

BE the BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 21, 2024

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
10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube

Upcoming Events

July 21-27 King's Kamp
July 28 Won By One Concert
July 30 Youth Group Bonfire Night
August 4 All-Sing and Ice Cream
August 10 Malibu Makos Surfing Lessons
August 11 All-Church Game Night

Birthdays This Week

Brynn Kliest-Blankfein	7/22
Tim Horton	7/23
Sam Jackson	7/23
Phil Phillips	7/23
Wes Johnson	7/24
Stu Warford	7/25
Paula Marrs	7/27
Catie Stephens	7/27

The Redemption of Roger

Andy Wall

On April 3 of this year, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck near Hualien City on the Island nation of Taiwan, killing at least 18 people and injuring over 1,100. As you can imagine, the process of picking through the rubble in search of survivors and victims was painstaking and heartrending.

One heartening story to emerge from the earthquake's aftermath was that of a Labrador retriever named Roger, who sniffed out the 13th victim found amid the debris. Roger had been trained to work in customs as a drug-sniffing-dog, but had flunked out of the program after being deemed "too friendly and boisterous." Lee Hsin Hung, Roger's handler, had selected him from among a number of rejected puppies to become part of an emergency response team.

Roger's demeanor, which disqualified him from a future in drug-sniffing, suggested to Mr. Lee that Roger could become an excellent search and rescue dog. "He was very agile, his movements were very bold, and he didn't let anything fence him in," according to Mr. Lee. Undaunted by heights and unfamiliar locations, "He thought he could overcome any difficulties," he added.

Roger became an unexpected star of the recovery operation, earning him acclaim as a "little hero" in the Taiwanese media. His exuberant antics, along with his resume as a failed drug-sniffing dog, offered some lighthearted moments for a country reeling from a major disaster. Roger appeared on talk shows to show off his skills. At one news conference, he tried to gnaw on a reporter's microphone; at another, he tore apart a soft toy (see below) as his handler described his brave deeds.

Here are two observations from Roger's story that may be instructive for us. First, there are some jobs we are simply not suited for. However, this doesn't disqualify us from a great many other jobs. In fact, some qualities that prevent us from being effective in one environment are just the gifts we need to thrive in another. Sometimes what feels like a failure is simply misalignment. Joseph's self-aggrandizing dreams annoyed the daylights out of his brothers; but this ability to interpret dreams served him well in Pharaoh's court, eventually enabling him to save both the Egyptians and his own family during a lengthy famine.

Second, Mr. Lee's perceptiveness made all the difference for Roger. Rather than viewing Roger as a doggie failure, he sought out where else Roger's winsome personality and undaunted spirit might best be put to use. We, too, can be the voice of affirmation in helping others regain their footing after an apparent failure or painful disappointment. Our ability to see the bigger picture may be just the perspective they need to make a new beginning, giving us a small role to play in the redemption story of those around us.



What's Happening At Conejo

And the Angels Rejoiced!

Last Sunday, Zach Johnson was baptized into Christ. Zach, 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.



Help Needed!

Due to the summer travel schedule, we need additional volunteers for a few of our vital Sunday morning ministries.

- **Coffee / Donut Ministry:** From July 14 to August 11, we need to have help with donut pick up and coffee preparation before Bible classes and clean up after worship service. We have details written for coffee preparation and clean up.
- **Projectionist:** We are running short on people to help run projection during our worship service. This job does require a training session, but is extremely important for us to have song lyrics, scriptures, and sermon slides.



Please contact the office (office@conejochurch.org) if you are able to help with any of these needs.

Summer Events at Conejo

Please click the [Summer at Conejo](#) link so that you can plan to meet with the church family for special events this summer.



Won By One in Concert / July 28

Come join us for Won by One's final concert of their summer tour on Sunday evening, July 28, at 6pm. Won by One is a six-member a cappella performing group representing Pepperdine University. The group works in connection with the Office of Church Relations and the Office of Admissions to strengthen ties between Pepperdine and the Churches of Christ and to recruit Christian students for the University. In addition to its work for Pepperdine, Won by One is a dynamic music ministry and seeks to bring its audiences closer to God. Conejo's own Nico Heard is part of this year's group.



Sermon Series: *Running to Win*

With less than a week to go before the Paris Olympics, we're wrapping up our series on New Testament passages focusing on athletic metaphors for the Christian life. Hebrews 12:1-3 brings a word of exhortation to beleaguered Christians, comparing them to weary runners in a long race and encouraging them to faithfully finish the race of faith. This passage envisions an Olympic stadium filled with "a great cloud of witnesses" whose mystical presence galvanizes present-day Christians to continue running. Jesus himself serves as the greatest example of running the race in the face of adversity; he is the pioneer in whose steps we run and upon whom we fix our eyes for direction.

Summer Adult Education / Text Talks

For the summer months of July and August, our Sunday morning auditorium class will feature a variety of Conejo members talking about one or more favorite Scriptures and why they are important to them. The series is titled "Text Talks" and each week the class will feature sharing about biblical texts that have challenged, nourished, or transformed members of our church family. Today, Doug Hurley will be sharing about a few significant texts in his faith journey.

