

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

March 8, 2020

## Welcome!

We are so glad you are here!  
We pray that you will encounter  
God as you worship with us.

### Today

- 8:50am Coffee / Donut Fellowship
- 9:00am Bible Classes for all ages
- 10:15am Worship Service
- 11:30am College / Young Adults  
lunch, fellowship,  
discussion at Williamsons'
- 2:00pm Swishin' for a Mission

### This Week

- Mar 9 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 9 High School Girls' Night
- Mar 10 Guys' Group
- Mar 11 REFRESH
- Mar 11 Hungry / Thirsty at Walls'
- Mar 12 Conejo Elementary  
Tutoring Program
- Mar 12 Small Group at Fosters'
- Mar 13 YG Nerf War

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 15 'Preparing for Baptism'  
class starts
- Mar 15 Mission Team Meeting
- Mar 27-29 Springfest in Bakersfield
- Apr 5 Palm Sunday
- Apr 12 Easter Sunday
- May 1-3 Trip to City of Children

### Welcome and Response

Please fill out a Welcome Card located beneath the chair in front of you. Let us know if there are ways that the ministry team can pray for you or those you love.

## Who's That Walking Across My Bridge?

By Andy Wall

*"Fairy tales are more than true—not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten." – G.K. Chesterton*

I grew up hearing my dad tell various stories, fables, and fairy tales that gradually became part of our everyday family vocabulary. If Dad needed help with a chore such as hand-cranking the ice cream and he found us kids reluctant to help, he'd ask, "Have I ever told you the story of the Little Red Hen?" Well, Dad had told us this story dozens of times! What he was actually saying was, "If you don't help with preparing the ice cream, you won't get to enjoy the finished product." Point taken!

Another favorite phrase was, "Who's that walking across my bridge?" This phrase comes from the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff and was uttered by the mean troll who lived under the bridge. Dad would growl this phrase in a deep voice as we passed through his space. As a little guy, I'd feel a tinge of fear combined with a smile in thinking about the outcome of that story. (Spoiler alert: the two younger goats were allowed to pass without being eaten; when the largest goat came, he head-butted the troll into the stream and the troll was never heard from again.)

As I've grown older, I've wondered why parents tell their children some of these stories with such sinister characters and frightening story lines. Fairy tales such as Little Red Riding Hood or Hansel and Gretel contain some truly horrifying moments, especially for kids with vivid imaginations! For the record, I'm not against parents telling such stories to children as long as they are sensitive to their child's age and emotional capacity.

There are many reasons that parents might tell scary stories to their children: they want to pass them on, they want to "toughen up" their kids, they want to share in the "fun" of being frightened together, there's an object lesson to be learned, and so on. Underlying such rationales, I wonder about the above quote by Chesterton concerning dragons. Fairy tales with scary characters symbolize the existence of evil in our world and the reality of harmful hazards and lurking dangers (i.e., dragons). But the ultimate point is not to teach children to be fearful in a scary world. The point rather is that the world's menacing dangers can be overcome, often by courage, teamwork, ingenuity, or loyalty.

***I see parallels with Biblical characters such as Pharaoh, Goliath, Herod, Satan, or the Beast in Revelation. These characters are menacing, cruel, and intimidating, causing God's people to quake in their boots. Yet in these stories, God provides a way to overcome them. The message is that such "dragons" can be beaten and that God's people will ultimately be victorious. May we live with such trust and confidence!***

# What's Happening at Conejo



## Winter Adult Education

Our winter adult education program:

**The Auditorium class** is studying the "Traits of a Healthy Church." In connection with the Growing Young Survey we are participating in this quarter, our adult education program will focus on six findings from recent research describing the traits of a healthy church. Through this series, we hope to highlight where we are doing well, and focus on how we can improve during 2020.

**The Growing Families class** is diving into the book *Sticky Faith*. The book explores "best practices that can set young people on a trajectory of lifelong faith and service" and presents strategies to "show parents how to actively encourage their children's spiritual growth so that it will stick to them into adulthood and empower them to develop a living, lasting faith." Come join us in lifting each other up as we strive to be godly parents and develop deeper faith within our families.

**College Students and Young Adults** will gather at the Williamsons (just across Hillcrest at 261 Quinta Vista) for lunch, games, discussions, and a time of building friendships and community.

## 40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We are beginning week 2 of our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, a season of spiritual preparation, reflection, and service leading up to our celebration of Jesus' death on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our Lenten sermon series, "Tapestry: Finding Yourself in God's Story," will explore seven major types of stories found in Scripture (and literature) and what these stories teach us about our life in God. Please see the lavender-colored 40-Day Commitment sheet in the rack by the entry table for more information on various activities during this spiritually significant season.

## Address Update

Becky Rockey recently moved. Her new address is:  
**5384 San Francesca Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012**

## Women's Monday Night Bible Study

Women of all ages are welcome to join us on Monday nights, 7-8:30 PM, at the church office for a weekly discussion and prayer time. We are currently going through the book *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ*. For questions, please contact Paula Marrs.

