



# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

September 29, 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
- 12:30pm Anchor Meet Up!
- 3:00pm Celebration of Sisters
- 4:00pm Flourish Meet Up!

### Upcoming Events

- Sept. 30 Monday Guys' Group
- Sept. 30 Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 2 Flourishing Families
- Oct. 2 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Oct. 3 Life Group at the Fosters
- Oct. 5 Guys' Golf Outing
- Oct. 6 YG Family Potluck

### Upcoming Birthdays

Jonathan Ditmore	9/29
Bob Pratt	9/29
Loretta Katch	10/2
Sandy Stivers	10/2
Rosie Patenaude	10/3
Christina Eng	10/4
Audrey Charles	10/5
Nico Heard	10/5

## Not All Tears Are An Evil

Andy Wall

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*

- Jesus, Matthew 5:4

*"Those who do not weep, do not see."*

- Victor Hugo

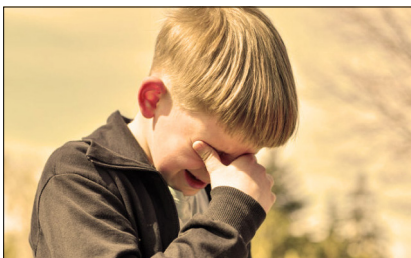
Consider how quintessentially human tears are. Not basal tears, which nourish, shield, and lubricate our corneas. And not reflex tears, which wash away irritants like dust, smoke, or onion fumes. Such tears we share with many members of the animal kingdom. But not emotional tears, which are triggered in response to sadness, joy, fear, anger, and other emotional states. Those tears are uniquely human, connected with our human loves, delights, and sorrows.

I observe an ambivalence in our society concerning tears and their sibling, crying. A generation ago, we might have heard a parent chide a child by saying, "Stop your crying or I'll give you something to really cry about." Such phrases are less common today but you may still hear, "Don't cry. It'll be okay." Consider what we compare crying with: "I cried like a baby." "I blubbered like a fool." "I was so upset, I ugly cried." Crying is often viewed as a negative.

At the same time, many have experienced the positive and cathartic power of tears. You've probably heard someone say, "I just needed a good cry. I feel so much better now!" In his book *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens wrote, "Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, for they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts. I was better after I had cried than before—more sorry, more aware of my ingratitude, gentler." There is no question that tears help us humans process deep emotions, work out our griefs, and release pent up sorrows.

We know of at least two times during the life of Jesus in which he shed tears. One was following the death of his friend Lazarus in Bethany (John 11). Before he called Lazarus back to life, he shared fully in the grief of Lazarus' sisters and friends. The other was as he approached the city of Jerusalem toward the end of his ministry. "As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, 'If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.'" (Luke 19:41ff) The title "Man of sorrows" in Isaiah 53 is aptly applied to Jesus.

Sadly, I think I had most of my tears socialized out of me by childhood messages such as "Big boys don't cry" or "Don't be a crybaby." But I strongly believe in the value of tears. Sometimes, we cry for joy in the face of sheer beauty, as when a groom tears up to see his bride walking down the aisle, or when a mother holds her newborn child for the first time. Sometimes, we cry hard tears when "we must weep amid the fires of pain" or as we endure experiences of grief and loss. Through all our kinds of tears, may we remember the beatitude of Jesus and his promise that God's tender comfort in the kingdom of heaven awaits those who mourn.



# What's Happening At Conejo



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

The second beatitude of Jesus in Matthew 5 is a most counter-intuitive blessing. How can Jesus say that those who mourn are "blessed?" It sounds like he's saying, "Happy are the unhappy!" This beatitude alludes to Isaiah 61:2, a passage of good news written to God's people in exile, a passage that included the promise that God will "comfort those who mourn." In their grief, these exiles cried out "How long, O Lord?", the plaintive cry of the faithful who grieve oppression and injustice, brokenheartedness and sorrows, captivity and exile, as well as remorse for sin. God's grieving children hear in Jesus' beatitude the hopeful promise for the end of this present age when God puts all things to rights.

## **Fall Adult Education Classes**

In our adult auditorium class, Nathan Eng is leading 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!

## **Fall Small Groups**

Our small group program has launched with groups meeting around the Conejo Valley and beyond. These groups meeting 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.

## **Welcome Smith Family**

We're delighted to welcome Clay, Aubrey, Milo, and Ellis Smith 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 Smith family**

28937 Oakpath Drive, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

**Clay:** (615) 306-5062 • clay.smith@pepperdine.edu

**Aubrey:** (772) 321-6937 • aubrey.smith731@gmail.com

## **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.

## **CVCC Members Moving**

Travis and Valerie (Patenaude) Hanna will be moving to Arizona soon. Valerie spent much of her childhood, teen years, and young adult life with us at Conejo. Travis and Valerie, we love you and we will miss you. We pray that your move will be a blessing for you and that you will, in turn, be a blessing to your new community.

Their new address will be: **18097 W Cielo Grande Ave, Surprise, AZ 85387**



## **Tutoring at Conejo Academy / October 10**

The Fall Tutoring Season is about to begin, and we are looking for both weekly volunteers and also substitute tutors.

