



# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

September 10, 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, Jack Williamson preaching
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 5:30pm YG Back to School Bash

### Upcoming Events

- Sept 11 Men's Bible Study
- Sept 11 Women's Bible Study
- Sept 12 Playdates with Haylie
- Sept 12 Strangers to Neighbors
- Sept 13 Life Group at Reynolds
- Sept 13 Flourishing Families at Walls
- Sept 15-17 HS Pismo Retreat
- Sept 15 Moms Better Together
- Sept 16 Hiking Ministry

### Birthdays This Week

- Shannon Latson 9/11
- Cassie Horton 9/12
- Luka Smithers 9/17

## The Psalms and ChatGPT

*Jack Williamson*

This week I was thinking about the various messages of the Psalms. They were first written and shared so long ago and yet they seem to be timeless. These ancient writings can still be relevant and strike us as so contemporary! As they lead us to consider the creation, or extol the power and majesty of God our great creator, they move us to worship just as they did their first audience. The Psalms of lament are also still relevant as they give us helpful words and images as we seek to grasp what to say in the midst of crisis and loss. In some ways, it almost seems as though these ancient writings are not ancient at all. We come to the Psalms seeking words to express our feelings and find our souls connecting with ancient words of a people whose writings come from our distant past.

That led me to a strange thought. The Psalms are almost like an ancient ChatGPT – that artificial intelligence program that will generate answers to any question you pose to it. Then I had a crazier thought: "I wonder what ChatGPT would have to say about Psalms?" So I asked it to generate a Shakespearean type sonnet about the value of the Psalms. Here is the response:

Psalms of old, a sacred tale they weave,  
 A poet's heart in verses strong and true.  
 With praise and prayers, they help our souls believe,  
 In God's embrace, our spirits they renew.  
 Each line a hymn, a psalmist's heartfelt cry,  
 Expressing joy, lament, and deep despair.  
 Yet through it all, they point us to the sky,  
 To seek God's love, His mercy, and His care.  
 So let us read these verses, old and wise,  
 In Shakespearean style, their beauty tell,  
 For in the Psalms, a timeless truth belies,  
 A faith that in our hearts forever dwells.  
 In pages aged, God's grace and love enthrall,  
 The Psalms of old, a gift for one and all.

Not bad for artificial intelligence...not bad at all. Out of the mouth of bytes come the praises of the Lord.



# What's Happening At Conejo



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

Today we will focus on one great Psalm which is a favorite of so many believers. Psalm 23 is a reminder of how God has promised to provide and guide us through all phases and stages of life. This great Psalm has been a joy and a comfort to so many at times of grief and loss. It has also sustained and recentered believers for generations. Today's sermon time will be a time of corporate reflection on these great words of faith. We will read it and reflect on it together, seeking to remind each other of God's great love and provision.

## 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, begins this Sunday with Rick Marrs providing an 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 this Sunday. This class will feature Bible based teachings along with some video curriculum and will include time for prayer and fellowship.

Our Sunday morning young adult class will meet at the Williamson home across Hillcrest Drive from the church building at 261 Quinta Vista Dr. The class will be led by Jack Williamson and Doug Hurley.

## Calling Young Adults

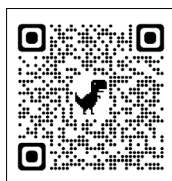
If you are a high school graduate, a local college student, or a recent college grad living in the area, we want to bless you! Our Adopt-A-Young-Adult program is for you. Please [click this link](#) or use the QR code to show your interest and we will connect you with a Conejo member or family!



What will this entail? Simply 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 well-being. That's it! We are so glad you are 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 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 are interested, please [click this link](#) or access the QR code with the dinosaur for more information. This will take you to the page where you can sign up.

## 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 [small group ministries](#) for a detailed listing of the small group offerings for the fall semester of 2023.

### Weekly

Sunday Afternoon Hoops	Sundays 2pm
YG Weekly Meet	Sundays 5:30pm
Guys' Group	Mondays 6:30-7:45pm
Women's Bible Study	Mondays 7-8:30pm
Strangers to Neighbors	2nd/4th Tuesdays 8-9pm
Flourishing Families	Wednesdays 6:15-7:30pm
Life Group @ Reynolds	Wednesdays 6:45-8pm
Conejo Tutoring	Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm
Life Group @ Fosters	Thursdays 7-8:30pm
Saturday Guys' Golf Group	Saturdays early am

### Monthly

Crafty Women	TBD Sunday 1-7pm
Fifth Commandment	Fourth Tuesday 7-8:30pm
Playdates with Haylie	Second Thursday 10:30am
Moms Better Together	Third Friday 5:45-7:45pm
Hiking Trails Ministry	Third Saturday 8:30-11am
Anchor Meet Up!	TBD Saturday 6-8pm
Flourish Meet Up!	TBD Saturday 6-8pm

## Small Groups THIS Week

All of the weekly groups listed above will be meeting this week except for Conejo Tutoring. Specific times, details, leaders, and locations are listed on the flyer in the link above.

Two of our monthly groups will be meeting this week:

**Moms Better Together** will include a meal. Planners for this event need for all who are coming to [RSVP here](#).

**Hiking Ministry Group** will meet in the lower parking lot at Malibu Creek State Park and will hike the Mott Adobe ruins. It is a three-mile hike with an elevation gain of 285 feet. Parking is \$12 per day or \$3 per hour. For email reminders of upcoming hikes, please contact Jon Burke at [jon.burke@pepperdine.edu](mailto:jon.burke@pepperdine.edu)

## Fall Kick Off Sunday



# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Class

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. There are additional Sunday afternoon / evening meetings for our teens.



## 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 this Sunday, September 10, so that those planning will have time to prepare.



## YG Calendar

Teens, there are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in our faith. Please [click here](#) to see the calendar of events for the coming weeks.

## Recent Back-To-School Blessing for Youth Group



## Back to School Bash / Today

This Sunday, Seth & 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.



# 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

### Bible Classes This Week

2s/3s/4s - Haylie D.

Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s/4s - Kari O., Sarah G.

Elementary - Penny W.

## Updated Roster Information

Parents - Please fill out this Google form (<https://forms.gle/S6yojvVZ2K6y8Y9T9>) so that we will 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 remains warm, 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.

**Playdates with Haylie**

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at the church building at 10:30am we'll have playdates with Haylie. This will be a time for our kiddos that aren't yet in school and their parent/grandparent/nanny to spend some more time with Haylie and play together. We want our littles to know the church is a safe place for them to learn, grow, and have fun.

## 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 Darlene Rivas) – 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** (father of Brett Roby; grandfather of Bonnie Rockey) – dealing with 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

### September 3 Attendance

On-Site Service	129
Online Viewing	68

### September 3 Giving

**\$11,805**

Weekly Giving Average	\$12,216
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,652,616
Property Settlement	\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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