



# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE *the* BLESSING

March 6, 2022

## 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 Worship Service On-Site and via YouTube
- 3:30pm Middle School Pod

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 7 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 8 Guys' Group
- Mar 9 High School Pod
- Mar 9 Hungry-Thirsty
- Mar 10 Conejo School Tutoring
- Mar 10 Life Group at Fosters'
- Mar 11-13 HS Retreat at Big Bear
- Mar 19 Potluck and Singing
- Mar 20 Crafty Women Event
- Mar 27 Lip-Sync Fun Raiser

### Birthdays This Week

- Jim White 3/7
- Jennifer Downey 3/9
- Jason Wiens 3/10

### Welcome and Response

Please contact the ministers or elders if there are ways that they can pray for you or those you love.

## The Faces of Sin

By Andy Wall

The concept of sin has fallen out of favor as a serious word in much of today's world. Witness how sin is used as a marketing ploy: "Sinful Designer Clothing," "Shop Sinful Apparel," "Sinful Inflictions—Custom Tattoos." Sin makes the occasional appearance on dessert menus: "Chocolate Decadence", "Peanut Butter Binge," "Velvet Cake Indulgence." "Sin City" is a nickname that Las Vegas uses in a calculated way to lure in tourists from around the world, along with the corresponding motto, "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas."

Despite the fact that "sin" is not taken seriously by many, virtually everyone agrees that our world is a mess. Nearly all of us can agree that the world as it presently operates is not as it is supposed to be! Whenever we cry out "That's not fair!" we implicitly admit that we expect the universe to adhere to a certain code of elusive justice.

Here is where the world imagined in Scripture can be a tremendous resource for better understanding why we do what we do. The Biblical story describes how the Creator God made the world and designated humans as stewards of creation. We mortals then decided we could do a better job of managing our lives by living independently of God and according to our own wisdom. The results, as we all can attest, have been disastrous. Scripture describes this willful rebellion against God as Sin. What exactly is sin? Cornelius Plantinga describes it this way:

*The Bible presents sin by way of major concepts, principally lawlessness and faithlessness, expressed in an array of images: sin is the missing of a target, a wandering from the path, a straying from the fold. Sin is a hard heart and a stiff neck. Sin is blindness and deafness. It is both the overstepping of a line and the failure to reach it—both transgression and shortcoming. Sin is a beast crouching at the door... Sin is disruption of created harmony and then resistance to divine restoration of that harmony. Above all, sin disrupts and resists the vital human relation with God...*

But sin doesn't have to have the last word. The story of Scripture outlines God's tenacious and enduring efforts to reclaim us for his own, heal us of our spiritual maladies, redeem us from our addictions, and empower us to live the abundant life he designed us for. During our 40-Day Spiritual adventure, our sermons will explore "The Faces of Sin," taking seriously what Scripture has to say about the dynamics of sin as well as God's response to sin. By giving our sustained attention to the ever-present and multi-dimensional reality of sin in the world and in our lives, I pray that two things may grow in our hearts: a keen sense of our deep need for God's merciful grace and overflowing gratitude for God's enduring love toward us through Jesus Christ.

# What's Happening At Conejo



## Sermon Series: The Faces of Sin

This Sunday we're kicking off our 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, the Lenten journey that prepares us for the powerful observance of Good Friday and the great celebration of Easter. Our sermon series, "The Faces of Sin/The Face of Our Savior," will explore a variety of images that Scripture uses to provide insights into sin's corrosive power in our lives and in the world.

We'll begin by reflecting on how sin is like a parasite, living on its host, vandalizing, creating havoc, and disrupting. This is based on the Biblical understanding that God alone creates and that Satan can only twist and corrupt what God has made to suit his own purposes. Sin, in this sense, is an act of vandalism that destroys the peace and wholeness (shalom) that God has created and designed for our world.

### 40-Day Spiritual Adventure

Today begins our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, also known as the season of Lent. It is the traditional time each year in which Christians around the world spend six weeks preparing spiritually for the remembrance of Good Friday and 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 engagement in acts of service and hospitality
- 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
- the pursuit of reconciliation in broken relationships

Please [click here](#) to see a handout of ideas and suggestions of practices and activities for this year's season of Lent. You can also pick up this handout at the entry table in the foyer.

