



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

November 12, 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
- 12:00pm Envisioning the Blessing
- 5:30pm Dinner and Devo at CVCC

Upcoming Events

- Nov 13 Men's Bible Study
- Nov 15 Flourishing Families
- Nov 15 Life Group at Reynolds'
- Nov 16 Life Group at Fosters'
- Nov 16 Tutoring Ministry
- Nov 17 Moms Better Together
- Nov 18 Crafty Women
- Nov 19 Armloads of Love
- Nov 26 Farewell to the Williamses
- Dec 3 Jesus' Birthday Party - (CM Christmas Event)
- Dec 10 Carols and Candlelight
- Dec. 17 All-Church Christmas Party at the home of Rick and Paula

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-----------------|-------|
| John Latson | 11/14 |
| Marcus Williams | 11/14 |
| Troy Labnow | 11/17 |
| Michael Ditmore | 11/19 |
| AJ Rivera | 11/19 |

Real Conversations

Penny White

[Note: Throughout October, I've reflected on our 20-year vision description for the Conejo Church. For the next several weeks, I've invited members of our vision team to share their reflections on parts of the vision description that are especially meaningful to them. This week, Penny White shares on "congregational conversations." Andy Wall]

This past February many in our community met together to reflect, pray, and envision our Conejo Church's future. As an introvert, the idea of gathering for an afternoon of rotating small group discussions for 2 hours was daunting. I was quickly relieved as the groups were kept to 3 people and the discussion time for each question was short. From the first question I found myself deeply engaged, inspired, and curious as I experienced a new appreciation for my fellow Conejo members as they shared thoughtfully and deeply with trusting vulnerability.

The first question, "What price did others pay for me to be here?" revealed my tendency to answer questions focusing on what's in front of me today – i.e., "Jim stayed home with Joanna so I could be here." But as others answered with much broader views, I was overwhelmed with the realization of all the people in all the churches to whom I have belonged who have sacrificed throughout my life to bring me to this moment at Conejo. They sacrificed to bring me to Christ, loved me as a child, teen, young adult, single adult, married, married with children, married with adult children, full-time caregiver, and empty nester. In all these life stages, it has been the church communities who poured into me, watched over me, and walked with me in the most wonderful times of my life and in the hardest times of loss and hurt.

Were the people in all these churches perfect, without conflict, or without experiences of hurt and disappointment? No, none of these churches were perfect or without conflict. Yes, at times I experienced hurt and disappointment at these churches. What I remember and hold in my heart about the difficulties and disagreements, though, is not the topics or circumstances of the hard times; rather it is how people treated each other through the difficulties. Was it an angry discussion whose sole purpose was 'to win' or was it a thoughtful discussion with more listening than talking? Did the questions reveal curiosity and respect rather than condemnation? Did I leave the discussion time understanding more about the different ideas and beliefs and their importance to the people sharing them? Or did I leave the discussion sad and upset because of derogatory language and intimidation tactics?

Our discussion time in February was revealing — showing me how we can have conversations that are designed to help us listen more than talk, ask clarifying questions, choose to share with vulnerability on topics where we disagree, and treat each other lovingly in the process. Throughout the different meetings in the vision process, we heard this quote over and over: "If you can talk about it you can manage it. If you can't talk about it, it will manage you."

Today after our worship service, we have a unique opportunity to enter into deeper conversation as we share ideas to bless the Conejo Valley, receive updates on the building expansion plans, and continue to envision our shared future. May God bless our ongoing conversations!

What's Happening At Conejo



Current Sermon Series: "Songs In the Key of Life"

Today's sermon in our Psalms series will explore Psalm 30. For two months, we've been looking at two types of prayers found in the Psalter: psalms of orientation and psalms of disorientation. This week, we move into the third type, the psalms of reorientation. These are psalms that celebrate the joy that can come in the morning following the night of sorrow. Psalm 30 describes the far side of a journey from desperation to joy and provides for us a model of gratitude from one who has tasted life's desperate hardships and was convinced that he would be done in. Yet here the psalmist now is, full of new life and more than willing to give testimony to God's gracious salvation.

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, Rodney Smithers is teaching on the individual psalms of thanksgiving.

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.

Envisioning the Blessing / Today

The elders invite all members to a congregation-wide brainstorming and informational session today, immediately following worship service—lunch provided! We will discuss opportunities to bless the Conejo Valley and be updated on building expansion plans, in light of the recent Vision for a Shared Future. Please make plans to stay, share lunch, and join into our conversation about the future.

Gifts for John Stephens and Ellie Cirillo

John Stephens and Ellie Cirillo are getting married soon. Let's help them as they build their life together. Here's how we can be involved. Beginning this Sunday and continuing through November 19, there will be a tool box on a table in the foyer. Please purchase a gift card from any of the following places: Home Depot, Lowe's, Cost Plus, or Amazon. Enclose the gift card in a greeting card with your love and well-wishes for the couple. Place the card into their tool box.

Moms Better Together / November 17

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 17, from 5:45 to 7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Please [click here](#) to sign up for the event. Since we will

share a meal, we need to know how many are coming.

Women's Craft Event / November 18

On Saturday, November 18, from 11am through 4pm, women of our congregation are invited to a fun day of fellowship at the building. Bring your current craft project(s) and join with others to make progress on your hobby while deepening friendships with CVCC sisters.

