



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

February 26, 2023

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 On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 1:00pm Crafty Women
- 3:00pm Many Mansions Bowl Painting
- 5:30pm Combined Youth Group Movie Night - "The Prince of Egypt"

Upcoming Events

- Feb 26 Start of 40-Day Spiritual Adventure
- Feb 26 RSVP Mission to Mexico
- Feb 27 Women's Bible Study
- Feb 27 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 1 Flourishing Families Group
- Mar 1 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Mar 3 Life Group at the Fosters
- Mar 3 Conejo Tutoring

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| Guy Patenaude | 2/26 |
| Tim Rocky | 2/26 |
| Jack Williamson | 2/26 |
| Valerie Patenaude | 2/27 |
| Jasper Short | 2/27 |
| Sarah Green | 2/28 |
| Kate Michael | 2/28 |
| Jake Chesson | 3/2 |
| Braeden Wooton | 3/3 |
| Matthew Johnson | 3/5 |
| Michael Williams | 3/5 |

More Than Meets the Eye

Andy Wall

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

This Sunday we begin our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, traditionally called the season of Lent. This season has been for many Christians throughout the centuries a time to do some spiritual spring cleaning. Since the fifth century, Lent (literally "springtime") has been associated with prayer, fasting, repentance, and almsgiving. It is a time to "give things up," as well as a time to share with those in need. Sadly, some have turned this tradition into a joyless time to begrudgingly forgo a few token pleasures. But this season presents an opportunity, not a requirement. As one author says, "It is meant to be the Church's springtime, a time when, out of the darkness of sin's winter, a repentant, empowered people emerges." This is always a time for us to come to terms with who we are, to recall the great generousities of God through Jesus Christ, to discern what has deadened us to him, and to remember what we are yet called to be and do in our time.

Our Lenten sermon theme for this year is "More Than Meets the Eye." During the next month and a half, we'll be reflecting on various Biblical characters who encountered God or met Jesus and were chagrined, challenged, and ultimately changed by that encounter. For example, Jonah had to reassess a faith that excluded the possibility of God forgiving his despised enemies, the Assyrians. A self-assured scribe had to expand his understanding of "neighbor" after Jesus told a parable about a Good Samaritan. Job, certain of his righteousness despite horrendous suffering, got a different "answer" to his questions than he was expecting. Mary, a trauma survivor, had to rework what she believed was possible in a garden encounter with Jesus. Jacob got more than he bargained for when an all-night wrestling match with God left him with a limp and a new name. Peter was often surprised by Jesus, learning that forgiving extends beyond seven times, that the way of Jesus is the way of the cross, and that painful failure does not equal disqualification from life in God's kingdom.

In each of these scriptural stories, we discern that when it comes to God and God's ways with us, there is always more than meets the eye. God has a way of breaking out of the tidy theological boxes we construct, of caring for people we've decided we could write off, of calling us out of complacent grooves. I am prayerful that as we journey through this Lenten season, we will be reminded that there is always more to learn about the Holy One, always more to appreciate, always more to see. Augustine once wrote, "If you understood God, it would not be God." This quote reminds me of the word "ineffable," an adjective that means "too great to be expressed or described in words." I believe that when we speak of God, we speak of the One whom our words can never fully contain. May this Lent help us love more deeply the Lord of life whose judgments are unsearchable and whose paths are beyond tracing out.

What's Happening at Conejo

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. This season 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 access ideas and suggestions for practices and activities for this year's 40-Day Spiritual Adventure. You may also pick up this handout at the entry table in the foyer.

Adult Bible Classes

Our adult education program is offering a weekly auditorium class of detailed Scripture studies entitled *Scripture Up Close*. Our current series focuses on the minor prophet, Jonah, and will be led by Chris Heard.

In the north overflow room, we're offering a class titled, *One Body, Many Parts: Appreciating Our Differences in the Body of Christ*. The series will conclude with today's class:

StrengthsFinder with Doug Hurley. Please take the [StrengthsFinder Inventory](#) before class.

New Classes / Starting March 5

Success, money, true love, and the life you've always wanted. Many of us place our faith in these things, believing they hold the key to happiness. But the truth is that we often make counterfeit gods of good things, gods that can't give us what we really need. There is only one God who can satisfy our cravings.

On March 5, we'll begin an eight-week class in the north overflow room based on the book *Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller. During this class, led by Rick Furino, we'll explore what the Bible reveals about our faith and hearts' desires. Through scripture, Biblical examples, group and individual exercises, each of us will come face to face with our individual counterfeit god and discover ways, and find the strength, to turn back to the true God.

Also starting on March 5, we'll be offering a *baptism class* for all who are preparing to be baptized as well as those who are interested in learning more about baptism. This three-week class will begin next Sunday in the south overflow room. Please let Andy Wall know if you or your child is interested in taking part in this class.

