



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE *the* BLESSING

July 16, 2023

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
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Service via YouTube Mission Trip Report with Youth Group
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 6:00pm All-Sing and Ice Cream

Upcoming Events

- July 18 Bonfire Night @ Dockweiler Beach
- July 20 SYS Finale—Disclosed
- July 21 Moms Better Together
- July 23-29 King's Kamp—Saddle Up
- July 25 Fifth Commandment Group
- July 30 Won by One Concert

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| Yashica Budde | 7/16 |
| Maureen Thomas | 7/16 |
| Chris Heard | 7/19 |
| Brynn Kliest-Blankfein | 7/22 |
| Tim Horton | 7/23 |
| Sam Jackson | 7/23 |
| Phil Phillips | 7/23 |

Faith Versus Certainty

Andy Wall

"Faith does not mean certainty. It means the courage to live with uncertainty. It does not mean having the answers, it means having the courage to ask the questions and not let go of God, as He does not let go of us."

-Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

There was a day of youthful innocence when my faith was like a seamless garment, an armor with no missing chinks. But the passing of time eroded the mountains my childlike faith once had moved until I could scarcely budge molehills. As I became aware of a smorgasbord of life choices, the once-confident exclamation point of faith felt more like a question mark adrift in a sea of relativity. How could one be so certain amidst an ever-proliferating menu of options? Guilt gnawed on me as doubts rolled in and eclipsed the bright light of simple faith. I sought answers, I sought truth, I sought The Answer as a drowning man gasps for air. But doubt was stubborn and surprisingly adaptive and answers, even good answers, begat more questions. The more I learned, the less and less I seemed to comprehend.

Finally, it seems, the deluge of life's questions stripped away my foolish pretensions of wisdom and I stood bare and Job-like before my Maker. That Awesome and Wonderful Mystery whom I had vainly tried to get my arms around through human wisdom then questioned me. And slowly, painfully, gratefully, I realized that God had never intended for me to master all the knowledge of creation but rather to be mastered by the Creator of all knowledge. I grudgingly relinquished my insatiable demands to have all questions answered and entrusted my life to the Answer for all questioners. The lonely drifting of doubt gave birth to a renewed faith, a deeper and more childlike trust, less ignorant of the world's pain, yet more willing to surrender itself into the arms of an eternally merciful God. In the end, faith has been about full surrender, not of the intellect or the heart, but of the will. May all earnest seekers entrust their searching hearts and minds to the goodness of the Lord, embracing a mode of "faith seeking understanding."

What's Happening At Conejo



Today's Sermon: "Living the Questions of Faith"

In our second week of our "Questions" series, we'll explore a question asked of God by Jeremiah the prophet. Jeremiah's ministry consisted largely of proclaiming the doom and destruction of Jerusalem by the ascendant Babylonian empire, a very unpopular message both theologically and politically, which led to much mental, emotional, and physical suffering. One day, Jeremiah turned the tables and asked God, "Why did I come forth from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?" But despite the pain that declaring the Lord's message brings Jeremiah, he cannot but speak the word of God. Jeremiah illustrates the power of being able to articulate one's deepest thoughts, darkest emotions, and most poignant concerns to the Lord. His story models for us the faithful practice of lament and prayerful trust.

Summer Adult Education Class

Our summer auditorium class is titled, "Sunday Morning Book Club." In this class, a variety of people will be sharing about a favorite book they've read (fiction or nonfiction) that has impacted, blessed, or deepened their faith. This week, Jon Burke will be reflecting on C.S. Lewis's book, "The Great Divorce." If you're interested in leading one of these summer classes, please contact Andy Wall.

Thanks for Supporting Our Summer Camps

A few weeks ago, we requested help to rebuild the operational and reserve funds for both Teen Camp and King's Kamp. These had been depleted with lower numbers of registrations in the slow ramp up following the COVID pandemic. We reached out to churches and church members all over southern California with the goal of raising \$30,000 to be evenly split between the two camps. Now, just a few weeks later, we are overjoyed to give a great word of "THANKS!" for the outpouring of generosity and support. As of the date of this writing, we have received almost \$33,000 in donations and commitments! Our summer camps will easily be set for the next few years as we work and pray to build our registration numbers back up to the pre-pandemic levels and beyond. We thank God for his grace and thank you, his people, for your generosity!

All Sing and Ice Cream / July 16, 6pm

Come join us for a favorite summer tradition at Conejo this evening at 6, as we enjoy an evening of singing and ice cream. If you're able, please bring a batch of your favorite homemade ice cream (store bought ice cream works too!). Come for the heart-felt praises and beautiful harmonies, stay for the delicious dessert and summer fellowship!



Fifth Commandment Group / July 25

The fifth commandment tells us to "Honor your father and mother." How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and live hundreds or even thousands of miles away? Because of summer travels, we will not be meeting via Zoom this month, but if members who are a part of this prayer group and those who want to become a part of the group will email updates and prayer requests for your parents to reneheard@sbcglobal.net, she will compile everyone's updates and send them to the group so that we can pray for one another's loved ones throughout the summer.



Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities

Most months, there are special opportunities for fellowship on the third Fridays and Saturdays of the month. This month, due to the extreme heat, our regularly scheduled hike had to be canceled. The next hike is scheduled for August 19.

This coming Friday, July 21, the group for moms of all ages,



Moms Better Together, will meet at the church building from 5:45 to 7:45pm to share a meal and have a time to share with and encourage one another. Please [click here](#) to RSVP for the event and help us have an accurate count for the meal.

