CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

May 1, 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	Habit Truck Burger Lunch
3:00pm	Middle School Pod

Upcoming Events

May 3	Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures begin
May 4	Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures
May 5	Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures
May 6	Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures
May 8	Infant Dedication Service
May 15	Baby Shower for Elaine (and baby Alice) Overton
May 30	Memorial Day Picnic
Jun 13-16	Vacation Bible School
Jun 26-Jul 1	Mexico Mission Trip

Birthdays This Week

Neil Socquet	5/1
Carly Stephens	5/2
Madison Williams	5/4
Dylan Scott	5/5
Emma Scott	5/5
Anna Stephens	5/8

Welcome New Shepherds!

By Andy Wall

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. "

1 Peter 5:2-5

In the world of the ancient near east, shepherd was a conventional metaphor for king, indicating the king's responsibility to feed, protect, and nurture his national flock. Psalm 23 famously speaks of the Lord as shepherd. In Ezekiel 34, the prophet gives a blistering critique of Israel's shepherds (leaders) who have fleeced their own sheep and abused the flock of God's people. Jesus told a parable about the shepherd who left ninety-nine sheep to go in search of the one lost sheep. In John 10, Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. In John 21, Jesus commissions Peter to "feed my sheep" in his anticipated absence. In 1 Peter 5, when Peter is writing to church leaders about how to lead the church, he again uses the metaphors of shepherd and flock.

Today, our primary contact with sheep might be at a petting zoo or driving past them on a country road. To be called a sheep is never a compliment. Counting sheep is the proverbial aid to falling asleep. No sports team I know of has a sheep for its mascot (and no, rams are not sheep). Additionally, few of us have ever met a real shepherd. And I have yet to see shepherding as a major in any college catalog I've seen. How then are we to relate to this metaphor for leadership so common in Scripture?

I believe that parenting offers some parallels to shepherding in ways that shed light on the connections between shepherding and leadership. Like shepherds of old, parents today seek to protect, nurture, and guide their young. Parents provide food and shelter for their kids, medicine when they're sick, training in life skills, support through difficult transitions, discipline and guidance, instruction in godliness, and refereeing through squabbles. Like shepherds, they superintend the overall health and well being of their charges. Church leaders today, whether elders, ministers, ministry leaders, or teachers, carry out similar functions.

> ***I have three prayers for us today as we will soon ordain and affirm seven elders (three returning and four new). First, I pray that we may support and show honor to our shepherds. We have been through a lengthy and at times uncomfortable selection process and now there is ministry to be done. Second, I pray for those who are hurting over this process or its final result, that we as a church family might lovingly minister to one another. Third, I pray that all who lead will follow Jesus' model of the strong yet nurturing shepherd, being eager to serve, avoiding power plays, and living exemplary lives before God's people.***

The final chapter of the book of Hebrews offers a couple of invitations to us as we think of our shepherds. First: "Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (13:7). Second: "...they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing..." (13:17). To God be the glory!

What's Happening At Conejo

Youth-Led Worship Today

Today is a youth led worship service. The sermon message will reflect on how God is continually seeking to bring us closer to himself. God often uses specific people, events, and circumstances at the right time to help shape us into the people He wants us to be. It is up to us to trust in God and lean not on our own understanding, but remain open to His work in our lives.

College and Graduate School Graduates

Congratulations to our recent and upcoming college and graduate school graduates. Please click here for a full listing of those who have recently or will soon graduate.

Harbor Pepperdine Bible Lectures / May 3 - 6

This week people will gather from around the world in Malibu to attend the 79th Annual Pepperdine Bible Lectures (Harbor). This year's theme is "No Other Jesus." We encourage you to participate in great classes, rich times of worship, and times of meaningful fellowship.

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 completing a study today of the Letter to the Hebrews in a series titled "Encouragement to a Weary Church." Jacob Michael will lead today's discussion on the message of Hebrews 13:1-25 in a class titled "Keep On Keeping On."

New Adult Bible Classes / Starting May 8

On Sunday, May 8, we'll launch two new adult classes in addition to the Growing Families class. The auditorium class will begin an exploration of the Book of Ecclesiastes titled "That Which Endures"; Chris Heard will introduce the class.