Bowls of Hope Painting Party / Today

The annual Bowls of Hope Painting Party! It will be held this afternoon from 3 to 5pm in the church building lobby. This fun event benefits Many Mansions, a major provider of low-income housing within our immediate community. All supplies will be provided, including bowls and paint supplies. This is a great

service opportunity for young and old alike, and a fun activity to invite friends to participate in. There is a \$30 per bowl charge to help cover the costs of supplies. Please [click here](#) to sign up. There are limited seats available. Questions? Contact Stu Warford or Kellie Van Atta.

Annual Meeting / March 5

As previously announced, next Sunday, March 5, we will hold a congregational meeting immediately after the end of the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to share information about the 2023 budget as well as an update on our building program. Also, we will be asking you to vote on proposed changes to the church Bylaws. If you are a member here you may review supporting documents and submit questions prior to the meeting. These are available in the member-only area of the church website. Please plan to stay for the meeting after church next week. We believe it will last about 30 minutes.

College and Young Professional Lunch / March 5

Next Sunday, March 5, the Williamsons and Zolas are hosting lunch for our college students and young professionals. We will eat and make plans for more gathering times in the months to come. Please plan to come join us right after the Town Hall meeting! The Williamson home is directly across the street from the church building. It is the house on the corner with the white picket fence, 261 Quinta Vista Drive. Hope to see you there!

Bridal Shower for Valerie Patenaude / March 11

Ladies, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a bridal shower honoring Valerie Patenaude on **Saturday, March 11**, at 2pm at the home of Paula Marrs. Valerie and Travis would appreciate monetary gifts made through their [wedding website](#) or gift cards to Amazon, Target, or Macy's.



Reception for Nathan and Sarah Heard / March 23

Nathan and Sarah will be visiting for the first time since their wedding last May. There will be a come-and-go reception for them on Thursday, May 23, from 7 to 9pm at the church building. All members are invited to come by, meet Sarah if you haven't met her, catch up a bit with them, see wedding photos, and share your love and encouragement. Gift cards to Target or Amazon are appreciated but not expected. If you have questions, please contact Paula Marrs at (805) 479-7267.



Church of Christ Foundation Scholarships

Will you be attending a university or college affiliated with the Churches of Christ in the Fall of 2023? If so, we invite you to apply for a scholarship from the Church of Christ Foundation by visiting www.churchofchristfoundation.com. Scholarships often range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 and can generally be renewed for up to four years. Applications are due by April 30, 2023. Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Laing at (323) 793-8179.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Class

The combined youth group gathers at 9am each Sunday. YG members are invited to participate in the Bowls of Hope (3-5pm on Sunday) and then gather for a combined (HS and MS) viewing of *The Prince of Egypt* (5:30-7:30pm).

Throughout the month of February, YG will be studying a series called "On the Flip Side." Please [click here](#) to learn more about this month's theme.

HS Winter Retreat — Rescheduled for April 14-16

Due to inclement weather this weekend, the high school winter retreat will be postponed to the weekend of April 14-16. The details of the retreat (theme, plans, house in Big Bear) will remain the same, just later in the year. Please let Travis know as soon as possible if this changes availability for anyone who was planning to attend, as well as for those that couldn't make it this weekend but can make the April dates work.

Mexico Mission Trip RSVP / Today

Calling all those interested in joining our 2023 Mexico mission trip team! It's that time of year again when we put our team together and plan for our summer mission trip.



Once again, we have partnered with Amor ministries to build a home for a family in need. Pastors in Mexico, along with Amor partners, work regularly to reach out to families in need to provide a new home so that families can stay together and God's love can be shared in a tangible way. Our goal is to be used by God to bless a family with our resources and hard labor. The dates of the 2023 Mexico mission trip are June 25-30. This trip is for anyone in the congregation currently in 8th grade and up. Older adults and young adults who have

graduated are welcome to come back and serve. RSVP with Travis by this Sunday, February 26, and check to make sure that you have a valid passport. Passports are required. Please start the process early to obtain one! [Click here](#) for more information on mission team expectations and mission team meeting dates. Looking forward to another great trip!

Lip Sync Fellowship Fundraiser / March 12

It's time to start searching for your songs to lip sync to on Sunday, March 12 at 6pm. This event is for both young and old who are willing to set their pride aside, have a little fun, and show off their lip sync talent. Those participating can sign up as individuals or as a group. You may also create a pre-recorded video of your lip sync to be reviewed before the fundraiser. This great event is fun for the whole family and helps raise funds for our summer Mexico mission trip. Please consider getting involved, and please come support us as we raise money for the trip. Sign-ups and song information should be turned in by Friday, March 10. [Sign up here](#) to perform.

