



# BE *the* BLESSING

## CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 11, 2021

# Welcome!

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

## Today

- 10:00am In-person Worship Service (registration required)
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat Box
- 10:15am Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 11:15am Virtual Lobby via Zoom
- 3:30pm Middle School Pod (in CVCC playground area)

## Upcoming Events

- Apr 12 Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- Apr 13 Guys' Group (Zoom)
- Apr 14 Hungry / Thirsty Group (Zoom)
- Apr 14 High School Pod
- Apr 15 T.O. Life Group (Zoom)

## Birthdays This Week

Jan Willis	4/11
Lori Brawner	4/14
Rachel White	4/15
David Chesson	4/16
Evie Chambers	4/19

## Welcome and Response

Please call, text, or e-mail the office, ministers, or elders if there are ways that the ministry team can pray for you or those you love.

## The Gift Of Failure

by Andy Wall

*"If at first you don't succeed, welcome to the club."*

During my junior year of college, in my first upper-division computer science class, I experienced every student's worst nightmare: I flunked the first exam. This was not a case of missing the D by a few points. My score was an abysmal 38. Out of a possible 100! My head began spinning as I contemplated the possible implications: Would I lose my academic scholarship? Would I have to change my major? Would I even be allowed to continue my studies?

I scheduled a meeting with my professor to review the exam and discuss my options. I walked to his office with great trepidation, fearing a harrowing conversation in which he told me, "You can't cut it in this major. Get out!" Instead, I was greeted warmly. We reviewed the exam and devised several strategies for improving my overall grade. Most significantly, my professor affirmed his confidence in me as a student capable of completing a degree in Math and Computer Science. I'll never forget that meeting! And I'll always be grateful to that professor!

Have you ever had such a disqualifying experience? Have you ever experienced the kind of failure that makes you doubt that you have anything of value to offer in the world? Unless you're very unusual or never take any risks, chances are, you'll experience falling flat on your face more than once in life. It's not a lot of fun. But it can provide a significant learning opportunity.

Nothing reveals our blind spots like failure. Successes, while certainly more fun, rarely challenge our assumptions, clarify our misconceptions, provoke deeper self-reflection, inculcate greater humility, or increase our empathy. At times we might feel like Charlie Brown, when Lucy reminds him that "You learn more from your defeats than you do from your victories." Charlie Brown responds, "That makes me the smartest man in the world!" Charlie Brown is onto something.

Consider the experience of the apostle Peter following his appalling denials of Jesus. The risen Christ meets him on the shore of Galilee, where three times he asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter is wounded by this questioning, seeing in it a painful echo of his three-fold renunciation a few days earlier. Each time after Peter reaffirms his love for him, Jesus calls Peter to "feed my sheep." Clearly, Jesus sees more in Peter than his greatest failure, inviting him on the greatest adventure of his lifetime as a leader in the early church. Far from disqualifying Peter from this invitation, I believe Peter's failure helped him become a better leader, tempering his natural boldness with humility and providing a personal experience for helping others in their faith struggles.

May we remember our Lord's gracious response and invitation to Peter. May we know that we are more than our worst failure. May we experience the deeper wisdom that failure can bring as we seek to live out our faith with love and humility.

# What's Happening at Conejo



## Jesus, A Friend of Sinners

Jesus' conversation with Peter in John 21 provides us with a fitting concluding message for our "Jesus, A Friend of Sinners" series. We began this series with the miraculous catch of fish which led Peter to say to Jesus, "Get away from me for I am a sinful man." Instead, Jesus invited Peter to follow him and become a fisher of humans. Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus before his crucifixion complicated matters. But in the post-resurrection scene of John 21, Jesus provided Peter a three-fold opportunity to re-confirm his love for Jesus, followed by a charge to shepherd the flock of God's people.

This well-rounded depiction of Peter provides us with a helpful point of departure for reflecting on how God views us when we sin, repent, blow it, repent, slip up, repent, and so on. I don't believe there's any path other than this up-and-down one for any of us, even the "most saintly." Peter fairly reflects the faith journeys of most of us, with some high highs and low lows along the way. Jesus is there all along for Peter, encouraging, challenging, restoring, and calling him out when need be. As long as Peter is willing to begin again, Jesus is always ready to make a new start with him.

## "Welcome to the World" Meals

As we celebrate the births of Jasper William Short and Eliza Jane Norris, our church family is providing meals for the parents during this precious but exhausting time in their lives. If you would like to provide a meal for either family, please contact the coordinator or click the link below to learn the specifics of when and how you can be a blessing:

### Baby Jasper / Erin Opdahl

- Meal Coordinator is Bonnie Rockey
- Take Them a Meal Link: [Click here](#)

### Baby Eliza Jane / Carlton and Sarah Jane

- Meal Coordinator is Lauren Kliest-Blankfein
- Take Them a Meal Link: [Click here](#)



## Church of Christ Foundation Scholarships



Conejo members, will you be attending a university or college affiliated with the Churches of Christ in the Fall of 2021? If so, we invite you to apply for a scholarship

from the Church of Christ Foundation by visiting [www.churchofchristfoundation.com](http://www.churchofchristfoundation.com). Scholarships often range from \$1,500 - \$2,000 and can generally be renewed for up to four years. Applications are due by April 30, 2021. Should you have any questions, please contact Keith Hinkle at (310) 283-5007.