## "Preparing for Baptism" Class / March 15

Beginning next Sunday, March 15, there will be a Sunday morning Bible class for those interested in studying about and / or preparing for baptism. This class will meet in the south overflow room and will be taught by Andy Wall. All are welcome to attend.

## Conejo Elementary Tutoring

The Spring Tutoring season began Thursday, January 9. We are recruiting a few additional regular tutors to participate the majority of Thursdays up through April 30th. 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 from 6:30 to 7:30pm each week 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 if you can serve as a first grade tutor.

## Online Giving

For the last few years, we have offered online giving as one way to participate in congregational giving. Our hope is that online giving will provide flexibility in how and when we give and will also help us better develop the habit of giving regularly. This will be particularly helpful during times of heavy travel (school breaks, vacation time, and summer months) when many are out of town for weeks at a time.

There are three ways you can access our online giving.

- 1) The **Conejo website**: go to [conejochurch.org](http://conejochurch.org) and click on the "online giving" link.
- 2) Go directly to **[conejochurch.churchcenter.com](http://conejochurch.churchcenter.com)**.
- 3) **Text** a dollar amount to **84321**.

You'll be able to make a one-time donation or to schedule regular donations directly from your checking account or from your debit or credit card. You can even designate giving toward the regular offering, the Be the Blessing campaign, or the youth group mission trip. If you have any questions, please contact Jay or Wendi King at [finance@conejochurch.org](mailto:finance@conejochurch.org).

## Checks to the Church

Please, if you write a check to the Church, do so with black or dark blue ink. Lighter inks prevent the bank scanners from working properly. Thank you.



## Women's Retreat 2020

This weekend, over thirty of the women of this congregation are at the Murrieta Hot Springs Christian Conference Center for the Women's Retreat. The focus of their time together has been to **Rest** so that they can then **Rise** with the Lord and **Soar** with their sisters.

A special thanks to the women on the planning committee: Paula Marrs, Tammy Dittmore, Susan Pratt, Bonnie Rockey, Melissa Foster, and Lynn Burke. Also, a huge thank you to Connie Horton, who served as the keynote speaker.

# High School + Middle School

## Swishin' for a Mission Fundraiser / Today

TODAY, from 2-4:30pm at Pepperdine's Firestone Fieldhouse we will be hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, free-throw contest, and a knock-out contest. Come support the Conejo Valley mission team and help us raise



money for a great cause! Each team of three must include at least one person 16 or under. If you don't have a team, come anyway and we will try to put you on one! You can also enter the free-throw and knock-out contests as an individual. If you don't want to play, come support and watch!

## High School Girls' Nights / March 9

Starting this Monday night, March 9, the high school girls are invited to get together for a light dinner and devotional at the home of Tony & Shaya Baird (1014 Winston Court Westlake Village, CA 91361). These gatherings will happen twice a month and meet from 6:30-8:30pm at the Baird home. They will focus on building relationships in the youth group, getting to know our Lord better, and hearing from other older members of the Conejo church family.

## Nerf War! / March 13

THIS Friday night, March 13, the middle school and high school groups will turn the church auditorium into a nerf war zone! The event will run from 6-9pm and costs \$5 per person. This will pay for snacks and help offset nerf costs. Students are

encouraged to bring friends, personal nerf guns, and come ready to have a blast!

## 2020 Summer Mission Trip TEAM Meeting

Next Sunday, March 15 at 1:00 p.m., those who have RSVP'd to go on the 2020 mission to Mexico will have their second mission trip team meeting. We will meet at the church building to discuss plans for working together in Tijuana. Reminder for those interested in designing the 2020 mission trip t-shirt, you need to bring in your designs to this meeting!

## King's Kamp 2020 - "Run to Win"

Registration is now open online for King's Kamp (July 26 – Aug 1). King's Kamp is for students entering 4th through 8th grades in the fall of 2020. Registration can be completed for King's Kamp at [www.kingskamp.org](http://www.kingskamp.org). Be sure to register soon to take advantage of early registration discounts. Early bird registration ends May 3.

**\*\*\*KING'S KAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED** – If you are at least 16 years of age or older and interested in being a counselor, you can print out a form from [www.kingskamp.org](http://www.kingskamp.org), fill it out and mail it in or email it to [king.skamp.camp@gmail.com](mailto:king.skamp.camp@gmail.com). Counselor applications must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 1.

## Summer Schedule—Save the Dates!

- **Jun 21-26:** Summer Mission Trip to Mexico  
**You must have a passport.** Please [begin the process to obtain](#) a passport card now; if you do have a passport, please [make sure it is valid through July 2020!](#)
- **Jul 12-18:** Teen Camp
- **Jul 29 - Aug 1:** King's Kamp

# Children's Ministry

## Bible Classes

Each week, there are wonderful classes for children (nursery through fifth grade). Bring your children to this rich time of building friendships and community while learning about God's work among his creation throughout history.

