

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

September 24, 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
- 1:45pm YG Singing Service to Joanna White and her friends
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 2:45pm YG Fellowship and Swimming at Rhoades' home

Upcoming Events

- Sept 25 Men's Bible Study
- Sept 25 Women's Bible Study
- Sept 26 Fifth Commandment
- Sept 26 Strangers to Neighbors
- Sept 27 Life Group at Reynolds
- Sept 27 Flourishing Families at Walls
- Sept 28 Life Group at Fosters
- Oct 8 Crafty Women
- Oct 14 Anchor Meet Up!
- Oct 14 Flourish Meet Up!
- Oct 15 Taco Fest Mission Fundraiser
- Oct 20 Moms Better Together
- Oct 21 Hiking Trails Ministry

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Daphne Green | 9/24 |
| Jonathan Ditmore | 9/29 |
| Bob Pratt | 9/29 |

God's Surprises

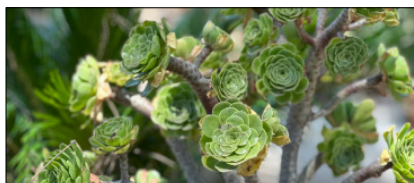
Andy Wall

Allow me to play the provocateur, to scribble outside the lines, to upset (or at least bump) the apple cart. I was recently challenged to think again about what preaching and worship are for. My tendency has been to slide into a view of worship and preaching as things that bring stability, soothe troubled waters, and evoke peace and safety. Sermons are for answering questions, diminishing cognitive dissonance, making everything fit. Worship is for helping us feel better, picking up our spirits, creating clarity.

But, I was reminded, the God who is portrayed in Scripture is very difficult to manage. God doesn't seem to like to be pigeonholed, systematized, or tamed. God may be good, but he is not safe, to paraphrase C.S. Lewis. The problem with God, is, well, that He is God. God creates and judges. God makes alive and brings to naught. Does God really need or want me as a preacher to "protect" God's people from God, to shield them from God's disruptive, invasive, dislodging work? An idol will never shock you, surprise you, or throw you for a loop. But the living God is far too unpredictable for that.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said that a sermon is the gutsy willingness to let Christ walk around your congregation. No telling what might happen if Jesus really got loose in one of our assemblies. We say we want the truth. But can we handle the truth? Do we really want church occasionally to be a destabilizing force in our lives, a force that calls into question, challenges assumptions, disrupts accepted modes of thinking, calls for new birth, and shakes us to our very core?

The truth is, on most days we'd rather have God support our causes, validate our friends, endorse our candidates, and bless our wars. We'd prefer a tame and domesticated God, rather than having to deal with the unruly, demanding, and intrusive God we so often read about in Scripture. I don't think we have to choose between worship services that comfort the afflicted and services that afflict the comforted. But if we let God be God, we may find ourselves embarking on adventures in faith that could shake us up and transform us in ways we never bargained for. I know that I need to remain open to God's surprising, unpredictable, and disruptive work in my life. How about you?



What's Happening At Conejo



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

Today's message, "Rooted," focuses on Psalm 1 and the Torah psalms. Psalm 1 considers the question of an individual who sees wickedness in society and commends God's instruction (Torah) as the guide to a fulfilled and rooted life. This psalm serenely commends the way of the Lord, understanding that God is the only true king and ruler. In contrast to the wicked, the righteous are like trees, planted by a stream, with roots constantly nourished, producing good fruit in season, full of vitality. Psalm 1 encourages us to put down deep roots into God's word, to take delight in God's teaching and meditate on it regularly, allowing it to nourish, energize, and form us spiritually.

Fall Adult Education Classes

This fall, our auditorium class is studying the book of Psalms in a class titled "Psalms for Every Season." This class, which dovetails with our fall sermon series, explores the rich variety found in the Psalms. This Sunday, Tim Willis is teaching on the psalms of creation.

Our class in the north overflow room is for those raising kids of all ages at home. The class is titled "Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together." The class is overseen by Bill and Melissa Foster and 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.

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, our Adopt-A-Young-Adult program is for you. Please [click this link](#) and fill out the form to show your interest and we will connect you with a Conejo member or family!

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 cares and is praying for you.

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 well-being. Please [click this link](#) for additional information.