Armloads of Love / November 19

As we approach Thanksgiving, we have a wonderful opportunity to provide holiday meals for families in need from the Conejo Elementary School. On Sunday, November 19, you're invited to bring various food goods to church with you. Please click [Armloads of Love shopping list](#) of the food items we will be providing; please [click here to connect to the sign-up genius](#) to sign up for the specific items you can bring. Thank you for your willingness to take part in the tangible expression of gratitude to God for his many blessings.

Farewell to the Williamsons / November 26

After 30 years of ministry with the Conejo Church, Jack and Tami Williamson will begin a new chapter of ministry with the Montgomery Boulevard Church of Christ in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While we all have a mix of bittersweet emotions concerning their departure, we want to truly honor and celebrate their three decades of service at Conejo. Please make plans to join us for a farewell potluck dinner in their honor on Sunday, November 26, at 5:30pm. The evening will include a time to share favorite memories and words of appreciation for Jack and Tammy, as well as Brendin, Caleb, and Alicia who will also be present. If you are unable to attend, please consider submitting a video tribute to reneheard@sbcglobal.net by no later than November 17.

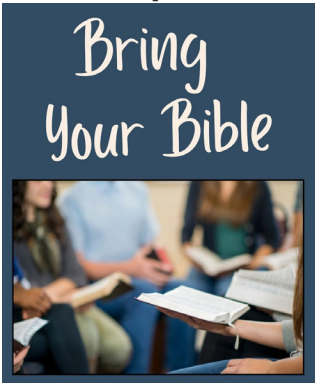


Christmas Cookie Exchange / December 2

Ladies, you are invited to the Foster Residence on Saturday, December 2, from 2-4pm for a Christmas Cookie Exchange. Bring an appetizer to share, 6 dozen cookies, and a container to take your cookies home in.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class and Activities / Today



On Sunday mornings during class time, we are starting a short series called "Dining with Jesus: Kingdom Living From the Parables." 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 5:30-7:30pm. Dinner will be provided. Don't miss this awesome time to be with your youth group family. As always, bring your Bibles.

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IMPACT 2023

This weekend, 7 high school student leaders led 22 middle schoolers in lessons from the greatest commandment in Matthew 22 on loving God, our neighbors, and taking care of ourselves. Please pray for the safety of all as they travel home today and for the lessons taught to be processed and applied in the lives of the kids who went to IMPACT.

Anchor & Flourish Groups / November 18

We have this HOPE as an ANCHOR for the soul, SURE & STEADFAST. HEBREWS 6:19

One Saturday per month, there is a special gathering for all youth group guys (Anchor Meet Up) and a separate gathering for all youth group girls (Flourish Meet Up).

Anchor Meet

Up will gather from 12-3pm at the home of Mark Davis for some boating, fishing, axe throwing, meat eating, and kayaking; Flourish Meet Up will gather from 6-9pm for some new excitement. Details in emails.



Children's Ministry

Children's Class Offerings



Bible Classes This Week

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

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.
2s/3s/4s - Jolyn H. and 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 2023

Thank you to all of our wonderful kids and families who participated in this year's Trunk or Treat event. Over the next few weeks, we will share photos of this fun event.



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Alyssa West** (November); **Jodi Davis** (February); **Eliza Erickson** (March); **Cassie Horton** (March); Chloe Sutherland (April)

Upcoming wedding of **John Stephens** to Ellie Cirillo

THOSE GRIEVING

Smithers Family – loss of cousin of Brian / nephew of Rodney, Jason Knight

Pepperdine Community and families – of Deslyn, Asha, Niamh, and Payton following their tragic deaths

Kay Falletta – loss of brother-in-law, Bill McQuillan

Friends and family of **Louise Pratt** – former member

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) Rivera

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Jerry Jerabek (father of Christopher Jerabek) – neuroendocrine carcinoma

David Green – fighting two types of cancer cell lines; upcoming surgery on November 15

Joe Watts (friend of Rene Heard) – cancer in leg, spine, and lungs

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 Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Griffin McAfee – (grandson of Maxi McAfee, brother of Freya) – blockage in kidney; currently on antibiotics; upcoming surgery

Amy and Kevin Stalbaum (niece and nephew of Kay Falletta) – serious injuries from hit-and-run bicycle accident

Peace and safety for all in Israel and the Middle East

Marty Lince (brother of Suzanne Scarberry) – congestive heart

failure; difficulty with peripheral circulation; severe kidney infections

Marilyn Aurand – nodules discovered in lungs; also dealing with spinal stenosis

Carol McNutt – recovery from knee replacement surgery

Susan Kenny (sister of Kimberly Thomson) – fighting babesiosis

Reilly Phillips (son of Phil and Heather Phillips) – type I diabetes

Jerry Roby (grandfather of Bonnie Rocky) – dealing with heart issues

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire; pray for healing and hope 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) – Carina's cast was removed; prayers that her hip bone will stay in the socket

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 Condeley (daughter of

Janie Condeley) – lupus

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

Made in the Streets – 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 Spain with the Navy

Derek Willis (nephew of Tim Willis) – serving in PA in the Army

Attendance
+ Giving

November 5 Attendance

On-Site Service	155
Online Viewing	50

November 5 Giving

\$29,032

Weekly Giving Average	\$12,330
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,655,056
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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