This week's grade school classes are as follows:

**Grades 1-3** — How Great Thou Art

**Grades 4-5** — Museum of Biblical History

## Scripture Memory

And this is the testimony:

God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**1 John 5:11 ESV**

## Mark Your Calendars for VBS!

This year's Vacation Bible School will run Monday, June 15 through Thursday, June 18 from 9am through noon. It is

designed for students entering kindergarten through fifth grade. Please see Penny White or Leslie Stephens about our early childhood program.

The theme this year is *"Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through."* Please mark your calendars and make plans to be a part of this memorable week.

## Special Information for Parents

As we continue to adjust to our new Bible Class and Worship times, please remember to sign your children in at the Children's Ministry Information Table upon drop off for Bible Classes or Worship.

The locations for our elementary rotation bible classes are displayed on the sign-in table and in your family newsletter each week. Additionally, classroom locations are indicated on the church footprint map which can also be found on the sign-in table.

# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**PREGNANCIES:** Holly Chambers (April)

**ENGAGEMENT:** Eric Rogers and Shannon Markiewicz

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Jack Williamson** – loss of mother, Melva Williamson

**Erin Opdahl** – loss of infant daughter, Maelyn; loss of husband, Silas

**Darlene Rivas** – loss of father, Harry Hodges

**George de Bruyn** – loss of mother, Veronica de Bruyn

**Neil Socquet** – loss of brothers, Scott and Ben, in helicopter accident

**Linda Jameson** (mother of Neil Socquet) – loss of her sister, Patti, and two of her sons, Scott and Ben

**Carol McNutt** – loss of sister, Judy Erickson

**Heather Phillips** – loss of father, Dick Williams

**Char Hurley** – loss of father, Dale DeForest

**Sandy Stivers** – loss of mother, Nadine Tiner McBee

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Stu Warford** – prostate cancer

**Amy** (friend of Maribel Guevara) – recently diagnosed with cancer

**Jenna Sepulveda** (sister of John Downey) – metastatic thyroid cancer

**Clifton Tuggle** (uncle of Rene Heard) – prostate cancer

**Michael Smith** (friend of Coupe

family) – 4-year-old diagnosed with neuroblastoma

**Shirley Moore** (mother of Nicole Montanez) – leukemia

**Ted McAllister** (former member) undergoing stem-cell treatment

**Taneisha Schuman** (friend of Buzz Guilbault) – diagnosed with stage IV cancer

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

**Ryan Lohoff** (Julia Chesson's dance teacher) – stage IV brain cancer

**Joella Michael** – recovery following mucosal melanoma treatments

Yashica Budde's friend, **Ruth** – final stages of cancer

**Dana Sheehan** (friend of Lisa Scott) – undergoing new round of chemo

**Marlene Michaels** (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer

**Justice Howard** (Yashica Budde's cousin) – thyroid cancer

## VARIOUS CONCERNS

**Jackie Nixon** (Yashica Budde's aunt) – frequent trips to the hospital

**Conejo Elementary Tutoring Program**

**Barbara Sanders** (Ed's mother) – is wheelchair-bound, recovering from a broken leg; she was also recently diagnosed with colon cancer

**Nicole Montanez** – recently diagnosed with Lupus

**Pat Tudor** – undergoing new

6-month treatment which began on 2/18

**David and Allegro Rankin** (uncle and aunt of Daelan Blankfein) – continuing physical therapy

**Adria Ballard** – back surgery during holiday break

**Sarah Ballard** – relief from chronic back pain

Sarah Ballard's mom, **Becky**, facing multiple back and shoulder surgeries for chronic pain and unknown node in lung

**Ashlyn Thomas** – continued health issues; pray for answers and successful treatments

**Kathy Cocke** – pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension

**Margie Caldwell** – heart issues

**Sam Audenino** – recovery from bicycle accident

**Harriet Nutter** (Daphne Green's mother) – struggling with depression and loneliness

**Betty Brown** – pain relief, healing, and regaining of strength

**Carol McNutt** – neuropathy

**Mary McQuillan** (Kay Falletta's sister) – Parkinson's disease

**Caleb Rodriguez** (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

## MILITARY SERVICE

**Tyler Scott** – serving in the Navy in Camp Lejuene, NC

**Micah Smith** – serving in the Army Rangers

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

**Michael Warford** – stationed in San Diego with the Navy

## MISSION EFFORTS

**Megan Randolph** – teaching in Thailand

**Julie Broyles** – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

**Raul & Betty Alvarado** – mission efforts in Panama

**Charles & Darlene Coulston** – mission work in Kenya

**Tom Bonner** – mission work in Albania

**David & Danna Willis** – mission work in Samoa

**Ryan Campbell** – mission work in Philippines

**Amor Mission Trip 2020** – mission team preparation for Summer work in Mexico

Attendance  
+ Giving

March 1 Attendance

Total Attendance

171

March 1 Giving

\$21,280

Weekly Giving Average

\$11,437

Weekly Giving Budget

\$12,812

Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)

\$1,445,437

Wall Settlement

\$225,000

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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