Springfest Youth Rally in Bakersfield / March 24-26

Springfest is an annual youth rally put on by the Westside Church of Christ in Bakersfield, CA. The theme this year is SEEK. One of the key themes that we see throughout the entire Bible is the way God is seeking a relationship with us. He pursues us even when we fall short because of his great love. When we understand how much God loves us, it moves us to seek a heartfelt relationship with him. If you are a 6th-12th grade student, we'd love to invite you to a powerful weekend of worship, service, and teaching from God's Word. The cost is \$25 per person which offsets hotel costs and food. [Register here for the Springfest Youth Rally](#). Looking forward to a fun weekend!

YG Event Calendars Available

[Winter 2023 Calendar](#)

[Spring 2023 Calendar](#)

Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please be sure to sign in your kiddos for Bible class and worship time. This will help Haylie be able to best prepare for future classes. The sign-in pages are placed on a table in the entry way which leads to the Children's Ministry area.

Current Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes 9-10am

2s/3s - Leslie S., Sarah G.

Age 4-5th grade - Paula M., Patti F.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Katie C.

2s/3s - Shaya B., Amy M., Kari O., Tami W., and Sarah G.

Age 4-5th grade - Mark D., Dwayne H., and Penny W.

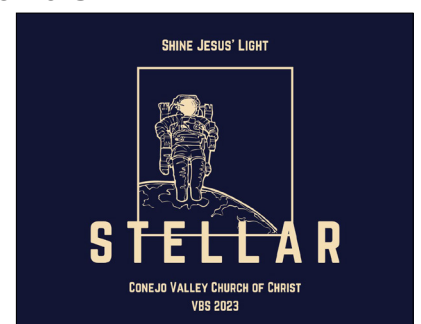
Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

"Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things."

Vacation Bible School 2023

Save the date for Vacation Bible School, June 19-22, 2023! We are excited to share that our theme for this year will be "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!" Mark your calendars for your kids and for you! It's going to be out of this world!



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Holly Chambers (May)

For an excellent **Vision Sunday Workshop** last week!

THOSE GRIEVING

Friends and family of Ted McAllister (former member) – following Ted's death after a long battle with cancer

Rene Heard – loss of mother, Joan Nicholas

Jacob, Ella, Kate, Tess Michael – loss of wife and mother, Joella Michael

Jose Rivera – loss of father, Cecilio (Chilo) Rivero

Char Hurley – loss of mother, Linda Rice

Sam Jackson – loss of mother, Maudie Brown

Brittany Joyner – loss of uncle, Robin Miller

Matt Joyner – loss of grandmother, Mildred Eckstein

Tim Willis – loss of mother, Evelyn Willis

Jim White – loss of father, Donovan White

Maureen Thomas – loss of mother, Barbara Lewis

Tim Rocky – loss of father, Steve Rocky

Christian Socquet – loss of father, Johnny Cowan

Phil Daringer – loss of mother, Joyce Daringer

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Charlie Smith (brother-in-law of the Arganos) – recovering from recent surgery for colon cancer; starting chemo soon

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Lucia Campbell (mother of Guy Patenaude) – recovering from surgery for uterine cancer

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

Judy Tapper – scheduled for additional surgery on 2/27

Sharon Box (mother of Amy Moore) – undergoing tests to determine cause of confusion

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Jim Norris (father of Carlton Norris) – recovering from

broken leg and hip replacement

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recovering in rehab following recent surgeries for brain bleed

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – hospitalized following car accident; severely burned, many complications

John Aurand (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) – recovering from surgery for aortic aneurysm

Judy Long (mother of Loree Hunnicutt) – receiving hospice care; in end-stage heart failure

Andy Long (father of Loree Hunnicutt) – tremendous stress as he cares for Judy

Carina Grant (infant granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – prayers for health, comfort, peace, and stamina

Healing, peace, and justice in our nation and communities

Barb Suhr (friend of Char Hurley) – dealing with memory loss issues

Barbara Schlosser – recovery from a serious illness

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

Sonia Smithers – safety for friends and family in Ukraine

Martha Condley (daughter of Janie Condley) – lupus

Marilyn Aurand – spinal stenosis and seeking to improve mobility

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 – retiring from mission work in Albania; prayers for his transition to life stateside

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center in Cambodia

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

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

David & Danna Willis – mission work in Samoa

City of Children – celebrating 50 years of service!

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 19 Attendance

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| On-Site Service | 133 |
| Online Viewing | 89 |

February 19 Giving

\$8,708

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Giving Average | \$15,314 |
| Weekly Giving Budget | \$14,116 |
| Be the Blessing Giving (To Date) | \$1,645,529 |
| Property Settlement | \$225,000 |

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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