

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

September 22, 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
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube

### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 23 Monday Guys' Group
- Sept. 23 Women's Bible Study
- Sept. 25 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Sept. 25 Flourishing Families
- Sept. 26 Life Group at the Fosters
- Sept. 28 Guys' Golf Outing
- Sept. 29 Celebration of Sisterhood
- Sept. 29 Anchor / Flourish Groups

### Upcoming Birthdays

- |                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Bill Foster       | 9/22 |
| Travis Moore      | 9/22 |
| Darlene Rivas     | 9/22 |
| Daphne Green      | 9/24 |
| Charlotte Collins | 9/26 |
| Jonathan Ditmore  | 9/29 |
| Bob Pratt         | 9/29 |

## Present Grace, Future Promise

Andy Wall

What is the best known passage in the Bible? I suppose John 3:16 would be up there. Same with the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's prayer, and the Golden Rule. Among Bible class smart alecks looking for an easy verse to memorize, it might be "Jesus wept". The Ten Commandments would be in this company, though sadly only 14% of Americans can name all ten, according to a USA Today poll.

One other passage that I would place among the best known in Scripture are the beatitudes of Jesus, found in Matthew 5:3-12 at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Not only are they recognized as among the literary and religious treasures of humankind, they also contain some of the highest expressions of spiritual insight and moral inspiration.

*A beatitude typically denotes a privileged recipient of God's favor, as in "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." The "blessed are" statements could also be translated "happy are," "fortunate are," "congratulations to," "honored are," or "esteemed are." Jesus' beatitudes in Matthew 5 function as eight (or nine, depending on how you count) vignettes, eight imaginings of what God's grace working in human lives can look like in the present along with a promise of the future outcome of that grace when God's kingdom comes in its fullness.*

This Sunday, we're beginning our fall sermon series titled, "The Beatitudes: Present Grace, Future Promise," and during the next two months, we'll be exploring these vignettes of grace and hope. Here are three things to keep in mind. First, these beatitudes are intended to startle, to arrest our attention, to contradict typical expectations. We don't usually consider those who mourn, those longing for justice, or those who suffer persecution to be blessed. Jesus is pushing against business as usual, where the powerful and prosperous are viewed as ones to be envied. God's kingdom moves in surprising ways and among unexpected recipients. We're invited to be alert to God's work.

Second, the beatitudes are pronouncements of blessing, not commands to be obeyed. In fairness, it's possible to discern an implicit call to be peacemakers or purer in heart in these blessings; but as pronounced, these qualities are seen as an outgrowth of God's grace at work in the lives of Jesus' followers. Their tone is less about striving and more about living gratefully by God's empowerment.

Third, the beatitudes are intended to plant seeds of hope in God's future. The second part of each beatitude offers a promise: "theirs is the kingdom," "they will be comforted," "they will receive mercy," "they will see God." All who live in hope of God's future kingdom are sustained by such promises in the midst of life's ups and downs.



# What's Happening At Conejo



## Current Sermon Series: *Present Grace, Future Promise*

Beginning this Sunday, our fall sermon series will explore the beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew 5. Beatitudes typically denote God's favor on specific human dispositions, circumstances, or behaviors. They can be viewed as moral exhortations or as words of assurance, and we'll wrestle with this tension throughout the series.

### Welcome to Our Guests!

We are so glad to have you visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or have just chosen to visit with us today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning sharing life and worshiping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that information enables us to share information with you about the upcoming events and ministry of this church.

### Fall Adult Education Classes

In our adult auditorium class, Matt Joyner is leading an exploration of the intersection of faith and science. The class is titled "Faith, Imagination, and the Natural World: Scientific Reflections on God and Our Universe." Science is sometimes unnecessarily pitted against faith, creating false dichotomies between the two. This class will seek to provide accurate, scientific information about the physical world and human biology while examining the interplay of these scientific ideas with our personal faith in Jesus Christ and how we understand the Bible.

Connie Horton is teaching a fall class titled "Raising Resilience," open to all adults. The class will take place in the north overflow room. The class will discuss real-life concerns and practical strategies to help children, teens, and young adults grow up equipped to become resilient adults. Discussion will also include how to raise our own levels of resilience and how to faithfully and confidently navigate the storms of life that come at all life stages and situations. All are welcome.

We encourage everyone to make a renewed effort to come out to our weekly classes to think, reason, grow, encourage one another, and enjoy fellowship with the Conejo church community. And, parents, there are wonderful Bible classes offered weekly for children and teens as well. Let's make the most of our time together this fall!

### Welcome Estes Family

We're delighted to welcome Derek, Laura, Miles, and Henry Estes to the Conejo Church! We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with each of you. Our prayer is that you will be blessed by your association with this church family and that you will be encouraged to grow in faith, love, and service to others.

#### Contact Information for the Estes family

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**Derek:** (615) 483-1321 • derekestes8@gmail.com

**Laura:** (512) 925-1247 • lblestes@gmail.com

### Thank You, Conejo!

*Dear church family,*

*Thank you so very much for the Target gift card. The money is helpful as I set up my classroom for the new year. I also appreciate your thoughtfulness in giving me another gift card to share with a colleague. My co-teacher is relatively new to the field, so she is constantly buying things for school. I am touched by how our church family blessed me in my work and also gave me the opportunity to be a blessing to a dear colleague.*

*Love, Staci Daringer*

### Thank You From Harbor House

*To the Congregation of the Conejo Valley Church of Christ,*

*Thank you so much for your sponsorship of our upcoming Harbor House fundraiser. Your donation means all funds raised will go directly to those struggling in our local community.*

*With Gratitude, Denise Cortes*

### Conejo Women: All Ages and Stages / September 29



Please join us on Sunday, September 29, at 3pm for a time of fellowship and a celebration of sisterhood at the home of Paula Marrs, 11234 Crenshaw Street in Moorpark. If you would like to, please bring a snack to share.

