



BE *the* BLESSING

September 3, 2023

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

- 9:00am Fall Kickoff Breakfast Potluck
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Service via YouTube
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo at the Reynolds' home

Upcoming Events

- Sep 10 YG Back to School Bash
- Sep 11 Men's Bible Study
- Sep 11 Women's Bible Study
- Sep 13 Life Group at Reynolds
- Sep 13 Flourishing Families at Walls
- Sep 15-17 HS Pismo Retreat
- Sep 15 Moms Better Together
- Sep 16 Hiking Ministry

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Carol McNutt | 9/4 |
| Everly Van Atta | 9/9 |

Songs In the Key of Life

Andy Wall

The Psalms are the songs that accompany the people of God on their journey through history. -B. W. Anderson

For the better part of the past 3000 years, the book of Psalms has nurtured the faith, worship, and prayers of Jewish and Christian believers. While most of Scripture speaks to us, the Psalms speak for us, providing training on how to pray, sing, and worship God. Along with Isaiah, the Psalms are the most quoted book in the New Testament, by a wide margin. In the gospels, the Psalms are quoted at Jesus' baptism and his crucifixion. Depending on how you count them, Jesus referenced the Psalms on at least 11 occasions during his ministry.

In Hebrew, the book of Psalms is called *tehillim*, which means "praises." The Hebrew verb for praise, *hallel*, is in both the first word of the psalms and the final word of Psalm 150, *hallelujah*. You might assume that such bookends would imply a book brimming with joyful praises and happy thoughts. But just as many psalms cry out and complain to God as render heartfelt praise. The Psalms express virtually every emotion of life, bringing the full range of the human heart before God in prayer and worship, often within a single Psalm.

So what gives? Are the Psalms guilty of false advertising, baiting us with visions of joyous prayers and then switching to weepy laments and guilty confessions? How could these prayers be called praises? Eugene Peterson reflects, "All prayer, pursued far enough, becomes praise." Consider Psalm 13. After questioning God five times, David makes three demanding petitions punctuated by three desperate pleas. But in the final verses, praise unexpectedly erupts. Peterson observes that "In the act of praying the worst of things, praise springs forth."

Annie Lamott makes the case that when you boil it all down, we have three essential prayers: "Help, Thanks, Wow!" James 5:13 famously advises: "Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise." Somehow, when we trust the Lord of all creation through the valley of the shadow of death, we discover that God is with us in a way that transforms our sufferings. As Psalm 30 reminds us, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning."

This fall, our sermons will focus on the Psalms in a series titled "Songs in the Key of Life." For thousands of years, the book of Psalms has sustained and enriched faith, shaping communal and personal worship, deepening our prayers, expanding the breadth of "conversations" we have with God, and forming believers who pray honestly yet reliantly. The Psalms express virtually every emotion of life, from gratitude to sorrow, from grief to thanksgiving, from penitence to fury, modeling for us a surprisingly wide array of prayer and worship. My prayer for us this fall is that we may become more fully formed as believers who entrust the messy fullness of our lives before God as we pray and worship.

What's Happening At Conejo



Fall Sermon Series: "Songs in the Key of Life"

Today we're kicking off our fall sermon series, "Songs in the Key of Life," with an introductory overview of the Psalms. The Psalms express the full range of emotions, modeling for us a wide array of forms of prayer and worship. Walter Brueggemann suggests that the Psalms fall into three large categories: psalms of orientation, disorientation, and new orientation. Part of the enduring appeal of the Psalms is how they honestly trace life's uneven contours of settled security, searing pain, and unexpected newness.

The first category, orientation, reflects those summery times in life in which our questions are settled and life is whole and at peace. It's characterized by psalms of creation, praise, and Torah. The second season, disorientation, is when we've been ripped away from the mainland by tragedy and we feel adrift on the wide open sea. The Psalms of lament, with their searching honesty, are the hallmark of faith's raw winter season. The third season, new orientation, takes place when we are surprised anew by God's gifts and when light pierces the darkness. Psalms of Thanksgiving and hymns of praise express this spring-like season. Each of these three types is vital and legitimate in its time and place and we as the church would do well to expand our repertoire to include the richness and variety of the Psalms.

Fall Adult Education Classes

This fall, our auditorium class will be exploring the book of Psalms in a class titled "Psalms for Every Season." This class, which dovetails with our fall sermon series, will begin on September 10 with Rick Marrs providing an introductory overview of the Psalms.

Our class in the north overflow room will be for those raising kids of all ages at home. The class is titled "Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together." The class will be overseen by Bill and Melissa Foster and starts on September 10. This class will feature Bible based teachings along with some video curriculum and will include time for prayer and fellowship. The class will also meet occasionally for get-togethers outside of class. See you there!

Our young adult-aged class will meet at the Williamson's home (261 Quinta Vista, TO). This group is for all of our Young Adults, aged 18 -30. Each week we will have some light breakfast munchies and drinks along with a tasty discussion on biblical topics. Jack Williamson and Doug Hurley will tag team in leading the discussions.

Baptistery Remodel Thank You!

For the past two months, the front glass of our auditorium has been covered by a burlap screen as our baptistery remodel has been underway. Last Sunday we revealed our updated baptistery and landscape and celebrated the baptism of

Bronn Landis. We are most grateful to Jack Williamson and Allan Argano who oversaw the project and helped guide it to completion. We'd also like to thank Bill and Melissa Foster, David Rhoades, Shirlene Watson, and Tami Williamson for their help with the final details.

