

BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 6, 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
- 12:00pm YG Family Potluck followed by Parent / Teen / Elder Meeting

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 7 Monday Guys' Group
- Oct. 7 Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 9 Flourishing Families
- Oct. 9 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Oct. 10 Conejo Academy Tutoring
- Oct. 10 Life Group at the Fosters
- Oct. 11-14 Yosemite Guys' Trip
- Oct. 12 Guys' Golf Outing

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Robert Katch | 10/7 |
| Connie Horton | 10/8 |
| Philomena West | 10/8 |
| Sebastian Calderon | 10/10 |
| Nick Odenath | 10/10 |
| Phil Daringer | 10/11 |
| Rene Heard | 10/11 |
| Sabrina Socquet | 10/11 |
| James Stephens | 10/11 |

Export!

Andy Wall

I've always been fascinated by black holes, which NASA's website describes as "a place in space where gravity pulls so much that even light cannot get out." Imagine an object with a gravitational field so intense that no light, matter, or radiation can escape its pull. Black holes are invisible to human eyes, but space telescopes with special tools help identify black holes.

People will sometimes use black holes as a metaphor for a task that monopolizes all of one's time, energy, or money. As a basketball player, I've sometimes compared a teammate who's a ball hog with a black hole: "Like light, passes go in but they never come back."

Consider the transformation that the Holy Spirit brings about in our lives as we follow the Spirit's lead and embrace the Spirit's enlivening impulses. We can see this internal transformation as the fruit of the Spirit develop within us (things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

However, it would be misleading to say that the Spirit is solely for our inner transformation, as if God's Spirit living in us has no external impact. Our inner spiritual life is not the end goal of the Holy Spirit's work (though that's not a bad start!).

God's Spirit in us is intended to lead us into a world that is hurting, broken, and adrift. Followers of Jesus are called to be people on a mission, in the world, for the sake of God's Kingdom. What does this look like? We can tell the Spirit is working in us when we begin to use our spiritual gifts to build others up, when we are actively serving others, when we share with others what God has done for us, when we "turn the other cheek" or "go the extra mile," when we share generously, when we welcome the unwelcome, and when we love those who are not easy to love.

The Holy Spirit isn't merely interested in giving us a spiritual makeover. Our lives are not some spiritual black hole into which the Spirit enters but never comes out. Rather, the Spirit enters into us and transforms us in such a way that we go and live lives that honor God. May we radiantly respond as the Holy Spirit leads us out into the world for a life of service to others and bearing witness to the goodness of God in Christ Jesus.



What's Happening At Conejo



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

The adjective “meek” is not exactly a compliment in the English language. Yet Jesus’ third beatitude says, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Why would Jesus hold up this adjective as blessed? Though meek rhymes with weak, its actual meaning has nothing to do with cowardice or ineffectiveness. The ancient meaning of meek had the connotation of “strength under control,” and was sometimes used to describe a powerful horse that yielded to its rider’s guidance. Jesus’ blessing is spoken to those who are learning to rein in their anger, violence, and vengefulness and who seek to show magnanimity in the face of slights, freedom from bitterness and grudges, and gentleness in the face of provocation.

Welcome to Our Guests!

We are so glad to have you visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or are simply visiting with us today, we feel thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning sharing life and worshipping 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, including the electronic version of the weekly bulletin, the Family News.

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” and is examining the interplay of scientific ideas with our personal faith in Jesus Christ and how we understand the Bible.

Connie Horton is teaching a class titled “Raising Resilience,” in the north overflow room. The class is discussing real-life concerns and practical strategies to help children, teens, and young adults grow up equipped to become resilient adults. All are welcome.

Adopt A Young Adult Program

We are resuming our Adopt a Young Adult program from last year. Even if you participated last year, we’d like for you to sign up again this year. We would suggest that you “adopt” a different young adult this year. But if you want to stay with the same person this year, please email Rodney Smithers at wmpsh4@aol.com or you may call / text him at (901) 674-3582.