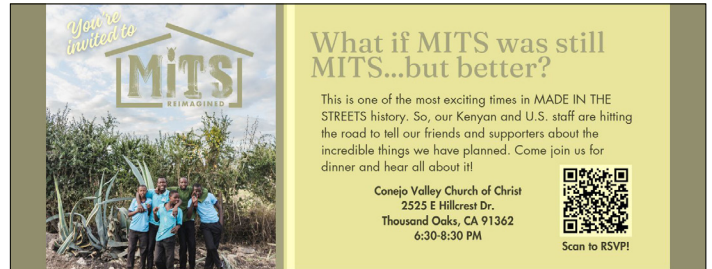
### Fall Small Groups

Our small group program is launching over the next several weeks. 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 [Fall 2024 Small Groups](#) for a detailed listing or pick up a copy on the entry table in the foyer as you enter the building on Sunday. These groups are wonderful places to deepen understandings and friendships with people at Conejo.

# Made In The Streets Dinner

## Made In The Streets Dinner / October 13

Please mark your calendars! Francis Mbuvi, from MITS in Nairobi, Kenya, will be with us on Sunday, October 13. On that day, he will hold an informational meeting beginning at 6:30pm and running through 8:30pm. For more information, please pick up a flyer from the entry table; to sign up for the dinner, please use the QR code to the right or click [MITS Dinner RSVP](#). Join us to learn more about their current work and needs.



# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in September, the youth group will be studying a series called "Beyond Belief," looking at stories from the book of Exodus and what can be learned about faith and doubt. Our regular youth group Sunday night schedule will begin soon.

## September Youth Group Memory Verse:

*"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* Jeremiah 33:3

## CVYG Connect Calendar

Parents, please help us know your kids' fall extra-curricular schedules by sending them to Kari Odenath at [kariwhit@gmail.com](mailto:kariwhit@gmail.com). Kari has agreed to insert them into a google calendar which will be our new connect calendar. You and other members can



also quickly view the calendar via a QR code on the youth room doors or through clicking [YG Connect Calendar](#). Conejo wants to support your kids, so send all the info to Kari so we can be more present with your families outside the church walls.

## Anchor/Flourish Meet Up! / September 29

Our first Anchor & Flourish gathering is on Sunday, September 29. Lisa Scott will host the girls; Bill Foster will host the guys. The guys will be taking a trip to Ambush airsoft in Moorpark from 2-4pm and then heading over to Bill's for dinner and a devo afterward. The girls will be axe throwing and then hanging out at Lisa Scott's home. Specified times for Flourish will be available very soon.



# Children's Ministry

## Children's Bible Class Offerings

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Nursery - Noel T.

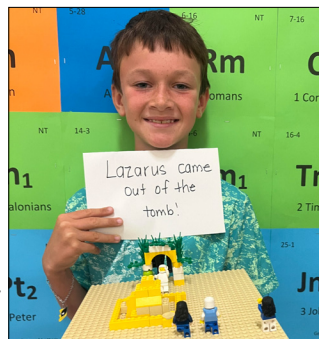
2's-5's - Leslie S. and Sarah G

Kinder-5th grade - Paula M. and Co W.

*Worship Classes are available for children during our sermon time.*

Nursery - Melissa F. and Rene H.

Combined Bigs and Littles Class - Haylie D. and Sarah G.



## Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Deuteronomy 7:9:

*"So I want you to realize that the Lord your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come."*

## Updated Children's Ministry Roster

If you have children in the Children's Ministry, please fill out the Google form at [tinyurl.com/cvccroster24](https://tinyurl.com/cvccroster24). This is for the new school year, so please fill this out even if you've done so in the past. Thanks for helping us keep the most accurate records to serve your family best!



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**Pregnant Mom** – Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens (October)

**Baptisms** – Zach Johnson, Matthew Johnson

**Wedding** – **Matt Williams and Lyrica Blankfein** (former members)

## 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

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

**Sandra Brasher** (friend of Rene Heard) – breast cancer

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

**Cindy Hall** (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer; recovering from hip replacement surgery

**Kurt Krebs** (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

**Justice Howard** (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

## VARIOUS CONCERNS

**Brenda White** – recovery from recent surgery to remove skin cancer

**First Responders, Linemen, All who work outside** – during the extreme heat, earthquakes, fires,

and upcoming winds

**Kendra Davis** (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – setbacks from recent abdominal surgery; in ICU with serious complications

**Shirley Pacifici** (mother of Charee Landis) – recently fell and broke hip

**Steve Simpson** (brother of Lorna T., Stephanie S. and Claudia dB.) – aggressive autoimmune disease called ANCA-Associated Vasculitis; has attacked kidneys; will need kidney transplant soon

**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 surgery for brain tumor

**Carrie Wall** – recovering from knee replacement surgery

**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

**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

**Javon Johnson** – serving as chaplain at the Ventura County Naval Base

**Michael Warford** – stationed in Spain with the Navy

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

Attendance  
+ Giving

### September 15 Attendance

On-Site Service	144
Online Viewing	69

### September 15 Giving

Weekly Giving Average	\$13,003
Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,674,096
Property Settlement	\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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