In the overflow room nearest the donut station, Bill Foster will be hosting a video series titled "One at a Time," focusing on how we might follow Jesus in becoming difference-makers in our spheres of influence. Each week, the class will include an 11-14 minute video featuring Kyle Idleman, followed by group discussion.

Infant Dedication Sunday / May 8

Next Sunday, which is also Mother's Day, we will offer blessings and prayers for our newborns as we dedicate these precious ones to the Lord during our worship service. We will follow the biblical examples of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:27-28) and Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:22) in dedicating our infants to the Lord and dedicating ourselves to their spiritual training. As a congregation, we believe that God has called us to be the spiritual family of these little ones and that it is our privilege to partner with their parents to support their spiritual formation and development. Come and share in this important service of celebration and commitment!

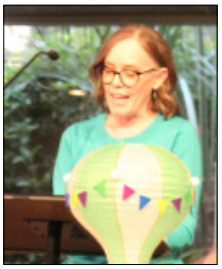
First Fruits Group / May 10

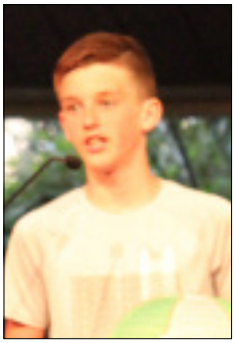
The next First Fruits Small Group is set for May 10 at 6pm at the home of Stu and Co Warford. The topic will be "Transplanting." We will cover planting our seed starts or store-bought vegetable plants into our pots and beds. We'll do the potluck "Johnson style," where we provide the meat and everyone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

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

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.





High School + Middle School

Youth Led Service & Habit Truck Lunch / May 1

Today, we are blessed to have the youth lead us in our morning worship service. After service, the Habit truck will provide lunch for the congregation! We are grateful to God for this opportunity for us to allow our kids to have the keys of leadership and for a time to eat a meal together as a church family. We encourage our families with youth to invest themselves in discovering ways they can serve and take on roles in our worship service more regularly. Thank you for your prayers and support for our kids as they step out in courage to take on leadership roles.

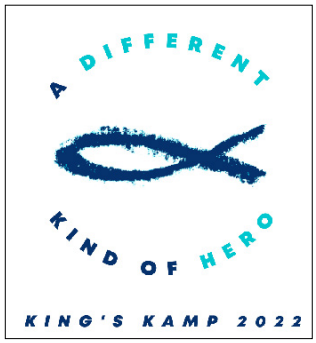
SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

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. On time registration ends Saturday, May 14th. Don't miss out on a great week!

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. On time registration ends Saturday, May 21st.

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.

Family Outreach Event at The Mighty Axe / May 22

Our next young families outreach event will be at The Mighty Axe in Janss Marketpace on Sunday, May 22. Like our last Dave & Busters event, this will be the next opportunity for our families in the youth group to invite friends with the purpose of building community and getting to know members of our church family better. More details coming very soon...

Children's Ministry

Thank You Note From Penny White

Thank you Church for the beautiful celebration Sunday evening. It was an overwhelmingly beautiful gathering with so many beloved friends, volunteers, ministry partners, our ministry team, church leadership, and of course, the children (and former children!) The decorations were fabulous, the food was amazing, and what could top three huge tables of chocolate desserts! I appreciate all the hard work contributed by so many. Thank you for your generous gifts toward future travel for Jim and me and for your thoughtful words of blessing and thanks. I am most grateful for our shared years of ministry!

Children's Ministry is not a one-person ministry—it is a whole-church ministry. Thank you church for your twenty-three years of support. May God bless and keep the Conejo family in the next season of ministry and especially as we welcome and lovingly embrace a new children's minister! And don't forget to volunteer to help!

With heartfelt love,
Penny White

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

Vacation Bible School / June 13-16

To **sign up children** to attend this year's MONUMENTAL VBS, please see **Vincent and Holly Chambers**.

To **sign up as a volunteer** and be part of the MONUMENTAL VBS TEAM, please see **Staci Daringer**.

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; loss of aunt, Betty Brown; loss of cousin, Margi Dalmas

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

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

Joella Michael – recurrence of caner in liver

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 friends 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 24 Attendance	
On-Site Service	124
Online Viewing	92

April 24 Giving	$11,404
Weekly Giving Average	$15,006
Weekly Giving Budget	$13,410
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	$1,629,712
Property Settlement	$225,000

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