (former member) – Stella passed in August 2022 after a long decline

Sam Jackson – loss of mother, Maudie Brown

Brittany Joyner – loss of uncle, Robin Miller

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Mildred Eckstein

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

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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin; loss of Mark's brother, Dan

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – worsening of cancer in liver

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

Larry McNutt – hospitalized in Chicago with Covid and balance issues

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 following additional 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

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

Barbara Schlosser – recovery from a serious illness

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 20 Attendance	
On-Site Service	122
Online Viewing	171

November 20 Giving		\$30,594
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,261
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,638,336
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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