

# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE *the* BLESSING

July 23, 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

### Upcoming Events

- July 23-29 King's Kamp—Saddle Up
- July 30 Won by One Concert
- Aug 12 Family and Friends Outreach Event Surf Lessons at Malibu Makos
- Aug 13 Adult Education Team Meeting
- Aug 18 Moms Better Together
- Aug 19 Hiking Ministry Outing
- Aug 20 Student / Teacher Blessing

### Birthdays This Week

- |                |      |
|----------------|------|
| Tim Horton     | 7/23 |
| Sam Jackson    | 7/23 |
| Phil Phillips  | 7/23 |
| Wes Johnson    | 7/24 |
| Stu Warford    | 7/25 |
| Paula Marrs    | 7/27 |
| Catie Stephens | 7/27 |

## Fig Leaves

Andy Wall

*"Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place."*

—Zora Neale Hurston

You may recall that in the grand story of Scripture, a number of people tried to hide from God, to put distance between themselves and God, to obscure their sins from God, and to deny their connection with God. But hiding from God is a fool's errand.

Adam and Eve tried to hide their nakedness from God with fig leaves after they ate the forbidden fruit. God still found them. Moses hid his face from God at the burning bush, fearing to look at God. God still called him. King David tried to hide from God, as well as the consequences of his sinful actions. God still confronted him. Jonah tried to flee from God and hide below the deck of a ship headed "away" from God. God still caught up with him. Peter tried to distance himself from Jesus the Messiah when called out for being his follower. Jesus still squared things up with him.

We humans do a lot of hiding. We hide literally when we feel physically unsafe and we hide figuratively when we carry shame and don't want to be found out. David hid in both ways, hiding successfully as a fugitive from King Saul during his early years and unsuccessfully from Nathan the prophet after committing adultery and murder as king.

But hiding from God is a fool's errand. "There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves." (Job 34:32) "Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" (Jeremiah 23:23) "And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account." (Hebrews 4:13)

When we experience various failures in life, we may reach for all kinds of fig leaves to cover our embarrassment, guilt, and shame. Some will hide behind anger and bluster, some behind humor and levity, and some behind withdrawal and absence. None of these approaches will assuage our guilt or bring relief from our shame.

Psalm 32:2-5 offers the following prescription: "Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the guilt of my sin." In short, the Psalmist is saying, "Lose the fig leaves and tell God the truth." 1 John 1:9 offers us this conclusion: "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." No fig leaves necessary!

# What's Happening At Conejo



## Summer Sermon Series: "Living the Questions of Faith"

In our third week of this series, we'll explore a question asked in Psalm 139, "Where Can I Go to Hide From Your Presence?" At one level, Psalm 139 offers a word of comfort: there's no place we can go where God is not. But at another level, when we're pursuing our own self-serving agendas, Psalm 139 could make us feel claustrophobic. There are times when we feel found out by God, unable to hide the ugly, complicated truth about ourselves. In such moments, "Where can I flee from your presence" takes on a different meaning and we must wrestle with the reality that we're not fooling or "getting over" on God. God sees us, as we truly are. In the end, my hope is that we learn to pray the concluding verses of Psalm 139: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

## 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, Christina Eng will be reflecting on Kristin Kobes Du Mez's book, "Jesus and John Wayne." If you're interested in leading one of these summer classes, please contact Andy Wall.

## Next Week's Auditorium Class / Fifth Sunday Missions Update

Next Sunday, July 30, during our auditorium Bible class, we'll be hearing updates from several members of Conejo's Mission Committee (MC) about several of the mission efforts we're involved in around the world. The MC is excited to revitalize our connection and appreciation of the dedicated missionaries we support and the unique ways in which the gospel is being shared and embodied around the world. Please come join us!

## 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!

## Sunday Morning Coffee

For the next 3 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.

## 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 an actual meeting this month. Please email updates and prayer requests for your parents to [reneheard@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

## 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.



## All-Sing and Ice Cream



# 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.

## Teen Camp Fun 2023



## Summer Camps

Please pray for those returning to Idyllwild for King's Kamp July 23-29. 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!

## 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 \(https://forms.gle/S6yojvVZ2K6y8Y9T9\)](https://forms.gle/S6yojvVZ2K6y8Y9T9) 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 - Staci Daringer, Kate Michael

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

Age 4-5th grade - Dwayne Hunnicutt

## 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 this week! Please keep our kampers and staff in your prayers this week as we grow in our relationships with one another, learn about the book of James, and most importantly, grow closer to God.

## 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."  
*Psalms 13:5-6*

## Fun Times for CVCC Kids!



# 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  
**Brittany Joyner** - received "all clear" from the doctor for recent eye surgery; praises to God for clear vision!

## 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) - undergoing chemo for colon cancer  
**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

**Peggy Alsup** (friend of Wall family) - regaining of appetite and strength as she fights late stage COPD  
**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  
**John Aurand** (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) - recovering from recent back surgery  
**Jerry Roby** (grandfather of Bonnie Rocky; 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  
**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 surgery and recovery  
**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 16 Attendance	
On-Site Service	128
Online Viewing	109

July 16 Giving		\$6,343
Weekly Giving Average		\$12,303
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,650,939
Property Settlement		\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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