Thank You! Hope Chests for Ghana Medical Clinic



Many of our members participated in filling the Hope Chests for the Ghana Medical Clinic. Mark Davis is traveling to Ghana to deliver the supplies and encourage those who are working there. Our prayers are that the supplies our church shared will be a blessing to the medical staff and to the people who are needing treatment. Many thanks to everyone who helped!

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in July we will be teaching a series called "Not Ok," looking at messages from the Gospels that speak into dealing with stress and anxiety. Sunday night YG dinner and devo will not meet during the summer due to changed scheduling. Please refer to the [YG Summer Calendar](#) for event information and SYS (summer youth series) gatherings. Sunday night youth group will return on August 18.

July Youth Group Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



Youth Group Bonfire at Dockweiler Beach / July 30

During the summer, youth groups from Hilltop, Culver Palms, CVCC, and University Church come together for bonfires at Dockweiler Beach. The van leaves Conejo at 1:30pm and returns at 10:30pm. Those going should bring their own dinner and what they need for the beach. RSVP for a van spot with Travis. Both middle schoolers and high schoolers are invited to attend the bonfires. This is a great way to meet new friends from other churches that will be at summer camps.

Surfing Lessons with Malibu Makos / August 10

Time to hit the waves with friends again! On Saturday, August 10 from 9-11am, we will meet at North Zuma Beach Tower 16 for surfing lessons and a short devotional. Wetsuits, boards, and lunch will be provided. Invite your friends and enjoy the last moments of summer vacation together!

Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Children's Bible Classes

Nursery - Ashleigh B.
2's-5's - Matt J. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th Grade - Katie C.

Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.

Nursery - Tammy D. and Suzanne R.
2s-5s - Amber J. and Sarah G.
Kinder-5th grade - _____



Summer Bible Classes for Children

Please sign up for a week or two to spend time showing our children kindness and love as you share a part of God's story with them. We currently have three age groups - Nursery (0-2), Pre-School (2-5 years), and Elementary School (K-grade 5). Click [Bible Classes](#) to serve as a teacher for the 9-10am classes; or [CM Worship](#) to help between 10:45 and 11:30. Sign-up through the QR codes is also available.



Children's Bible Classes



Children's Worship

King's Kamp

Our theme will be "Christmas in July" as we learn about the Light of the World. We're dreaming of a Kamp Christmas! Information about the camp can be found at kingskamp.org.

Memory Verse

Our current memory verse is Matthew 19:14.
"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.'"



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2

PRAISES

Pregnant Mom - Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens (October)

Baptism: Zach Johnson

Teen Camp - blessings shared by teens and adult volunteers as God was worshipped, faith was strengthened, and relationships were deepened

AMOR Mission Team - a fruitful and safe trip to build a home in Tijuana, Mexico

Vacation Bible School - a wonderful week of shared learning, craft-making, storytelling, game-playing, meal-sharing, and praising the God who is our friend

THOSE GRIEVING

Michael Williams - loss of father, David Williams

Suzanne Scarberry - loss of brother, Marty Lince

Rick Marrs - loss of father, Roscoe Marrs

Tiffany Ornelas - following the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Cotton

Family of Tim Coupe - following the sudden death of Tim, former Conejo member

Nick Odenath - loss of father, Al Odenath

Phil Daringer - loss of father, Phil Daringer

Stan Thomas - loss of father, Leroy Thomas

Jim White - loss of mother, Joanna White

Vincent Chambers - loss of

father, Buford Chambers

Darlene Rivas - loss of Lucinda Hodges, sister-in-law

Daelan Blankfein - loss of father, Fred Blankfein

Kim Milanovich - loss of grandmother, Alice Michael

Tammy Ditmore - loss of mother, Darlene Fielder

Char Hurley - loss of nephew, Matthew Horner

Bonnie Rockey - loss of Jerry Roby, grandfather

Rodney and Brian Smithers - loss of cousin, Jason Knight

Tim Willis - loss of father, John Willis

Loree Hunnicutt - loss of mother, Judy Long

FIGHTING CANCER

Sherry Horner (sister of Char Hurley) - stage IV breast cancer, metastasized to bones

Maria Baake - recovering from surgery for breast cancer; recent hospitalization for digestive issues

David Green - not a candidate for chemotherapy or radiation; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies

Sandra Brasher (friend of Rene Heard) - recently diagnosed with breast cancer

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) - her cancer has returned

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) - stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders)

- multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) - thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Rodney Smithers - at Los Robles for tests and analysis following issues with recent heart surgery

Sharon Box (mother of Amy Moore) recovering at home after recent hospitalization

Glenn Brasher (friend of Rene Heard) - 10 broken ribs and punctured lung after tractor accident

Elizabeth Cowan (mother of Christian Socquet) - memory issues, infections, difficulty understanding medical procedures and care; recently placed on hospice

Rosemary Davis (sister-in-law of Jan Willis) - recovering from recent surgery for brain tumor

Carrie Wall - recovering from knee replacement surgery and a herniated disk in her back

Peace and safety for all in war-torn areas: Israel, the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia

Marilyn Aurand - spinal stenosis

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

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) - heart failure

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

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

Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) - depression

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) - multiple sclerosis

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; prayers requested following recent major flooding

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

Michael Warford - stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance
+ Giving

July 14 Attendance		July 14 Giving	
On-Site Service	140	Weekly Giving Average	\$10,789
Online Viewing	47	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,672,220
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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