How This Works For Young Adults

If you are a high school graduate who is off to college, a college student at Pepperdine or elsewhere in the Conejo Valley and attend Conejo Valley Church of Christ, or a college graduate

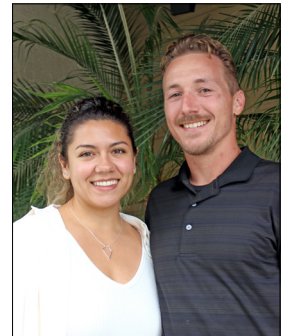
living here in the area and attending CVCC, we want to bless you! For additional information about this, please click [tell me more](#) for the details and click [sign me up](#) or use the QR code (under tell me more) to show your interest, and we will connect you with a Conejo member or family!

How CVCC Members Can Bless Our Young Adults

At Conejo we want to take care of our young adults, whether they grew up with us and are staying local, have moved here for school or work, or have moved out to pursue school/work somewhere else. If you’re interested in being an adult who blesses some of our younger members, please click [tell me more](#) for additional details and click [sign me up](#) or access the sign-up page through the QR code. It’s that easy!

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

Tutoring is starting up again at Conejo Academy (previously Conejo Elementary School) on Thursday nights, beginning with a tutor orientation on October 10. We are looking for both weekly volunteers and substitute tutors. Being a tutor means spending an hour each week with first grade students, helping them with reading or math, as well as playing games. This ministry takes place in the students’ classrooms and tutors have access to a wealth of educational tools and supplies.

This year, we are also moving the weekly schedule up by 30 minutes, 6pm to 7pm, a change that should be helpful to the kids and their parents. Contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or email tutoringatconejo@gmail.com if you can serve as a tutor or substitute or if you would like additional information.

Fall Fair for Many Mansions / October 25

Many Mansions, the provider of low-income housing in our community, is sponsoring its annual Fall Fair for children residing in their homes on Friday, October 25, from 3-5:30pm. Our church is collaborating with Many Mansions on this year’s fair, providing several activity stations similar to games that we’ve had at former Harvest Festivals. We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help run these activity stations. Please check your calendars click [Many Mansions Fall Fair](#) to sign up as a volunteer for this event.

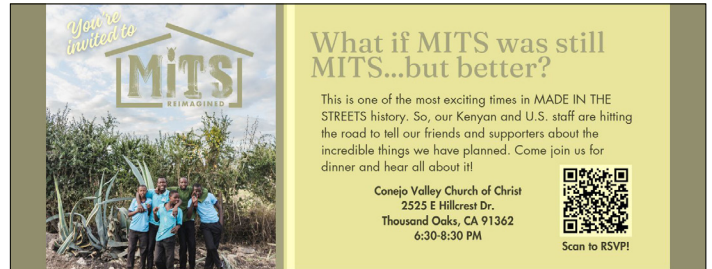
Fall Small Groups

Our small group program has launched. Please click [Fall 2024 Small Groups](#) for a detailed listing or pick up your copy from the entry table in the flyer.

Made In The Streets Dinner

Made In The Streets Dinner / October 13, 6:30pm

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



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 this Sunday, 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 this Sunday evening together with their families in lieu of a group event.

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 students 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.



The elders will have more to share in this Sunday's meeting for parents and teens. For the most part, we are trying to keep the fall schedule as close as possible to what was previously announced. Please be thinking about which events you might volunteer to help with through the end of 2024.

Save the Date: Mission Trip Fundraiser / October 20

Children's Ministry

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Children's Bible Class Offerings

Nursery - Haylie D.

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 - Johnelle O. and Maxi M.

2's -5's - Brenda W., Andrew S., Sarah G.

Kinder-5th Grade - Dwayne H.



Updated Children's Ministry Roster

If you have children in the Children's Ministry, please fill out the Google form at 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!



Trunk or Treat / October 26



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 26.

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."

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

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

Shirley Pacifici (mother of Charee Landis) – making excellent progress recovering from broken hip and resulting surgery

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

Penny White – recovery from recent abdominal surgery

Carol Overton (mother of Daniel Overton) – trying to determine the cause of a brain infection

Brenda White – 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) – home recovering from serious complications from recent abdominal surgery

Steve Simpson (brother of Lorna T., Stephanie S. and Claudia dB.) – rare and 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 care

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 29 Attendance		September 29 Giving	
On-Site Service	150	Weekly Giving Average	\$13,897
Online Viewing	40	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,674,248
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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