



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 18, 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 Adult Education Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 6:00pm Christmas Caroling at TO Royale

Upcoming Events

- Dec 25 Christmas Morning Worship Service (no 9am Bible classes)
- Jan 1 New Year's Day (no 9am Bible classes)

Birthdays This Week

Janie Condley	12/19
Susan Giboney	12/19
Eleanor Overton	12/19
Staci Daringer	12/21
Tyler Scott	12/21
Calleigh Hunnicutt	12/22
Gwen Hunnicutt	12/22
Elizabeth Jovel Rivera	12/25
Gwen King	12/28
Alyssa West	12/30

Embracing Joy

Andy Wall

Bronnie Ware is an Australian nurse who specialized in palliative care, that special calling of caring for the dying. She spent her professional life with people during the final three to twelve weeks of their lives. Over the years, she asked her patients about any regrets they had or what they might do differently. She eventually gathered those insights into a book, "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying." Here they are, along with some comments of my own.

1. **"I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me."** This was the regret most commonly expressed. Given my view of human nature, and the pervasive reality of human sinfulness, I have some concerns about living with unchecked impulses, which is how some may interpret being "true to myself." However, I do "get" that it is easy to allow the preferences of others to eclipse our own dreams. Or to allow the fears of others to limit our own pursuits. Or to never stop and deeply reflect what we want to do in life that is most congruent with our deepest held values and beliefs.

2. **"I wish I didn't work so much."** This was expressed by every male patient Ware encountered. We all know that anything good in life requires sacrifice. Any accomplished athlete, musician, scholar, teacher, or leader can attest to the value of hard work. However, balancing one's pursuit of passions and gifts with the pursuit of significant relationships is elusive wisdom for many. Ware's patients, who faithfully toiled on the treadmill of work, regretted key moments they had missed in their children's lives and with their spouses.

3. **"I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings."** People spend a lifetime hiding what they truly think and feel from loved ones. But conflict avoidance can come at a high cost. And while it's true that some people have an issue with over-sharing, others suffer in silence, never risking the possibility that honesty could deepen and enrich a relationship in unexpected ways. Consider this: if sustaining a relationship requires you to hide deeply held values, how healthy is this relationship for you? "The truth shall set you free."

4. **"I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends."** It's interesting how the tyranny of the urgent can crowd out what is truly important. Many work demanding jobs, keep active schedules, and pursue ambitious agendas. Nice friends don't barge into our lives demanding that we spend time with them. But when we face our own mortality, busy schedules and ambitious agendas will fall to the wayside as the value of true friendships become readily apparent. Ware observes that "It all comes down to love and relationships in the end." Are you regularly investing in the important relationships of your life?

5. **"I wish that I had let myself be happier."** I would love to know if this realization first dawned on people when the end drew near or if they already knew it but had forgotten it somewhere along the way. Are you a person who can laugh at the humor of life, at our shared humanity, even at your own foibles and flaws? Another way of thinking about this regret is this: Are you able to receive the grace of God in your life? A good sense of humor can be a tremendous aid in negotiating life's ups and downs. Ware urges, "Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness." Wisdom indeed!

What's Happening at Conejo

Special Offering for the Michael Family

In response to all within our church family and from the community who have asked, the Conejo Church will be accepting donations on behalf of the Michael family. Checks should be made out to the "Conejo Valley Church of Christ" and earmarked for "Michael Family Fund." If you'd prefer to give online, please use the following link <https://conejochurch.churchcenter.com/giving> and select "Michael Family Contribution" from the pull-down menu. Thank you for the many ways in which you have sought to love and care for the Michael family during this time of loss.



Advent Sermon Series: The Light of Advent

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, Conejo's own Nick Zola will share a sermon titled "The Shape of Things to Come-The Light of Advent Future." Sometimes we misconstrue our primary goal and purpose as simply to "get to heaven." But in fact it is more like the reverse: heaven is coming down here, and the people of God are called to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3) and to enact God's kingdom here on earth (Matthew 6:10). Early Christians lived counter-cultural lives where the first were last and the greatest were slaves of all, an upside-down kingdom in preparation for the return of Christ. Both 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 21:1-5 make clear that Jesus is returning to establish his reign on the earth, and this new creation is what we hope for and work toward, especially in this season of Advent. The true power of the resurrection is the defeat of death itself and the making of all things new.

