



BE the BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 21, 2021

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for virtual worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat Box
- 10:15am Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 11:15am Virtual Lobby via Zoom
- 4:00pm MS Pod with Travis Moore

Upcoming Events

- Feb 22 Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Feb 23 Guys' Group (Zoom)
- Feb 23 Fifth Commandment Group (Zoom)
- Feb 24 Hungry / Thirsty Group (Zoom)
- Feb 24 High School Pod
- Feb 25 T.O. Life Group (Zoom)
- Feb 25 Conejo Tutoring (Zoom)
- Feb 25 Book Club (Zoom)
- Feb 28 Outdoor Evening Devos

Birthdays This Week

Jordan Downey	2/22
Jake Johnson	2/22
Leslie Stephens	2/22
Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens	2/23
Claudia de Bruyn	2/24
Brittany Joyner	2/24
Matt Joyner	2/24
Guy Patenaude	2/26
Tim Rockey	2/26
Jack Williamson	2/26
Valerie Patenaude	2/27
Sarah Green	2/28
Kate Michael	2/28

A Friend of Sinners

By Andy Wall

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Matthew 9:12-13

Today we begin our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, traditionally called the season of Lent. It's a time each year in which Christians around the world spend six weeks preparing spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Lent remembers and echoes the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his earthly ministry. This season of preparation can include the following:

- deeper and more fervent prayer
- greater contrition over sins that push us away from God and neighbor
- deliberate curtailing of distractions and time-wasters
- expanding practices of generosity toward those in need
- voluntary fasting from some of our typical comforts
- redirecting of our appetites toward the things of Christ
- the pursuit of reconciliation in broken relationships

Our Lenten sermon theme for this year is "Jesus, A Friend of Sinners." I'm curious if you remember who first called Jesus "a friend of sinners?" It wasn't his disciples! Nor was it the crowds who followed him! It actually was his detractors! In Luke 7:33-35, Jesus compared those who resisted his message to a group of peevish kids who keep shooting down suggestions their friends make about games they might play. "Let's play a happy game." "No, that's dumb." "OK, let's play a sad game." "No, we're not in the mood." Jesus applied this story to the reception given to John the Baptist and himself: "For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"

Jesus didn't seem to object to this nickname, "friend of sinners;" and he certainly did not downplay the painful impact of sin in human lives. But his posture toward the so-called sinners around him was generally one of engagement and fellowship. This enabled his detractors within the religious establishment to insinuate that Jesus was careless about holiness, hanging out with people who did not maintain ritual forms of purity and who, more significantly, had morally compromised characters.

What was unique about Jesus was that he didn't wait for tax collectors and other "sinners" to repent before sharing meals with him. This distinguished him from contemporary Pharisees, who had turned meals into a practice of ritual holiness and separation. Jesus, instead, turned meals into a practice of the coming of God's kingdom, embodying God's love for those who needed liberation from unclean spirits, healing from sickness, and forgiveness of sin. My invitation during this season of Lent is for us to model Jesus' willingness to befriend others who are not presently living the life of faith and who do not share our beliefs and practices, manifesting Christ-like love and welcome in the process.

What's Happening at Conejo



Jesus, A Friend of Sinners!

During this year's reflective season of Lent, we'll be exploring the theme of Jesus as "a friend of sinners," exploring gospel stories in which Jesus interacts with fallible, struggling, sinful human beings from every walk of life.

We'll begin our journey with the call of Peter in Luke 5. There, after being stunned by pulling in a miraculous catch of fish, Peter says to Jesus, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" But Jesus has a place for the self-disqualified, sinners though they be. Jesus offers Peter a word of comfort and an invitation: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." Jesus nudges Peter to consider that though we all struggle with sin, there are identities other than "sinner" that God wants us humans to embrace. Jesus, in fact, invites Peter to embrace the identity of one sent by God to draw others into God's kingdom reign.

Participating in The 40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We are beginning our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, also known as the season of Lent. This is a time of heightened intentionality within the church as we prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter. Each year, we provide suggestions and ideas that you can choose from to help focus you on your Lenten journey. Please [click this link](#) to see a printable commitment sheet.

Congregational Devotionals / February 28 at 5pm

As we continue our practice of "making lemonade from lemons," we're planning a series of weekly Sunday evening congregational devotionals, starting on February 28 at 5pm in the children's playground area. These are intended for the whole congregation as a simple time of outdoor worship and a brief devotional message, followed by a time of fellowship. Masks and social distancing protocols will be observed. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.