### Adult Bible Classes

Live Sunday morning Bible classes meet each week at 9am.

Our Growing Families class, primarily for our families with children living at home, has resumed this quarter. This class meets on the front porch area and includes coffee.

Today, our auditorium class is beginning an exploration of the Letter to the Hebrews titled "Encouragement for a Weary Church." Hebrews emphasizes at least two central themes: the primacy of Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God and the importance of faithful perseverance through challenging times. This Sunday, Jack Williamson will be leading our discussion of the message of Hebrews 4:14-5:10 in a class titled "A High Priest

Who is Weak Like Us." Our schedule for the next four weeks is as follows:

- **Mar 13.** Time to Grow Up (5:11-6:12)
- **Mar 20.** Take Hold of Hope—And Hold On (6:13-7:28)
- **Mar 27.** The Once and Future Covenant (8:1-9:10)
- **Apr 3.** A Clear Conscience, Once and for All (9:11-10:18)

### Thank you from the Socquet Family

Dear Conejo Church,

*Thank you very much for the prayers, cards, posts, texts, and flowers of condolence since my dad passed at the end of January. We ask for continued prayers for my mom who is having her own struggles, and for those helping her.*

*Your kindness and caring is so appreciated and we count ourselves blessed for having such a loving church family.*

*With warm gratitude,*

*Christian Socquet and family (Neil, Sydney, Sabrina, and Noah)*

### Bowls of Hope

Thank you to all who came out to the Bowls of Hope Painting Party last Sunday. Fifteen bowls were painted to assist Many Mansions with their upcoming fundraiser. It was a great opportunity to connect with friends and use creativity to be a blessing for a wonderful organization in our community.



### Meeting and Masking

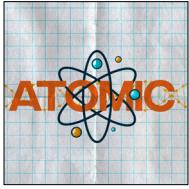
In alignment with the state of California, Ventura County lifted its indoor mask order on February 16. Masks are no longer required indoors for anyone who is fully vaccinated, though you are welcome to wear a mask should you prefer or need to. The State order continues to require masking in childcare settings.

### Elder Selection Process

Recently, our elders announced the start of our 2022 elder selection process. The first phase of this process was completed on March 5. Over the coming week, the Nomination Committee will tabulate the nominations and pass on the names of anyone who received 20% of the nominations to our current elders. Over the coming weeks the elders will be contacting these nominees and allow them to prayerfully decide whether they want to move forward to the affirmation stage of our elder selection process. Please be in prayer for our elders and all of the nominees.

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Pods



Throughout the month of March, YG pods will be studying a series called "Atomic." This is a 4-week series that looks at principles in scripture about the large impact that small habits can make. [Click here](#) to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme.

## High School Winter Retreat / March 11-13

High schoolers, it's time to once again go on retreat to Big Bear. If you have not RSVP'd, you need to do so by THIS Wednesday. On this retreat, we'll see how Jesus calls us not to hide in plain sight but to, instead, be like salt and light. If we're going to follow Jesus in plain sight, we're invited to stop hiding and instead **be unashamed** and **decide to shine**.

The cost is \$90 per person. We will meet at 12:30pm to leave Conejo by 1pm on Friday, March 11, and return to Conejo around 3pm on Sunday, March 13.

Chaperones are STILL needed for this trip. If you would like to help out, please talk to Travis.

## Middle School Madness / Dave & Busters Night

We want to be more intentional about inviting our friends outside of the church to get to know us better. After all,

reaching out and sharing Jesus with the world involves relationship and invitation. So, Friday night, March 18, we will take middle school madness to Dave & Busters here in Thousand Oaks. The event will be from 5-8pm; it will include a buffet dinner and a Dave & Busters game powercard. **Here's the catch: if you invite friends or family who aren't members of Conejo, the cost of the evening will be covered for your family and your guests!** This event is for families with kids in elementary school and middle school. Looking forward to a fun night with family and friends!

## Summer Mexico Mission Trip Team Information

This summer, we're heading back down to Mexico to build a home for a family in need! The mission-trip dates are Sunday, June 26 - Friday, July 1. This trip is for students who are currently in 8th grade through 12th grade and for older Conejo members who would like to join the team.



The 1st mission trip team meeting is Sunday, March 20, at 1pm at the church building. **If you do not already have a valid passport, please begin the process now to obtain one.** Booklet passports can take 1-2 months to receive, but you can also apply for a passport card, which only lets you travel to Canada and Mexico. Looking forward to building our 2022 mission team!

# Children's Ministry

## Spring 2022 Memory Verse

For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good works  
which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Ephesians 2:10 NIV**

## Families with Children / Dave and Busters Night

Families with Children—check out the Dave and Buster's details in the Youth Area. You are invited too!

## Family Good Friday Experience

Please save the date for this year's Family Good Friday Experience on April 15, 2022. Sign-up details coming soon!



# Prayer Corner

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

## PRAISES

**PREGNANCY:** Elaine Overton (March), Jodi Davis (April), Lauren Kliest-Blankfein (July) Researchers, doctors, nurses, caregivers, and patients who persevere through COVID-19

**BIRTH:** James Edward Juhan Cho was born to Phil and Jordan (Phillips) Cho on February 10. Congratulations to the happy grandparents, Phil and Heather!

**NEW MEMBERS:** Daniel, Elaine, Eleanor, and Harriet Overton

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Tim Rockey** – loss of father, Steve Rockey

**Melissa and Zachary Hearn** (sister-in-law and nephew of Chris Heard) – loss of father, Ross Anderson

**Eric Short and Erin Opdahl** – loss of father, Sam Short

**Christian Socquet** – loss of father, Johnny Cowan

**Phil Daringer** – loss of mother, Joyce Daringer

**Judy Tapper** – loss of sister, Muriel Meador

**Lisa Scott** – loss of cousin, Margi Dalmás

**Lauren Kliest-Blankfein** – loss of grandmother, Marylee Illiff

**Mark and Suzanne Scarberry** – loss of daughter, Caitlin; loss of Mark's brother, Dan

**Sue Ann Meador** – loss of father, Joe Burroughs

**Darlene Rivas** – loss of mother, Sara Hodges

**Jacqueline Dillion** – loss of father, Roger Dillion

**Joe Cocke** – loss of wife, Kathy

## FIGHTING CANCER

**Robin Brown** (former member) – cancer has recurred in her bones and bone marrow

**Patricia Sparks** (sister-in-law of Shannon Latson) – prayers for her as she begins a new round of a different type of chemo

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

**Ted McAllister** (former member) – test results showing increase in cancer numbers

**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

**Sonia Forman** (fiancée of Brian Smithers) – safety for freinds and family who reside in Ukraine

**Elder nomination and affirmation process** – congregational wisdom and

discernment from the Spirit

**Children's Ministry 2022** – smooth transition for children, location of wonderful candidates, smooth transition of Penny into next chapter

**Linda Rice** (mother of Char Hurley) – infection in legs, high blood pressure, poor circulation

**Kendra Davis** (sister of Suzanne Scarberry) – recovering from recent surgery; undergoing additional tests

**Michelle Grant** (daughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – at week 36 of pregnancy; has experienced some problems during pregnancy

**Michael Jenkins** (son of Kevin and Nelda) – struggling with numerous issues and declining health

**Calleigh Hunnicutt** – difficulty standing and walking; some improvements

**Pat Tudor** – tolerating immunotherapy

**Eileen Charles** (step-mother of Robert Charles) – suffered stroke

**Martha Condley** (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

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

**Family and friends** who have battled with COVID-19 or lost someone during the pandemic

**Marilyn Aurand** – physical

therapy for spinal stenosis and to improve mobility

**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

**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

### February 27 Attendance

On-Site Service	102
Online Viewing	114

### February 27 Giving

\$18,260

Weekly Giving Average	\$16,318
Weekly Giving Budget	\$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,627,819
Property Settlement	\$225,000

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