Tutoring will take place in-person at Conejo Academy (previously Conejo Elementary School) on Thursday nights, beginning with a tutor orientation on October 10. The fall season continues through Thursday, December 12. For volunteers able to continue into the Spring, we begin again in early-January and the program continues through April.

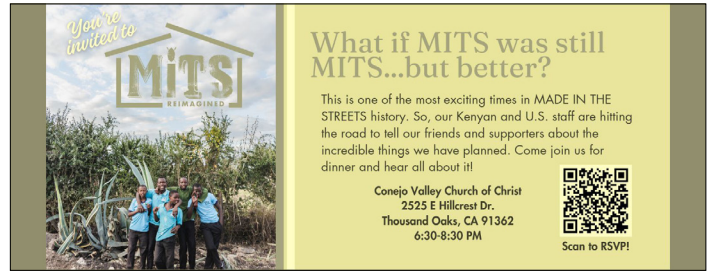
This year, we are also considering moving the weekly schedule up by 30 minutes, 6PM to 7PM instead of our typical schedule of 6:30 to 7:30. This schedule change could be helpful to the kids and their parents. As you consider volunteering, it would be important for us to know if either schedule would change your availability.

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 contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or you can email [tutoringatconejo@gmail.com](mailto:tutoringatconejo@gmail.com) if you can serve as a tutor or substitute, or if you would like additional information.

# 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 Class / Today

In the Sunday morning Bible class, John Downey and Staci Daringer—both of them youth group parents and public school teachers—will interview two elders, Bill Foster and David Rhoades. Students will learn a little bit about who the elders are and what they do for the church, and will have an opportunity to express concerns and ask questions about Travis's departure from our ministry staff. For parents, Connie Horton's class on resilience will resume in the overflow room, and the auditorium class on science and faith will be taught by Nathan Eng.

## Anchor and Flourish Meet Ups! / Today

Our first Anchor and Flourish gatherings are this Sunday, September 29!

For Anchor, guys should get lunch on their own and meet back at the church building at 12:30pm to carpool to Ambush Paintball & Airsoft Park in Moorpark. Around 4:30pm, guys will carpool to Bill Foster's home (2327 Gillingham Circle in Thousand Oaks) for dinner and devo, 5-7pm. Contact Bill Foster with any questions about Anchor.

For Flourish, girls should meet at the Mighty Axe (at Janss Marketplace) at 4pm for games. Dinner will be on-site and should wrap up by 6pm. Contact Katie Charles with any questions about Flourish.

## Bible Class and YG Family Potluck/ October 6

For Bible class, we'll launch a new four-week study on the first Sunday of each month for the rest of 2024. Using the familiar "Grow Students" curriculum, the October series draws on stories throughout the Bible to teach Christian leadership principles. November is all about generosity, with lessons grounded in 1 Thessalonians. December returns to the gospels for Christmas-themed lessons.

The youth group family potluck scheduled for October 6 after service will proceed as originally scheduled, with one change. The elders invite parents and teens to stay after lunch for a brief presentation of the continuity plan for maintaining the youth group calendar through the end of 2024.

Teens and parents are encouraged to spend Sunday evening, October 6 together in lieu of a group event at CVCC.

## Dinner and Devo Fall 2024 / Begins October 13

The dinner and devo series planned for Sunday nights (10/13, 10/27, 11/10, 11/17, and 12/1) has been changed. Dates and times remain the same, but middle and high school will come together for a class on "Resilient Living" taught by Connie and Tim Horton. You can think of this series as a teen version of the Sunday morning resilience class for adults.

# Children's Ministry

## Children's Bible Class Offerings

*Children's Bible Class Offerings*

Nursery - Noel T.

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

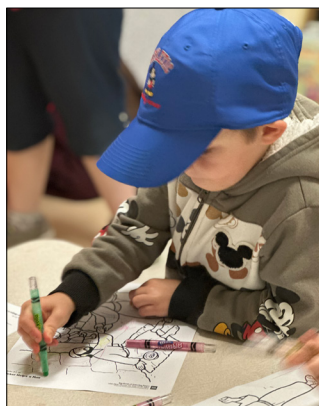
Kinder-5th grade - Paula M. and Co W.

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

Nursery - \_\_\_\_\_

2's -5's - Rene H., Ashlyn T., and Sarah G.

Kinder-5th Grade - Penny White



## 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)

**New Members** – Derek, Laura, Miles, and Henry Estes; Clay, Aubrey, Milo, and Ellis Smith

## 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 Auran** – 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 22 Attendance		September 22 Giving	
On-Site Service	132	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,771
Online Viewing	82	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,674,147
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

[www.conejochurch.org](http://www.conejochurch.org)



## CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

**Haylie Douglas**  
Children's Minister  
(979) 676-1529 cell  
[haylie.douglas@conejochurch.org](mailto:haylie.douglas@conejochurch.org)

**Rene Heard**  
Worship & Media Manager  
(818) 665-8598 cell  
[rene.heard@conejochurch.org](mailto:rene.heard@conejochurch.org)

**Andy Wall**  
Preaching Minister  
(805) 331-0187 cell  
[andy.wall@conejochurch.org](mailto:andy.wall@conejochurch.org)

**Elders:** Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Tim Willis – [elders@conejochurch.org](mailto:elders@conejochurch.org)