



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 1, 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
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 5:30pm YG Devo and Fellowship

Upcoming Events

- Oct 2 Men's Bible Study
- Oct 2 Women's Bible Study
- Oct 4 Flourishing Families at Walls
- Oct 4 Life Group at Reynolds
- Oct 5 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 CVCC Volunteers help with Many Mansions Fall Fair
- Oct 20 Moms Better Together
- Oct 21 Hiking Trails Ministry

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| Loretta Katch | 10/2 |
| Sandy Stivers | 10/2 |
| Sarah Jane Norris | 10/3 |
| Rosie Patenaude | 10/3 |
| Christina Eng | 10/4 |
| Audrey Charles | 10/5 |
| Nico Heard | 10/5 |
| Robert Katch | 10/7 |
| Connie Horton | 10/8 |
| Philomena West | 10/8 |

A Vision for a Shared Future

Andy Wall

This January, our elders announced the beginning of a visioning process for the Conejo Church. A team of church members, representing various age and life stage cohorts in the congregation, was commissioned to work together with church consultant Jon Mullican to draft a vision description for the next twenty years at the Conejo Church. The group met seven times between January and May, sharing in demographic research, future dreaming, Biblical reflection, in-depth conversations, and prayer. This process included a larger gathering with the whole congregation on February 19, focusing on our prayers for the future of our congregation. In June, the group shared the results of this process with Conejo's elders and ministers. This Sunday, members of the vision team will spend time unpacking the vision description below with our congregation.

"The Conejo Valley Church of Christ seeks to be a thick intergenerational community of reciprocal love and grace, embodying the Christ-centered, Spirit-led character and durable unity of the church in times of harmony (Acts 2) and of discord (Acts 15). When we genuinely belong to each other and are actively equipped for service, we can be God's ongoing blessing (Genesis 12) in the Conejo Valley and beyond."

I will focus on the first part of this vision description: "The Conejo Valley Church of Christ seeks to be a thick intergenerational community of reciprocal love and grace..." The word "thick" deserves some explanation. We do not mean "thick" as in the British slang usage, which connotes "stupid, dull, dense, or insensitive." A thick community imagines a community that is durable, sturdy, and long-lasting; a thick community envisions a deeply rooted and richly interconnected church family that endures through challenges, invests meaningfully in relationships, and is characterized by constancy, tenacity, and strength. The opposite of a thick community is one that is flimsy or fragile.

The phrase "reciprocal love and grace" connects the notion of "thick community" with two foundational New Testament words. The kind of grace we learn about in the story of Scripture describes unmerited favor and undeserved generosity. Such grace is reflected in Romans 5:8, "...while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Love describes an unconditional care for others shown in word and deed. Such love wills the best for others, which means love is no pushover. Parents express love for children when they offer discipline and training. Friends express love for one another when they refuse to enable self-destructive behaviors. Love and grace work together in a community to create a space that is welcoming and charitable and at the same time highly committed to one another.

As we pursue God's unfolding future for our congregation, may we continue to "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24). And may we do so as a thick community of reciprocal love and grace!

What's Happening At Conejo



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

Today's message, "Word to the Wise," focuses on Psalm 37, which is a wisdom psalm.

Wisdom psalms are another subset of the psalms of orientation, expressing faith in God's well-ordered and reliable world. These psalms express a predictable relationship between deeds and consequences, virtue and reward, making them the most Proverb-like of the psalms. Psalm 37 lays out the moral conditions by which blessing may be received and maintained, dividing the world into the righteous and the wicked. The psalm grapples with the question of why the wicked sometimes prosper while ultimately affirming that righteous behavior leads to life and blessing while wickedness leads to being cut off.

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 wisdom psalms.

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. This week's class will be led by Doug Hurley.

Address Update for the Moore Family

Please update your address for Travis, Amy, Allie, and Grace:

4359 N. Brookdale Lane
Moorpark, CA 93021

Women's Bible Study / October 2

This week the Women's Bible Study group will meet at the home of Lynn B. in Newbury Park to enjoy a meal, and a time of fellowship and prayer. We will resume our Zoom meeting and discussion (chapter 2) of Heather Holleman's book, "The Six Conversations," on October 9.

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 email the church office (office@conejochurch.org) if you are interested in helping with this important role.

Fall Small Groups

Our fall small group program is under way 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, or pick up a printed copy from the entry table in the church foyer.

Tutoring Ministry / October 12

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.

Fall Fair for Many Mansions / October 20

Many Mansions, the provider of low-income housing in our community, is sponsoring their annual Fall Fair for their resident children on Friday, October 20 from 3-5pm. Our church is collaborating with Many Mansions on this year's fair,



providing four activity stations, similar to games we've had at former Harvest Festivals. We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help run activity stations. Please click on the ["sign-up genius"](#) to indicate your interest and availability. If you have questions, please contact the office office@conejochurch.org.

High School + Middle School

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 at the church building from 5:30-7pm. Pizza will be provided. The current them study is "The Exchanged" based on 2 Timothy. Be sure to come to give and receive encouragement as you head into a new week of school.



Youth Group Sunday Singing

Last Sunday afternoon, many of our teens, their parents, and siblings spent some time singing songs with and for members of the residential care home where Joanna White lives. Thank you for sharing your time, love, and voices to encourage Joanna and her friends at her new home.

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.

Meet-Up Groups / October 14

One Saturday per month from 6-8pm, there is a special gathering for all youth group girls—**Flourish Meet Up!**—and a separate gathering for all youth group guys—**Anchor Meet Up!** The next Meet Ups will take place on October 14. Details will be forthcoming in texts, emails, and next week's Family News.



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 and/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!



Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please remember to sign your children in for Bible class and worship! There are 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 - Bonnie R., Sarah G.

Elementary - Mark D.



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: **Rob and Alyssa 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**, was born on September 13

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

Residents of Maui – as they recover from devastating fires

Peggy Alsop (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; 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

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 24 Attendance		September 24 Giving	
On-Site Service	124	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,022
Online Viewing	54	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,652,866
		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

CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive

Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



Jack Williamson

Spiritual Formation Minister

(805) 331-0183 cell

jack.williamson@conejochurch.org

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