"Fifth Commandment Group" / February 23

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 live hundreds or even thousands of miles away? We don't have all of the answers, but if these questions resonate with you, we hope that you will join with other women via Zoom for the "Fifth Commandment Group." We will meet on the last Tuesday of each month to discuss and pray about the challenges and concerns we are facing with our aging parents. Between monthly visits, we will support one another through texting or e-mailing updates, prayer concerns, and words of encouragement to one another. If you are interested in learning more, please contact [Paula Marrs](#), [Tammy Ditmore](#), or [Rene Heard](#). [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

Tuesday Guys' Group

The Guys' Group is currently reading the book *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. This group meets virtually at 7pm each Tuesday. For additional information, please contact Greg Brawner or Bob Pratt.

Book Club / February 25

The bi-monthly book club discussion via zoom of "The Color of Compromise," by Jemar Tisby will meet Thursday, February 25. Please contact [Paula Marrs](#) if you are interested in joining the discussion meetings. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

"First Fruits" Small Group / March 2



Stu and Co Warford are hosting the First Fruits, a small group focusing on helping and encouraging you to grow your own food right where you live. This practical small group will discuss things like planting schedules, gardening areas,

vegetable types, planting, harvesting, and many other topics as we reflect on God's creation. This small group is applicable for gardeners at all levels and gardens of all sizes. This group meets virtually via Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm. [Zoom Meeting Link](#) will be available next week.

Service Outreach Opportunities

There are many opportunities to help and encourage others in the neighborhood and nearby community. **Please click the links below** or see the Service Opportunities spotlight item on the CVCC website for details about how to participate in the following ongoing or upcoming community outreach efforts.

- [Senior Concerns Goods Collection](#)
- [Helping Hands Food Distribution](#)
- [Conejo Elementary Tutoring Program](#)

In Case of Technical Difficulties

As we continue to improve our live streaming process, one way you can help is by "subscribing" to our YouTube channel and setting the alert. This will enable you to automatically receive an email should we have to re-upload our worship livestream. Here's how:

- Type "youtube conejo church of christ" in your Google search bar
- Click on the "Conejo Valley Church of Christ - YouTube" link that shows up in the search listing
- Click the "Subscribe" button
- Click the little bell (the notifications icon) and select "all"

OR, if you prefer, simply check your e-mail inbox for a new link. It will go out within minutes after it has been created.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

The youth group is meeting weekly in "pods." Pods are small groups that meet outdoors, in accordance with state safety protocols and our youth group wellness policy. Both pods are going through a series called "Free People!" which will take us through the book of James. We'll discover that the right rules can set us free. Free people don't dance with danger. They make decisions that benefit others and they give up their freedoms for others.

Middle School Pod – Sunday Nights from 4 to 5:30pm
Location – 12904 Sleepy Wind St., Moorpark, CA 93021

High School Pod – Wednesday Nights from 6 to 7:30pm
Location – Conejo Valley Church Backyard (2525 E. Hillcrest Dr.)

Youth Families 40-Day Spiritual Devotional Guide

"Less is More" is a 40-day spiritual journey devotional guide that youth families can do together. It is designed to help students grow deeper in their relationship with Christ and it introduces six spiritual disciplines for students to engage in as they experience the connection between sacrifice and spiritual growth. Devotional guides will be sent via email. Contact Travis if you are not a youth group family, but would like access to the devotional guide.

Summer Camps - Save the Dates!

We are hopeful and very much looking forward to having camps this summer. We have been in contact with Camp Maranatha and have officially reserved our dates for summer 2021! Here are the dates for both camps:

So Cal Teen Camp: "Tangible"

Sunday, July 11 through Saturday, July 17

King's Kamp: "Run to Win"

Sunday, July 25 through Saturday, July 31

Once registration opens, you will be able to register your child for Teen Camp at www.socalteencamp.org and for Kings Kamp at www.kingskamp.org. Teen Camp is for students graduating from grades 8-12th and Kings Kamp is for students entering into grades 4-8th in the fall of 2021. Stay tuned for information on when registration will open. Registration will open sometime in March.

"Over It" Devotional Thought

The power of forgiveness changes not only others, but also ourselves...

In our relationship with God, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of trying to earn His love. No matter how many good deeds we do, it is our faith in Jesus that makes us right with God. It is only because of Jesus that we can live the kind of life God wants for us - a life full of forgiveness and love. You didn't earn it then, and you can't earn it now. All you have to do is have faith and believe that God is bringing you closer and closer to Him. The next time you find yourself striving to earn God's love or forgiveness, stop and remember this verse. Ask God to remind you that His love is already yours for the taking, no matter what!

