

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

October 27, 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
- 5:30pm CMYM Dinner and Devo "Resilient Living"

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 28 Monday Guys' Group
- Oct. 28 Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 29 Fifth Commandment Group
- Oct. 30 Flourishing Families
- Oct. 30 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Oct. 31 Conejo Academy Tutoring
- Oct. 31 Life Group at the Fosters
- Nov. 1 All Saints' Day Service
- Nov. 1-3 HS Pismo Retreat
- Nov. 2 Guys' Golf Outing
- Nov. 2 MS SkyZone and CFA Day

Upcoming Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| Ellis Smith | 10/27 |
| James Rocky | 10/29 |
| Brian Smithers | 10/30 |
| Luke Walsh | 10/30 |
| Holly Chambers | 11/1 |
| Jolyn Haye | 11/1 |
| Tim Willis | 11/3 |

Unstrained Mercy

Andy Wall

*"The quality of mercy is not strained;
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."*

-William Shakespeare

Kenny Rogers' old ballad, "Coward of the County," tells the story of a boy named Tommy whose father's deathbed request was for his son to live peaceably. The boy became known as the "coward of the county" because he wouldn't fight. One day, three brothers went and abused Tommy's wife Becky and the dam broke. Tommy found the brothers and gave them all a good old fashioned whuppin'. The song ends with Tommy telling his deceased dad, "Now please don't think I'm weak, I didn't turn the other cheek, and Papa, I sure hope you understand: Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man."

Is there anything that grates more against our human sensibilities than Jesus' teaching about "turning the other cheek?" Haven't we all seen situations in which the abusive take advantage of the reluctance of the weaker to offer resistance? Haven't we been warned that "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing?" Isn't Tommy right in saying, "Sometimes you gotta fight when you're a man?"

These questions are very natural and deserve thoughtful reflection. However, we must also consider circumstances in which our instinct to hit back does not serve us well. We have witnessed couples going through divorce in which both parties squander their life savings (and more!) trying to make life miserable for the other party. No one wins. We've heard about gangs trading casualties and taking innocent lives as they vie for dominance and settle scores. No one wins. We've watched as opposing tribal groups, religious factions, and nations around the world exact vengeance with ever-increasing casualties for both sides. No one wins.

On the other side of the ledger, we can recall the campaigns of Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr. in which their followers practiced non-violence and experienced voluntary injustice, eventually toppling unjust institutions. A friend of mine once had the opportunity to destroy the dissertation draft of the man who betrayed their friendship and had an affair with his wife, effectively ending two marriages; but he chose not to retaliate in such a way. Some of us remember when Pope John Paul II went to the prison where his would-be assassin was imprisoned; an unforgettable "sermon" on forgiveness.

Martin Luther King once preached a sermon called "Loving Your Enemies." In it he observed, "Hate multiplies hate... in a descending spiral of violence" and is "...just as injurious to the person who hates" as to his victim. But "...love is the only force of transforming an enemy into a friend" for it has creative and redemptive power. One thing Jesus makes clear in this difficult teaching is that vengeance and retribution are not the only options for his followers. As we seek to grow in our capacity to return good for evil, may we remember, in the words of Alfred Plumber, that "To return evil for good is devilish; to return good for good is human; to return good for evil is divine."



What's Happening At Conejo



Current Sermon Series: *Present Grace, Future Promise*

Jesus' fifth beatitude says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." In the Old Testament, the background of the word "merciful" clusters in two general areas: 1) God's pardon given to one who is in the wrong; 2) Kindness shown to one in need, whether by God or by people. The fifth beatitude complements the fourth when we consider to whom the merciful show compassion: those in need, those suffering injustice, those who are poor, those who are oppressed, those who have failed. In doing so, the merciful make visible their hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Fall Adult Education Classes

In our adult auditorium class, Matt Joyner is leading a class titled "Faith, Imagination, and the Natural World: Scientific Reflections on God and Our Universe" an exploration of the intersection of faith and science. Join us in this series and examine the interplay of scientific ideas with personal faith in Jesus Christ and how we understand the Bible.

In our north overflow room, Connie Horton is teaching a class titled "Raising Resilience." The class discusses real-life concerns and practical strategies to help children, teens, and young adults grow up equipped to become resilient adults. All ages are welcome.

Adopt A Young Adult Program

We are resuming our Adopt a Young Adult program. Even if you participated last year, please 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, contact Rodney Smithers at wmpshs4@aol.com or (901) 674-3582.

How This Works For Young Adults

If you are a high school graduate, a college student, or a college graduate living here in the area, 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. We will connect you with a Conejo member or family! I

How CVCC Members Can Bless Our Young Adults

At Conejo we want to take care of our young adults, whether they grew up here, have moved to the area, or have moved elsewhere. If you're interested in blessing 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!

