



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 16, 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
- 4:30pm Middle School Pod

Upcoming Events

- May 17 Women's Bible Study (Zoom)
- May 18 Guys' Group (location varies)
- May 18 Fifth Commandment Group (Zoom)
- May 19 Hungry / Thirsty (Walls' home)
- May 19 High School Pod
- May 20 Conejo School Tutoring (Zoom)
- May 20 T.O. Life Group (Fosters' home)
- May 31 Memorial Day Picnic
- June 6 Senior Sunday Celebration

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|----------------|------|
| Emily Stephens | 5/16 |
| Seth Hays | 5/17 |
| Sarah Antonio | 5/18 |
| Rylan Downey | 5/22 |
| Joe Cocke | 5/23 |

Re-enchanting the Disenchanted

by Andy Wall

Allow me to paint in broad brushstrokes. The world in which we live, the modern West, is a "disenchanted" world and many people have come to view the world in a mechanized way. Science is seen by many as being able to explain any and all phenomena, from earthquakes and lightning to altruism and human love (brain chemicals in motion). Religion is frequently viewed as passé, a vestige of a more superstitious or less sophisticated time, something that our world has essentially "outgrown."

A disenchanted outlook tends to shut things down, viewing the universe as a closed system of inputs and outflows. There is an understandable order to the world, and whatever seems inexplicable is believed to be the result of ignorance, not mystery. Religion, whose root meaning is "to bind together," is no longer viewed as capable of providing a coherent understanding of life.

But here's something interesting. No matter how disenchanted the world grows, people still yearn for a deeper understanding of life's overarching meaning. As humans, we are endlessly fascinated by what is mysterious and unknowable. Consider how the whole Star Wars franchise combines high-tech science-fiction with the mysterious power of the Force. Or how the incredibly popular Harry Potter series combines a story of friendship, the struggle between good and evil, and magic. Even as our part of the world grows more secular, we humans never outgrow our need for meaning, purpose, and connectedness.

As believers living in an age of disenchantment, the story of Scripture offers us an enchanting alternative. Follow the narrative arc from creation, to the call of Abraham, to the Exodus, to Israel's monarchy, to the Exile, into the New Testament story of Jesus birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection, and finally to the establishment and expansion of the early church. If we learn anything from this biblical journey, it's a vital sense of enchantment. By this I mean that we should be radically open to God's ongoing work in the world, to fresh inbreakings of God's Spirit in human history, to God doing something fresh among us and within us.

In the story of Scripture, God is always doing something fresh, something unexpected, something surprising. In our world of disenchantment, we need to cultivate and practice a faith that is open to a God who is not done with his work in the creation. We need to practice living in a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ, who is very much alive in the New Creation. We need to be receptive to God's Spirit who moves in unexpected and mysterious ways. May we walk with Christ as believers who are enchanted by God's surprising story of grace, reconciliation, and redemption.

What's Happening at Conejo



"Echoes of the Divine" Sermon Series

Over 1500 years ago, Augustine prayed these words: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you." In that prayer, he expressed a core human impulse: we share a longing for deeper purpose, meaning, and connection in our lives. Our shared human quests for meaning provide us with a great starting point for conversations about who we are, why we're here, and what gives our lives meaning. Paul's address in Acts 17 to the Athenian philosophers builds on such common ground: "I see how extremely religious you are in every way." From there, Paul reflects on God as creator, our human origins, the gift of life, our limited lifespan, our search for something more, and God's nearness to each of us.

Our shared hunger for deeper life meaning, despite sustained attempts to dismiss such notions as outdated, is an echo of the divine in our spirits. Though we humans pursue wildly varied forms of spirituality, the question lingers: if we are merely material beings, why can't we "get over" our pursuit of the deeper spiritual questions of life? Augustine's durable answer to that question invites us to explore answers rooted in a deeper relationship with the Creator of our universe.

In-Person Worship Includes Children's Worship

We are now livestreaming our Sunday services with both live and pre-recorded elements at 10am. Those leading parts of the service will lead without masks, but the congregation will continue wearing masks throughout the service. Our plans going forward are to always have the service viewable live on YouTube.

An RSVP is required. It will be first-come, first-served, and is limited to **90** people. If you have any health concerns, or if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, please enjoy the service from the comfort of your residence. Here are our guidelines for all who will join us at the building.

- 1) Masks and symptom checks are required.
- 2) In the auditorium, please leave 3 empty seats between households; families with children/teens must stay together until dismissed for Children's Worship.
- 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.

We're thrilled to be able to offer children's worship time during the sermon. We'll have one group for toddlers thru three-year-olds; another group for four-year-olds thru 5th graders.

"Fifth Commandment" Group / May 18

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, please join with us via Zoom for the "Fifth Commandment" Group. We will meet on Tuesday, May 18 at 7pm to share challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents. Join us as we pray for and support one another on the often difficult but precious journey. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).

University and Graduate School 2021 Graduates



We would like to acknowledge our upcoming CVCC college/university and graduate school graduates. Please send the following information to reneheard@sbcglobal.net by **Wednesday, May 19** for inclusion in next week's Family News and pre-service announcements:

- Graduating Student's Name
- College / University
- Major
- Degree
- Recent photo of graduate

Memorial Day Picnic (COVID-style) / May 31

It's baaack! Conejo's annual Memorial Day picnic is slated for Monday, May 31, at Dover and Hendrix Park in Thousand Oaks, starting at 10am. This is a great day for fun, food, fellowship, and games. It is also an opportunity to introduce friends from outside of the congregation to our church family in an informal and friendly atmosphere.

