



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 6, 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

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 13 Adult Education Team Meeting
- Aug 18 Moms Better Together
- Aug 19 Hiking Ministry Outing
- Aug 20 Student / Teacher Blessing

## Birthdays This Week

Robert Charles	8/6
Steve Scott	8/6
Chris Stivers	8/6
Kellie Van Atta	8/6
Brooklyn Baird	8/9
Sean Mike Phillips	8/9
Stephanie Simpson	8/10
Brad Starkey	8/10
Joanna White	8/12

## You Gotta Serve Somebody

Andy Wall

*"Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren... If there is no center, there is no circumference.*

*People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustained purpose."*

—Eugene Peterson

"So many idols, so little time." Rock-n-roll icon Bob Dylan had his finger on it in his 1979 hit, "You gotta serve somebody." The song states the theme which he reprises in each verse: "You may be an ambassador to England or France / You may like to gamble, you might like to dance / You may be the heavyweight champion of the world / You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls. // But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed / You're gonna have to serve somebody / Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord / But you're gonna have to serve somebody."

Our world is a fascinating mashup of paradoxes: it is simultaneously growing more religious and more skeptical at the same time. The trends of secularism and the recent resurgence of muscular Atheism in the West are well documented. At the same time, the growth of Christianity in the global South, and the "spiritual but not religious" self-identification we so often hear of in North America indicate that claims concerning the demise of faith have been greatly exaggerated.

I am fascinated that in cultures and countries that have tried to replace faith with something "better," ideologies often sprout up that are inferior to what they purportedly are trying to improve upon. Soviet style communism, German fascism, and American Consumerism come to mind as examples. Those who deliberately try to "Keep God out of it" still end up pledging their allegiance to some flag or ideology. Simply saying that "I don't need to worship anything or anyone" doesn't keep all sorts of people from worshiping at the altar of materialism, from stockpiling symbols of (alleged) power and security, or from the hyperactive quest for the next bucket-list experience. For followers of Jesus, worship is the center that defines the circumference. The regular practice of the worship, adoration, and exaltation of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ provides us a point of reference from which to evaluate and critique every sort of worldly idol and distraction. Pity our neighbors who have no such orienting compass, who move "with no steady direction and no sustained purpose." The word used to describe such a hapless person is "lost." The value of a worshipful life, sustained by regularly assembling with fellow believers for corporate worship, is the strength of knowing to whom one belongs, where one is going, and why one is going there. A worshipful life enables us to resist Caesar's seductions and intimidations, as it did for the readers of Revelation some 1900 years ago.

"You gotta serve somebody." My prayer is that you are serving the Lord Jesus.

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

Today, Conejo's own Jacob Michael is preaching, sharing a message titled "Who Can, How Can." We are going to be wrestling with God's direction in our lives. None of us would say we are perfect. Proverbs 20:9, "Who can say, 'I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin?'" And this is where we all start. But part of following God is recognizing we need him guiding our lives. At the same time... how much does he guide? How much do we plan, and how much does he intervene? Proverbs 20:24, "All our steps are ordered by the Lord; how then can we understand our own ways?"

So there is a blurry line. For some of us, things are directed very clearly. For others, we have lots of options, and God will bless any of them as we follow him. So how do we know what to do? Follow what is on our hearts? Or follow in the ways others are speaking into our lives? And the crux of the issue is not trying to answer the question: What is God's will for my life? Who can know this side of heaven anyway? But trying to answer the question, "How can I live for him where I am at right now?"

# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**PREGNANCIES:** **Kaitlyn Williamson** (September), **Rob and Alyssa West** (November)  
**BIRTHS:** **Palmer Tate Williamson** was born to **Caleb and Morgan Williamson** on July 21; congratulations to grandparents, **Jack and Tami Williamson**

## 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

## VARIOUS CONCERNS

**John Willis** (father of Tim Willis) – long-term care facility

**Ryan Gunderson** (grandson of Bob and Susan Pratt) - recovering from brain surgery

**Doug and Kathia King** - as they prepare to move to Oahu for a new job

**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 Rockey; father of Brett Roby) – heart issues

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

**Jack Horn** (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured at work; please pray 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

Details for the Attendance and Giving will be updated in the August 20 edition of Family News

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