Fifth Commandment Group

The fifth commandment tells us to "Honor your father and mother." How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and, sometimes live hundreds



or even thousands of miles away? Join us on Tuesday, October 29 at 7pm, as we share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

Tutoring at Conejo Academy / Thursdays at 6pm

Tutoring has started up again at Conejo Academy on Thursday nights. 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. Contact Rob West at (805) 657-2911 or email tutoringatconejo@gmail.com if you would like additional information.

All Saints' Day Service / November 1

On Friday evening, November 1, at 7pm, you're invited to gather at the church building for an All Saints' Day Service. This service is rooted in Christian tradition going back at least to the 9th century. During



this service, we'll remember the saints who have gone on before us. We'll reflect on the cloud of witnesses described in Hebrews 11 and 12. Such a gathering can be greatly beneficial, particularly for those walking the road of grief. All Saints' Day is an opportunity for us to lament the loss of loved ones in recent years, to cry out to God in our sorrow, and also to entrust our lives and our loved ones to God's care.

Missions Messenger from Cambodia



Julie Broyles serves as the director of the Bible English Study Center (BEST) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Members from Conejo Valley Church of Christ visited and participated with Julie prior to the pandemic. To learn more about Julie's work in Cambodia, please access her wonderful blog which she updates regularly called

[Clips from Cambodia](#). Connect to it through this link to read about her work, see photos of the people she interacts with, and catch a glimpse of the culture of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

As you have time, please reach out to Julie with words of encouragement through email: juliebroyles1@gmail.com.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class / Today



For Bible class, we're launching 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 in 1 Thessalonians. December returns to the gospels for Christmas-themed lessons.

Resilient Living / Today at 5:30pm

The dinner and devo series planned for Sunday nights has been changed. Middle school and high school students will come together for a class on resilient living taught by Connie and Tim Horton from 5:30 to 7pm today as well as on 11/10, 11/17, and 12/1. You can think of this series as a teen version of the Sunday morning resilience class for adults.

Memory Verse

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

Chili Cook-Off Summer Mission Trip Fundraiser

Thank you, church, for always supporting the youth group's mission effort to Mexico. It was a joy to gather last Sunday night for the Chili Cook-Off – to share conversation, fun, and food together as we prepare for the 2025 summer mission trip to Mexico. A huge thank you to everyone who prepared chili and sides, helped with set-up and clean-up. Thank you for the generous contributions. A total of \$3,036.96 was given toward

this mission effort. If you were unable to attend but would like to contribute to the mission fund, please do so through the QR code on the right. Thank you for your continual encouragement to our teens.



Donate funds

Youth Ministry Parent Meeting Follow Up

In the event you were unable to attend the recent Youth Ministry meeting, please be sure to fill out and return the [Family Information sheet](#) to the church office asap. We plan to keep the fall schedule as close as possible to what was previously announced. Click [Youth Ministry Calendar](#) to access the revised youth ministry calendars. Please be thinking about which events you might help with through the end of 2024.

YM Team Building Weekend / November 1-3

HS Pismo Retreat:

All students in grades 8-12 are encouraged to participate in this year's Pismo Retreat on November 1-3. The cost of the weekend is \$90 per person.



SkyZone & CFA Day:



All students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to spend a portion of Saturday, November 2, together at SkyZone and CFA. [Sign up here!](#) The fun begins at 11:15am and continues through 2pm. Please pick up a flyer or see information in the foyer about this event upcoming event for our middle school students.

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 - Kari O. and Reese O.

2's -5's - Amber J. and Sarah G.

Kinder-5th Grade - Dwayne H.

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.

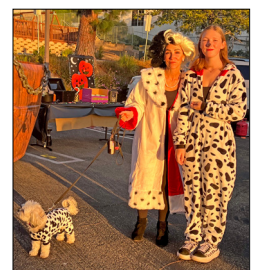


Updated Children's Ministry Roster

If you have children in the Children's Ministry, please fill out the Google form at tinyurl.com/cvccroster24. This is for the new school year, so please fill this out even if you've done so in the past. Thank you for helping us keep the most accurate records as we endeavor to serve your family.



Thank you for participating in this year's *Trunk or Treat*. Please be sure to look for 2024 photos in next week's Family News.



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

Birth – Avery Salvador Urquia (grandson of Guy and Rosie Patenaude) was born to Alex and Robin Urquia on October 17

Carrie Wall – recovering well from knee replacement 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

FIGHTING CANCER

Shirley Comia (friend of Bob and Kay Falletta) – recently diagnosed with cancer

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

Maria Baake – recovering from surgery for breast cancer

David Green – cancer suppressor drug is doing its job; semi-monthly biomarker tests yielding positive results

Sandra Brasher (friend of Rene Heard) – breast cancer

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – 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

Linda Heard (mother of Chris Heard) – recently placed on hospice care, Alzheimer's Disease

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

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

October 20 Attendance		October 20 Giving	
On-Site Service	140	Weekly Giving Average	\$12,632
Online Viewing	57	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,675,010
		Property Settlement	\$225,000
		Total	\$6,313

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