"However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness."

Romans 4:5

Children's Ministry

Scripture Memory

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NIV

Save the Dates

Family Good Friday Experience, April 2, 2021

Mark your calendars for our outdoor Family Good Friday Experience. Details and sign-ups coming soon!



Vacation Bible School, June 14-17

Thank You, Valentine-Makers!

Thank you to all who brought joy and encouragement to our community with Valentines! And thank you, Kellie, for starting this wonderful tradition to help us reach out to our community.



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Sarah Jane Norris (March), Erin Opdahl (April)
ENGAGEMENT: Jenna Wall and Michael Jolly

THOSE GRIEVING

Sharon Mitchell and family – loss of mother, Lacreata Scott
Scarberry family – loss of Frances Scarberry, mother of Shirley, stepmother of Mark
Joe Cocke – loss of wife, Kathy
Maribel Guevara – loss of uncle, Carlos Hernandez
Mary Jo Hardman and family – loss of husband, Stu Hardman
Joy Rhoades – loss of sister, Lani Shearn
Mike Rivas – loss of niece, Ilesha Moreno
Guy Patenaude – loss of aunt, Chris De La Rosa
Matt Joyner – loss of grandfather, Steve Eckstein
Tim Horton – loss of brother-in-law, John Lamm
Andy Caldwell – loss of mother, Margie Caldwell
Bob Falletta – loss of mother, Ida Falletta
Kay Falletta – loss of sister, Mary McQuillan
Rick Marrs – loss of mother, Vivian Marrs
Jack Williamson – loss of mother, Melva Williamson
Erin Opdahl – loss of infant daughter, Maelyn; loss of husband, Silas

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – recovering from liver surgery related to mucosal melanoma; immunotherapy
Marilyn Aurand – neuro-endocrine cancer; chemotherapy treatments in process
Karen Kennedy (friend of Lisa Scott) – Stage IV kidney cancer
Steve Hallman (brother-in-law of Larry McNutt) – having difficulty with treatment for rare melanoma in lungs
Nan Fox (aunt of Matt Joyner) – undergoing chemotherapy
Shera Miner (mother of Rachel Miner) – aggressive cancer also battling COVID-19
Barbara Sanders (mother of Ed Sanders) – colon cancer
Ted McAllister (former member) – chemo following successful stem cell transplant
Lucinda Hodges (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis
Jim Bishop (friend of Lisa Scott...) – cardiac issues and leukemia
Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma
Marlene Michaels (friend of Lisa Scott) – stage IV cancer
Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Pam Isaac – doing well at home recovering from recent hospitalization

Vi Schultz (friend of Christina Eng) – 91-year-old neighbor grieving loss of daughter
Pat Tudor – working with doctors regarding stem cell transplant
Eileen Charles (step-mother of Robert Charles) – suffered recent stroke
Roger Dillion (father of Jacqueline Dillion-Wiens) – suffered recent strokes
Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus
Sara Hodges (mother of Darlene Rivas) – navigating serious health issues
Linemen and firefighters as they work to serve the community during extreme conditions
Teachers, students, parents, and administrators during this unusual academic year
Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities
Roscoe Marrs (father of Rick Marrs) – grieving loss of wife
Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis
Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis
Ashlyn Thomas – continued health issues; pray for answers and successful treatments
Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) – depression and loneliness
Betty Brown – pain relief, healing, and regaining of strength
Carol McNutt – neuropathy
Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

Researchers, doctors, nurses, and patients battling COVID-19
CVCC FRIENDS WITH COVID-19
Imogene Wilson (mother of Lisa Scott) – COVID-19
Andrea Thomas Carter (friend of Lisa Scott) – several medical issues and COVID-19
Al Odenath (father of Nick Odenath) – dehydrated and confused by isolation due to COVID-19

MISSION EFFORTS

Raul & Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama
Tom Bonner – mission work in Albania
Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia
Ryan Campbell – mission work in Philippines
Charles & Darlene Coulston – mission work in Kenya
Megan Randolph – teaching in Thailand
David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

MILITARY SERVICE

Tyler Scott – stationed in HI with the Navy
Michael Warford – stationed in FL with the Navy
Derek Willis (nephew of Tim Willis) – serving in PA in the Army

Attendance + Giving

February 14 Attendance	
Online Viewing	93

February 14 Giving		\$11,943
Weekly Giving Average		\$16,163
Weekly Giving Budget		\$12,812
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,577,582
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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