Advent Adult Bible Class

Our Advent-themed auditorium class is exploring "The Colors of Christmas." Our journey will take us from Gold Christmas (11/27), to White Christmas (12/4), then Blue Christmas (12/11), and finally, Green Christmas (12/18). Join us today for "Green Christmas", as Chris Heard reflects on the themes of rebirth and new life in the future.

Carols and Candlelight Service



*Joy to
the world!*



Change of Bible Class Schedule / Dec 25 and Jan 1

During the next two Sundays, on December 25 and January 1, we are suspending all our Bible classes. While we greatly value our weekly classes, we also believe that it's appropriate to suspend our classes once every six or seven years when Christmas and New Years fall on a Sunday. We look forward to reengaging with our classes for all ages on Sunday, January 8.

Donuts During December and Early January

The Greens, who faithfully manage this service for us, will be out of town from December 18 - January 8. For those four weeks, we need volunteers to handle the donut portion of the ministry only and ask that members bring their own coffee.

All-Church Christmas Party



High School + Middle School

No YG Pods in December

During the month of December our Conejo Church family offers several family events focused on Jesus' birth. All fall on Sunday evenings. We had the family advent experience, Carols & Candlelight, and caroling tonight at 6pm. The next two Sundays after the 18th are Christmas and New Years Day. We will return to normal separated pod schedules on Sunday, January 8. The middle school meets at the church building from 3:30-5pm and the high school meets from 6-7:30pm.



[Click here](#) to learn more about December's theme which will be shared and discussed on Sunday mornings.

Strengths Finder Workshop / February 11

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 11, 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 and University churches to join the workshop.

Middle School Christmas Party



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 placed on a table in the entry way which leads to the Children's Ministry area.

Family Advent Experience

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Family Advent Experience. It was so fun to get to see our kids (and their grown-ups!) be part of this event. Thank you to Jack Williamson, Travis Moore, and David and Leslie Stephens for being rockstar set-up volunteers! Thank you to Andy Wall, Suzanne Reynolds, Sandy Stivers, Bill Foster, and Jack Williamson for stepping in as some awesome storytellers!

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.

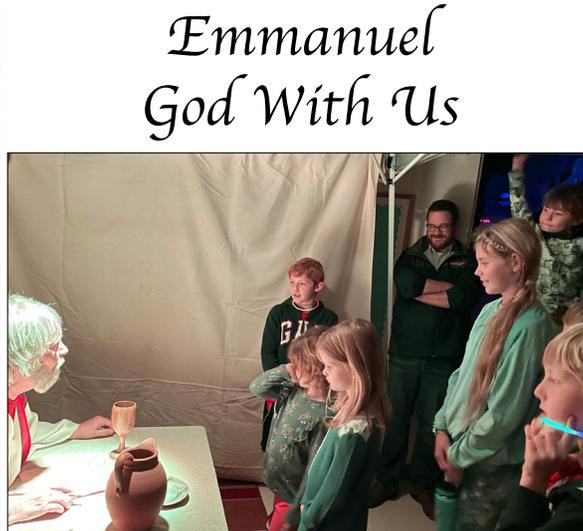
Nursery - Katie C., Staci D., and Cheryl A.

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

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

Volunteers Needed

We need teachers for our Children's Worship classes on December 25th and January 1st. Please email Haylie at haylie@conejochurch.org if you can help!



Emmanuel God With Us

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Holly Chambers (May)

BAPTISM: Taylor de Bruyn

NEW MEMBERS: Maxi McAfee, Joanna White, Rodney Smithers, Susan Giboney, Chris Chesnutt

Larry McNutt – recovery from COVID-19 and balance issues

THOSE GRIEVING

Jacob, Ella, Kate, Tess Michael – loss of wife and mother, Joella Michael

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

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Friends and family of **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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING 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

Joan Nicholas (mother of Rene Heard) – hospice care; complications with COVID-19

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – hospitalized following car accident; severely burned, many complications

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) – prayers for health, comfort, peace, and stamina

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

For **moderate rain** 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

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

December 11 Attendance	
On-Site Service	141
Online Viewing	147

December 11 Giving		\$16,788
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,283
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,640,283
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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