## Good Friday Service Thank You!

A special thanks to our members who shared time and talent to help us gain deeper perspectives through the eyes of various witnesses leading to Jesus' crucifixion. Thank you Evan De Long, Kindy De Long, Amber Johnson, Jeremy Johnson, Brittany Joyner, Jacob Michael, Travis Moore, Suzanne Reynolds, Chris Stivers, Stan Thomas, Andy Wall, and Jack Williamson.



## In-Person Worship Services

We have re-launched limited in-person worship services on **Sundays at 10am**. At present, the service will simply provide an opportunity to be together in the auditorium as we watch the pre-recorded YouTube video. However, we anticipate incorporating both live and pre-recorded elements soon. You will also be able to view the service at home on YouTube, as usual. The service at the building will include singing with masks as well as individually wrapped communion.

An RSVP is required and will be first-come, first-served and limited to 70 people. Here are our guidelines for all who will join us at the building.

- 1) Masks and temperature scans are required.
- 2) In the auditorium, please leave 3 empty seats between households; families with children/teens must stay together throughout the entire service.
- 3) Fellowship will take place outside in the upper parking lot; please exit the building immediately following the end of the service and enjoy visiting outside.
- 4) Bathrooms will be limited to two people at a time and the drinking fountain is not in service.

# High School + Middle School

## Summer Camps—Save the Dates!

We are hopeful and very much looking forward to having camps this summer. The dates reserved for the camps are:

### 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](http://www.socalteencamp.org) and for King’s Kamp at [www.kingskamp.org](http://www.kingskamp.org). Teen Camp is for students graduating from grades 8-12th and King’s Kamp is for students entering into grades 4-8th in the fall of 2021. We expect registration to be ready and open this week!

**King’s Kamp Counselors Needed:** If you are 16 years of age or older and interested in being a counselor, you may print an application 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 emailed by May 1.

## Youth Group Pods

In the month of April, both pods are going through a series called “Waitlisted!” In this 4-week series, we’ll meet a handful of people from Scripture each of whom spent a long time waiting on God. From the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Paul and Silas, King David, and Joseph, we’ll discover that God has a plan, but we might have to wait for it, and we’ll be reminded that, while

we’re waiting, God is faithful, God is listening, and we should never give up because God’s not giving up on us. Pods currently meet at the church building weekly on the following days:

**Middle School Pod** – Sundays from 3:30-4:45pm

**High School Pod** – Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm

## “Sorry Not Sorry” Devotional Thought

Ever been wronged, hurt, or held a grudge? Discover what Jesus says can help you move forward...

When a professional basketball player scores the game-winning basket in dramatic fashion, those of us who love the sport spend the next week analyzing everything about that final play. And chances are, the combination of moves that particular athlete used to score is something he or she has practiced over and over again. The big moments of life are won in the small moments of preparation. That’s true of sports, and it’s true of your social interactions. So, set aside some time this week to journal and pray. Ask God to bring to mind some positive thoughts you can store away now for when you find yourself feeling angry, bitter, and resentful later. When you fix your thoughts on God, you will be more likely to live in a way that reflects those thoughts.

*“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”* **Philippians 4:8**

# Children’s Ministry

## Children’s Worship Video for April 11

What are 3 of the most commonly used words in our Children’s Worship Videos?

Join us this week to find out!

## Save the Date

Vacation Bible School - June 14-17

## Thank You, Good Friday Volunteers

Our wonderful Good Friday volunteers transformed our traditional Good Friday Family Experience to an outdoor event. Thank you Jack Williamson, David and Leslie Stephens, Kemba MacPhee, and Paula Marrs for your hard work and creativity! And, a special thanks to Tami Williamson, our event photographer.



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**BIRTHS:** **Sloane Reynolds**, granddaughter of TJ and Suzanne was born to Scott and Claire on March 28

**Eliza Jane Norris**, born to Carlton and Sarah Jane on March 26

**ENGAGEMENTS:** **Nathan Heard** to **Sarah Anderson** on March 2

**Michaela Wall** to **Keith McGuire** on April 5

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Rachel Miner** – loss of her mother, Shera Miner

**Matt Joyner** – loss of his aunt, Nan Fox

**Christina Eng** – loss of her aunt, Cathy Littlefield

**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

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Joella Michael** – recovering from liver surgery related to mucosal melanoma; immunotherapy

**Marilyn Aurand** – neuro-endocrine cancer; currently undergoing chemotherapy

**Patricia Sparks** (sister-in-law of Shannon Latson) – recurrence of uterine sarcoma carcinoma following treatment

**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

**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

**Jonathan White** - Recently hospitalized for tests following fainting episodes

**Josh Horton** – recovering from complicated emergency appendectomy; high fevers

**Calleigh Hunnicutt** – having difficulty standing and walking; in constant pain

**Joan Nicholas** (mother of Rene Heard) – recently suffered additional mini-strokes

**Vi Schultz** (friend of Christina Eng) – 91-year-old neighbor grieving loss of daughter, Debbie

**Pat Tudor** – working with doctors regarding immunotherapy

**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

**Al Odenath** (father of Nick Odenath) – on hospice dealing with anxiety and confusion in memory care unit

**Teachers, students, parents, and administrators** during this unusual academic year

**Researchers, doctors, nurses, and patients** battling COVID-19

**CVCC FRIENDS WITH COVID-19**  
**Andrea Thomas Carter** (friend of Lisa Scott) – several medical issues

**Healing, peace, and justice** in our nation and communities

**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

## 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

### April 4 Attendance

Online Viewing	93
In-Person Service	38
Sunrise Service	23

### April 4 Giving

	\$14,208
Weekly Giving Average	\$14,189
Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,812
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,584,984
Property Settlement	\$225,000

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