One significant difference this year will be that we will NOT have a shared potluck. We ask that each person or family bring their own food. Our plan is to circle up for a pre-lunch prayer at noon. Come and share in a meal and a day of fun together at the park!



Office Moving Day / June 5

On Saturday, June 5, we plan on moving our church office back to the church building. We could use assistance in disassembling office furniture and computers, moving desks and bookshelves, removing shelving and putting in holes, setting up the new office at the building, and moving some large items to storage. We plan on starting at 9am at 31225 La Baya in Westlake, office #214. Many hands make light work—please make plans to come help!

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Pods

In the month of May, each pod is going through a series called "Anthem!" [Click here](#) to learn more.

Summer Camps

We are very much looking forward to summer camps this year!

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

CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! You may register your child for summer camps: Teen Camp at www.socalteencamp.org and for King's Kamp at www.kingskamp.org. Teen Camp is for students graduating from grades 8-12 and King's Kamp is for students entering into grades 4-8 in the fall of 2021.

***Early bird registration for both camps is now closed, but you can still register for both camps at the on-time registration rate.*

"Sorry Not Sorry" Devotional Thought

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

Have you ever told someone you forgive them, just so you could get them to apologize? In those moments, you're not really forgiving them. You're wanting an apology. Sometimes we can focus so much on the apology we deserve that we forget other people are going through things as well—things that may have led them to behave badly in the first place. For example: Your younger sibling keeps "borrowing" (but never returning) your favorite things. Instead of blowing up at them,

try asking them, "Why?" Maybe your younger brother looks up to you and is taking your stuff to try to be more like you. Today, if you feel yourself becoming frustrated about something someone is or isn't doing, take a deep breath. Instead of lashing out, ask them WHY. You may be surprised at what you hear.

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13

Senior Sunday & Graduate Banquet / June 6

This year, we will honor our 2021 high school graduates on Sunday, June 6. During the morning live service, our high school graduates will each be mentioned, presented with a gift, and then prayed over. Later that evening, we will gather for an outdoor banquet in the church backyard at 6pm to honor them and hear their family blessings.

Senior Bible Messages - Our Conejo family has a great tradition of giving Bibles to graduating seniors. We enjoy having members write notes of encouragement inside these Bibles for the graduates to read and draw encouragement from as they take this next step. These messages can show them they have a great cloud of witnesses from the Conejo family cheering them on as they move forward in faith. For the next three Sundays, the Bibles for the graduating classes of 2020 & 2021 will be available on tables outside for you to write messages in. Please share love and encouragement with our graduates!

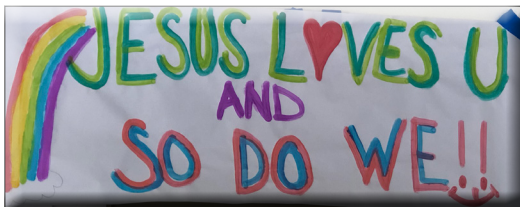


Children's Ministry

Children's Worship Video and In-Person

Our Children's Ministry volunteers are so excited to be back in action! This week, Ms. Paula and Mr. Dwayne will be leading Children's Worship.

Link available through the "Worship Links" e-mail sent on Saturday night.



Children's Worship at the Building!

We are back with two (2) in-person worship programs for our children. **Toddlers/2's/3's** will be in the 2's/3's classroom with doors open to the outside for air circulation. A child safety gate has been installed in the classroom door to keep the little ones in! Children **ages 4-5th grade** will worship outside on the playground - bleacher area.

Vacation Bible School / June 14-17

Come join us for a trip down the Rocky Railway as we learn about how Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through.

VBS is set for **June 14-17 (Mon-Thu)**
from 9:00-11:00.
It's time to register!

VBS Registration Form 2021

<https://forms.gle/CQnVsgUDc4BeFFdZ6>

Youth Volunteer Sign-up 2021

<https://forms.gle/t6TkDTRCpgeDH7UH6>



VBS VBS VBS VBS VBS VBS

Scripture Memory Verse

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did.
He loved us. He gave himself up for us.

Ephesians 5:2 NIV

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

Josh Horton – recovering from post-surgery complications; so grateful for the prayers and support!

NEW MEMBERS: **Barbara Schlosser, Brian Smithers**

THOSE GRIEVING

Carol McNutt – loss of brother-in-law, Steve Hallman

Rachel Miner – loss of mother, Shera Miner

Matt Joyner – loss of aunt, Nan Fox

Christina Eng – loss of 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

FIGHTING CANCER

Joella Michael – recovering from recent surgery to remove

cancer from lymph node in neck; immunotherapy continuing

Marilyn Aurand – neuro-endocrine cancer; has completed radiation and chemotherapy

Dan Scarberry (brother of Mark Scarberry) – recently diagnosed with metastatic kidney cancer

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

Karen Kennedy (friend of Lisa Scott) – Stage IV kidney cancer

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

Jim Kutil (friend of Shannon Latson) – hospitalized with Sarcoidosis, may need a lung transplant

Gary Tiner – (brother of Sandy Stivers) – recovering from recent heart surgery (6 by-passes!)

Jonathan White – continues

out-patient testing to determine cause of fainting episodes

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

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

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) – 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

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

Made In The Streets – ministry to street kids in Nairobi, 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

May 9 Attendance

Online Viewing	63
In-Person Service	93

May 9 Giving

\$9,488

Weekly Giving Average	\$14,175
Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,590,184
Property Settlement	\$225,000

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