And the Angels Rejoiced!

Bronn Landis was baptized into Christ on August 27. Bronn, we rejoice with you and your family upon your baptism. Our prayers are that your journey as Christ's follower will be filled with joyful service to God and to all who are around you. We pray that your witness in the world will be a beautiful reflection of the life of our Lord Jesus as you share your time, talents, and the love of God throughout your life. May God bless you in your decision and empower you to walk faithfully in Jesus' steps.



Calling Young Adults

If you are a high school graduate, a college student who is at Pepperdine or in the Conejo Valley and attending CVCC, or a recent college grad living here in the area and attending CVCC, we want to bless you! Our Adopt-A-Young-Adult program is for you. Please [click this link](#) or use the QR code to show your interest and we will connect you with a Conejo member or family!



What will this entail? Very little from you. Just fill out the form with your info, and someone will get in touch. You may receive periodic encouragement in the form of texts, cards, care packages, gift cards, or other signs that someone is thinking of and praying for your wellbeing. That's it! We are so glad to have you at Conejo.

Adopt-A-Young-Adult

At Conejo, we want to take care of our young adults, whether they grew up with us and are staying local, have moved in for school/work from out of town, or have moved out to pursue school/work somewhere else.

This ministry is simple. You "adopt" one of our young adults and then do things to encourage them regularly throughout the year. Ideas include texts, cards, care packages, restaurant gift cards, invitations to dinner (if they're local), or other ways to show that someone is thinking of and praying for their wellbeing. That's it!

If you're interested, please [click this link](#) or access the QR code with the dinosaur above for more information. This will take you to the page where you can sign up. It's just that easy!



What's Happening At Conejo

Fall Kickoff Sunday / Today

This Sunday is our annual Fall Kickoff Sunday, in which we'll highlight various fall ministries, Bible classes, and small groups. We plan to share in an indoor potluck breakfast and fellowship time in lieu of our Bible class hour. Please plan on bringing a favorite breakfast dish to share. Our breakfast will begin shortly after 9am and cleanup at 9:50am.

The academic-year praise team will resume and small group ministries will be highlighted. Please contact Andy Wall and/or the church office if you are planning to have a small group (weekly or monthly) for the coming year. We're looking forward

to a great year of worshipping, serving, encouraging, and growing together.

Fall Small Groups

Our small group program is launching over the next several weeks with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond. These groups meet for a variety of purposes including prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, mentoring, and outreach. Some groups include children, some are for teens, some are for adults, and some include all generations. Please [click here](#) for a detailed listing of the small group ministries for the fall semester of 2023.

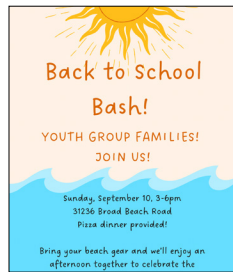
High School + Middle School

Youth Group Sunday Evening Gathering / Today

All members of the youth group are invited to the Reynolds' home from at 2237 Hillsbury Road, Westlake Village from 5:30-7:30pm to enjoy a time of being together with friends and engaging in a Bible study. Dinner will be provided.

Back-to-School Bash / September 10

On Sunday, September 10, Seth and Jolyn Hays invite all members of the youth group, along with their parents and siblings, to have fun playing on the beach at 31236 Broad Beach Road. This event will run from 3-6pm and will include a pizza dinner. Make sure to bring your boogie boards, surf boards, towels, and sunscreen to enjoy an afternoon of playing in the ocean to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. [Click here](#) for a printable flyer.



High School Pismo Retreat / September 15-17

On the weekend of September 15-17, the high school group will head to Pismo Beach for their annual retreat. The cost for the retreat is \$90 per person. This offsets housing, transportation, and food costs for the weekend. RSVP no later than Sunday, September 10, so that those planning will have time to prepare.

Last Week's Back-To-School Blessing



Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please remember to sign your children in for Bible class and worship! There are green sign-in sheets in the foyer on the way back to the Children's Ministry area.

Current Children's Class Offerings

No Bible Classes This Week

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - Noel T., Sarah G.

Elementary - Haylie D.

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!

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.**

Memory Verse

"The Word became a human being.
He made his home with us.
We have seen his glory.
It is the glory of the one and only Son."

John 1:14

Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Kaitlyn and Brendin Williamson** (September), **Alyssa and Rob West** (November) **Ty and Eliza Erickson** (March); **Josh and Cassie Horton** (March)

Molly Sanders (daughter-in-law of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – cancerous tumor removed from ovary; cancer had not spread

Charlie Smith (brother-in-law of Arganos) – cancerous tumor shrinking

THOSE GRIEVING

Tim Willis – loss of father, John Willis

Loree Hunnicutt – loss of mother, Judy Long

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

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

Brandon Starkey – recovering from burst appendix

All affected by floods and winds of Tropical Storm Hilary

Residents of Maui – as they recover from devastating fires

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

Doug and Kathia King – as they move to Oahu for a new job

Peggy Alsup (friend of Wall family) – regaining of appetite and strength as she fights late stage COPD

Susan Kenny (sister of Kimberly Thomson) – fighting Babesiosis

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

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

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

Andy Long (father of Loree Hunnicutt) – as he grieves the loss of his wife, Judy

Carina Grant (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – prayers for recovery and healing from recent surgery; prayers for parents as they care for her

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

August 27 Attendance		August 27 Giving	
On-Site Service	158	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,228
Online Viewing	54	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,651,824
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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