Women's Bible Study / September 25

Conejo Women: please join us for Women's Bible Study at 7pm via Zoom on Mondays. We will be studying Heather Holleman's book, "The Six Conversations: Pathways to Connecting in an Age of Isolation and Incivility." [Zoom Meeting Link.](#)

Worship Coordinators Needed

If you are a person who has been gifted with attention to detail, please consider joining a team of people who serve on a rotating basis as the worship coordinator. The worship coordinator tends to details such as placing the bread and cup on the table before service, counting attendance, and gathering before the service in the church office with all who have a speaking or serving role for the morning to review the order of service and pray. When we have a team of 8-10 people to share the responsibility, each person only needs to fill this role once every couple of months. Please contact Rene H. if you are interested in helping with this important role.

Fall Small Groups

Our fall small group program has launched 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 of 2023.

Fifth Commandment Group / September 26

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? Join us this Tuesday at 7pm as we share current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. Men and women are invited and encouraged to participate. [Zoom Meeting Link.](#)

Tutoring Ministry

The Fall Tutoring Season is about to begin, and we are looking for both weekly and substitute volunteers. Tutoring will take place in-person at Conejo Elementary School on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 7:30pm, beginning with a tutor orientation on October 12. The fall season continues through Thursday, December 14. For volunteers able to continue into the Spring, we begin again in mid-January and the program continues through April.

Being a tutor means spending an hour of your time each week with first grade students, helping them with their reading, with math, or just playing games. This ministry takes place on the school campus in the students' classrooms, and tutors have access to a wealth of exciting educational tools and supplies. Please email tutoringatconejo@gmail.com or contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 if you can serve as a tutor or substitute, or if you would like additional information.

High School + Middle School

HS Pismo Retreat

A huge thank you to the adults—Robert C., Mark D., Doug H., and Christian S.—who gave of their time and talents to help the teens have a terrific Pismo Retreat last weekend.



Youth Group Bible Class and Activities Today

The Youth Group has chosen to study 1&2 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 gathers at 9am each Sunday. There are additional Sunday afternoon / evening meetings for our teens. This week, our teens will meet outside at 825 Calle Cedro in Thousand Oaks at 1:45pm to sing to Jim White's mom, JoAnna, along with 5 other residents at this care facility until around 2:30pm.

Immediately after singing to JoAnna and her friends, the youth group will go to the home of David and Joy R. at 6035 Kerrmoor Dr., WLV from for an afternoon of swimming, hanging out, and fellowship. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

TacoFest 2023 / October 15

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15, as the youth group and their families will be hosting our 4th annual TacoFest! A taco cart will be on hand to provide us with delicioso tacos, quesadillas, rice, beans, and (of course) chips & salsa. Want something meatless &/or lighter? We'll have taco salad, too. Taco 'bout awesome! Guests will be serenaded by a mariachi band and, weather permitting, the Fest will be held outdoors so dress accordingly. There will be a donation sombrero available for you to drop your gift for the 2024 summer mission trip to Mexico. Please be sure to join us at 6pm for the fiesta!



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.

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.

Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.
2s/3s/4s - Leslie S. and Sarah G.
Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.
2s/3s/4s - Amber J., Sarah G.
Elementary - Dwayne H.

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.

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

Trunk or Treat / October 28

Trunk or Treat is back! Each family/group that signs up to decorate their trunk will also run their own carnival style game or activity. Start thinking about fun costumes and exciting games! Be on the lookout for more information and mark your calendars for 6pm on October 28.



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Alyssa and Rob West** (November) **Ty and Eliza Erickson** (March); **Josh and Cassie Horton** (March)

BIRTH: **Millie Kay Williamson**, daughter of **Brendin and Kaitlyn**, granddaughter of **Jack and Tami**

THOSE GRIEVING

Lisa Scott – loss of mother, Imogene Williamson

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

Marilyn Aurand – nodules discovered in lungs, awaiting report from doctor; also dealing with spinal stenosis and seeking to improve mobility

Carol McNutt – recovery from knee replacement surgery

Brandon Starkey – recovering from burst appendix

Residents of Maui – as they recover from devastating fires

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, Eric and Michelle, as they care for her and big sis, Vivi

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 17 Attendance

On-Site Service	114
Online Viewing	103

September 17 Giving

\$8,108

Weekly Giving Average	\$12,127
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,652,816
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

www.conejochurch.org

Haylie Douglas

Children's Minister

(979) 676-1529 cell

haylie.douglas@conejochurch.org

Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager

(818) 665-8598 cell

rene.heard@conejochurch.org

Travis Moore

Youth & Family Minister

(520) 591-8246 cell

travis.moore926@gmail.com

Andy Wall

Preaching Minister

(805) 331-0187 cell

andy.wall@conejochurch.org

Jack Williamson

Spiritual Formation Minister

(805) 331-0183 cell

jack.williamson@conejochurch.org



CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Elders: Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – elders@conejochurch.org