



BE the BLESSING

March 5, 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
- 11:45pm Annual Meeting
- 12:15pm CYP Group at Williamsons'
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 3:30pm MS Pod
- 6:00pm MS Pod

Upcoming Events

- Mar 6 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 6 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 8 Flourishing Families Group
- Mar 8 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Mar 9 Life Group at the Fosters
- Mar 9 Conejo Tutoring
- Mar 11 Bridal Shower for Valerie Patenaude
- Mar 12 Lip Sync
- Mar 17 Moms Better Together
- