CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

April 24, 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
10:15am	Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
10:15am	On-Site Worship Service
12:00pm	Adult EdUCATION Meeting
1:00pm	Mexico Mission Meeting
6:00pm	Celebration for Penny White

Upcoming Events

Apr 26	Guys' Group
Apr 26	Fifth Commandment Small Group (Zoom)
Apr 27	High School Pod
Apr 27	Hungry-Thirsty Group
Apr 28	Life Group at Fosters'
Apr 28	Final Conejo Elementary Spring Tutoring Session
May 1	Youth-Led Service / Habit Truck Lunch
May 8	Infant Dedication Service
May 15	Baby Shower for Elaine (and baby Alice) Overton

Birthdays This Week

John Downey	4/24
Nick Zola	4/24
Tadd Wooton	4/25
Clark Zola	4/25
Jay King	4/29
Bob Falletta	4/30
Neil Socquet	5/1

An Open Letter to Penny White

By Andy Wall

Dear Penny,

It's hard to absorb the reality that after twenty-plus shared years of ministry, you're retiring as Conejo's children's minister. For all of us who know your love for God and kids, your organizational prowess, your creative use of limited space, and your years of faithful day-in-day-out service, we wish it didn't have to come to an end. But such is life and today I want to celebrate and appreciate some of your many gifts and years of service.

You beautifully blend a deep love for children and their faith development with a no-nonsense strength that does credit to your Texas roots. You've had to deal with some wily and opinionated kiddos over the years and you've navigated those waters with a grace that is both firm and kind. Just as beautiful is the way you've loved children with various learning disabilities, allergies, and social challenges, always creating a welcoming space for them in your ministry. Jesus taught us to "Let the children come to me" and you've always endeavored to do so with great sensitivity and care.

I've used the word "field marshal" to describe your leadership and organization skills. Whether superintending major tentpole events like Vacation Bible School, or coordinating staffing for weekly classes and children's worship time, or organizing seasonal events like family Advent or Good Friday experiences, you ably marshal volunteers, delegate key tasks to lieutenants, maintain esprit de corps among the "troops," all while pointing us to the way of Jesus. Over the years, you've inspired ministry volunteers to become true partners, helping them find a meaningful place of service within your ministry areas.

As we all know, the space for children's ministry is, er, limited. Yet you have squeezed every ounce of value from each nook and cranny of our building and its outside areas. You resourcefully create vibrant learning spaces for our kids, adapting them each year to accommodate the various sized classes of kids. During COVID, you pivoted and learned how to prepare videos, host outdoor events, and creatively keep in touch with kids and their families. You also manage your ministry finances very well, living within your budgetary means while making the most of your ministry dollars.

Finally, you are a great ministry teammate. You solve problems. You have our backs. You speak the truth. You don't whine. You don't create drama. You set a high bar. You get the job done. You make us laugh with your spot-on and sarcastic sense of humor. You are wise and insightful and I have often benefited from your candid assessment of situations I wasn't seeing correctly. My one consolation in your retirement is that you and Jim are not moving away—for this, I'm deeply grateful.

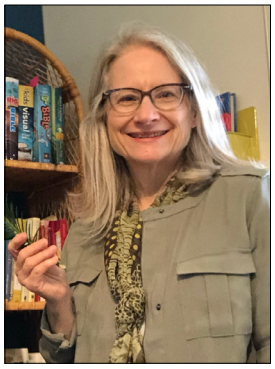
So thank you Penny, for your years of faithful and excellent service. Well done, good and faithful servant. May God bless you and keep you always.

What's Happening At Conejo

Sermon Series:
The Faces of Sin/The Face of Our Savior

For six weeks, we explored various faces of sin: how sin disrupts, dilutes, vandalizes, corrupts, enslaves, destroys, and otherwise ruins the good that God has purposed for us and creation. Last Sunday, we turned our gaze to the face of our Savior, whose death and resurrection invite us to a new way of life in the Kingdom of God. Today, we'll conclude this series by exploring how we may reflect the face of our Savior as we live out that kingdom life.

Retirement Celebration for Ms. Penny / 6pm Today



Penny White, our beloved children's minister, is retiring after twenty-plus years of service at Conejo. We're planning an evening of celebration in her honor at 6 this evening. Dinner will be catered by Patron Mexican Grill and for dessert, the congregation is invited to bring their favorite homemade chocolate desserts (Penny's favorite). Please make plans to come and honor Penny for her many years of service.

Elder Selection Process Thank You

Our elder selection process has been completed. During the Family Matters period of our Sunday service on 4/24, we will announce the names of our new group of elders. I want to express our gratefulness and appreciation for all who so diligently continued in prayer and substantive conversations during this entire process. This has been a critically important time for our church body. We now look forward to getting on with the important business of the Kingdom of God in our congregation and our community. On behalf of the Nominations Committee (Linda Antonio, George DeBruyn, and me) I want to say "Thank you!" to this great congregation for trusting us with shepherding this vital process.

Jack Williamson

Adult Bible Classes

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

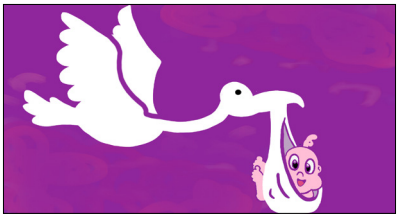
Our Growing Families class, primarily for our families with children living at home, meets on the front porch area and includes coffee.