Sunday Morning Coffee

For the next 4 Sundays, David Green, our faithful Coffee and Donut volunteer, will be out of town. In his absence, Kay Falletta will bring the donuts. We kindly ask that you bring your own coffee if that is something you need for our time together.

Won by One Concert / July 30, 6pm



Come join us for Won By One's final concert of their summer tour on Sunday evening, July 30. Won by One is a six-member a cappella performing group representing Pepperdine University. The group works in connection with the Office of Church Relations and the Office of Admissions to strengthen ties between Pepperdine and the Churches of Christ and to recruit Christian students for the University. In addition to its work for Pepperdine, Won by One is a dynamic music ministry that seeks to bring its audiences closer to God.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class

Throughout the summer, the YG has chosen to study 1 Samuel on Sunday mornings during class time. 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.

Summer Bonfire Night #3 / July 18

During the summer, youth groups from Hilltop, Culver Palms, CVCC, and University Church come together for bonfires at Dockweiler Beach. These gatherings are a great opportunity to make new friends with kids from other churches and build positive memories tied to Christ! We will leave Conejo at 2pm and return at 10pm. Bring your own dinner and what you need for the beach. Please let Travis know if you need a spot in the church van. Parents who are available to drive are encouraged to volunteer to take some of the students if we have a group larger than 12 attend.



Summer Camps

Please pray for those returning from Teen Camp as well as those preparing for King's Kamp in the near future. It is our desire for our kids to come to know Jesus, experience the great love of God, and find their place in His family. May God get the glory as we work towards creating positive memories that are tied to Christ!

"Disclosed: God Revealed Through Christ" / July 20



Our summer intern, Nico, has been leading a wonderful series on the Gospels looking at how God is uniquely revealed through the life and death of Jesus the Son of God (#bookends). We explored Matthew, Mark, and Luke's perspective and enjoyed some interactive games, snacks, and fellowship. Make plans to join us for the series finale looking at the gospel of John on Friday, July 20 from 6-8pm at the church building. Youth group, friends, and college-aged students are all invited.

Youth Group Event Calendar

There are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in our faith this coming summer. [YG Summer Events Calendar.](#)



Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please remember to sign in your children for Bible class and worship!

Updated Roster Information

Parents - Please fill out this [Google form](#) so we have updated and accurate information on all of our children! Thank you!

Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9-10am

2s/3s - Lauren Kliest-Blankfein, Sarah Green

Age 4-5th grade - Carrie Wall

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s - Lauren Kliest-Blankfein, Sarah Green

Age 4-5th grade - Mark Davis

Rattlesnake Awareness

Just a reminder to our parents and children. As the weather gets warmer, there are snakes on the property from time to time. **Parents, please be sure that children stay out of the flowerbeds and plant areas between the upper and lower parking lots.**

Saddle Up!

King's Kamp is in just one week! A packing list can be found at [kingskamp.org](#). If you want to work on some Bible prep with your kamper beforehand, take a look through James to get them ready for some awesome learning while at Kamp!

Memory Verse

"But I trust in your faithful love.
My heart is filled with joy because you save me.
I will sing to the Lord.

He has been so good to me."

Psalm 13:5-6

Fun VBS Memories



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Morgan Williamson** (July), **Kaitlyn Williamson** (September), **Rob and Alyssa West** (November)

ENGAGEMENT: **Casey Rhoades** is engaged to Brittany Burrows
NEW MEMBERS: **Javon Johnson; Christopher Jerabek; Andrew, Lexy, and Jamisen Clark**

THOSE GRIEVING

Andrew Clark – loss of mother, Kerrie Clark

Friends and family of **Barbara Schlosser** (former member)

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Dena, Elissa, Luke McAllister – loss of husband and father, Ted

Rene Heard – loss of mother, Joan Nicholas

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

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

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Sam Jackson – loss of mother, Maudie Brown

Brittany Joyner – loss of uncle, Robin Miller

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Mildred Eckstein

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve

Scott) – her cancer has returned
Charlie Smith (brother-in-law of the Arganos) – recovering from recent surgery for colon cancer; undergoing chemo

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Lucinda Hodges (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Safety for all who work outside during the extreme heat – linemen, firemen, construction workers

Susan Kenny (sister of Kimberly Thomson) – fighting Babesiosis

Amy Romans (mother of Jake Romans) – recovering from major leg surgery

Reilly Phillips (son of Phil and Heather Phillips) – recently diagnosed with Type I Diabetes

Brittany Joyner – recovering from recent eye surgery

John Aurand (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) – recovering from recent back surgery

Jerry Roby (grandfather of Bonnie Rockey; father of Brett Roby) – dealing with problematic heart issues

Tammy Roby (mother of Bonnie Rockey) – recovering from hand surgery

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire; prayers requested for his physical, emotional, spiritual healing and hope as well as for his wife and 3 small children as he recovers at home

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Sharon Box (mother of Amy Moore) – hospitalized with pneumonia and COVID

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recovering from recent surgeries for brain bleed

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – severely burned, many complications

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

Carina Grant (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – prayers for upcoming surgery

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

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

Sonia Smithers – safety for friends and family in Ukraine

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis and seeking to improve mobility

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) – depression

Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

MISSION EFFORTS

Raul and Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Baja Missions – Baja California, Mexico

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center (BEST) in Cambodia

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Charles and Darlene Coulston – Made in the Streets Ministry in Nairobi, Kenya

Medical Clinic Mission Support – Ghana

Daniel and Karly Napier – Thessaloniki, Greece

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

David and Danna Willis and family (brother of Tim 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

July 9 Attendance	
On-Site Service	114
Online Viewing	139

July 9 Giving	\$13,867
Weekly Giving Average	\$12,516
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,650,789
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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