Our auditorium class is exploring the Letter to the Hebrews in a series titled "Encouragement to 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, Andy Wall will lead our discussion on the message of Hebrews 12:1-25 in a class titled "Running With Perseverance."

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 2022? If so, we invite you to apply for a scholarship from the Church of Christ Foundation by visiting https://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, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Keith Hinkle at (310) 283-5007.

Baby Shower for Elaine and Baby Alice Overton



Ladies, please mark your calendars and save the date! On **May 15 at 2pm,** there will be a baby shower at the home of Paula Marrs for Elaine Overton and her new little one, Alice Joy. The Overtons have mentioned that what they would find most helpful is either diapers or gift cards (to have on hand for items as they need them) to Amazon, Walmart, Target, and Sam's Club.

Fifth Commandment Group / April 26

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? Join us this Tuesday at 7pm as we share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. Zoom Meeting Link.

First Fruits Group

The next First Fruits Small Group is set for May 10 at 6pm at the home of Stu and Co Warford. The topic will be "Transplanting." We will cover planting our seed starts or store-bought vegetable plants into our pots and beds. We'll do the potluck "Johnson style," where we provide the meat and everyone can bring whatever sides, salads, and desserts they would like to share.

RSVP by notifying the Warfords in person or via stu@conejochurch.org.

High School + Middle School

Youth Led Service & Habit Truck Lunch / May 1

Next Sunday, May 1st, the youth will lead us in our morning worship service. After service, the Habit truck will provide lunch for the congregation! This is an opportunity for us to eat a meal together as a church family and also an opportunity for you to invite friends outside of Conejo. Please come and support our kids as they step out in courage to take on leadership roles.

Mexico Mission Team Meeting

The 2nd mission trip team meeting is TODAY at 1pm at the church building. At this point, team members without a passport should have started the process of applying for one so that it arrives on time. Today's meeting will provide an opportunity for us to pray together, fine tune details, and see our t-shirt design. Mission team, we'll see you this afternoon!

Youth Group Pods

Throughout the month of April, YG pods will study a series called "Break Trail." This series looks at the importance clearing a path so that others can follow. Click here to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

It's time to sign up for summer camps! Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids and is a place in which we continue to see God work in powerful ways in our kids' lives. If you desire that your child grow closer to God, camp is one of the greatest assets we have in helping that become a reality.

SoCal Teen Camp 2022 "Bloom" (July 10-16)

Teen Camp is for students who have finished 7th - 12th grades before camp. You can see more info about Teen Camp and complete the registration form here.

King's Kamp 2022 "A Different Kind of Hero" (July 24-30)

Kings Kamp is for students who have finished 4th - 8th grades before camp. You can see more info about Kings Kamp and complete the early-bird registration form here. Also, if you are 16 or older and have an interest in serving as a counselor, please fill out the application form on the King's Kamp website to be considered for this important role this summer.

Children's Ministry

Family Good Friday Event Thank You

Thank you to Paula M., David and Leslie S., Kelsey B., Stu and Co W., and Travis M. for making Good Friday a special family event.

Special thanks to Char H. for the amazing labyrinth on the field. What a wonderful addition to the garden prayer and encouragement time.

Spring 2022 Memory Verse

So you must go and make **disciples** of all nations.
Baptize them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And you can be sure that **I am always with you**,
to the very end.

Matthew 28:19-20 NIRV

Good Friday Through Easter

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: **Lauren Kliest-Blankfein** (July)

BIRTHS: **Piper Michele** was born to Matt and Jodi Davis

Alice Joy was born to Daniel and Elaine Overton

Carina Abigail was born to Eric and Michelle (Scarberry) Grant

BAPTISM: **Kiley Haye**

NEW MEMBERS: **Caleb Bearman**; **Daniel, Elaine, Eleanor, Harriet,** and **Alice Overton**

THOSE GRIEVING

Tim Willis – loss of mother, Evelyn Willis

Jeff, Josh, Beth Brown (former members) – loss of wife / mom, Robin Brown

Larry Bumgardner – loss of sister, Donna Bumgardner

Jim White – loss of father, Donovon White

Lisa Scott – loss of friend, Karen Kennedy

Alyssa West and her mother, Kathy Stetz – loss of Mark Stetz, Alyssa's uncle

Maureen Thomas – loss of mother, Barbara Lewis

Tim Rockey – loss of father, Steve Rockey

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 aunt, Betty Brown; loss of cousin, Margi Dalmas

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

FIGHTING CANCER

Patricia Sparks (sister-in-law of Shannon Latson) – beginning a different type of chemo

Ted McAllister (former member) – enters UCLA hospital for CAR-T trial in May

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

Eric and Michele (Scarberry) Grant (son-in-law and daughter of Mark and Suzanne) – learned that their newborn, Carina, has a rare genetic disorder, Russell-Silver syndrome

Jonathan Meador (brother of Judy Tapper) – having variety of health issues

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 her 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

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

Pat Tudor – tolerating immunotherapy

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

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

Marilyn Aurand – physical therapy for spinal stenosis and to improve mobility; recovery from numerous infections

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

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

April 17 Attendance	
On-Site Service	170
Online Viewing	53

April 17 Giving	$7,298
Weekly Giving Average	$15,744
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,629,495
Property Settlement	$225,000

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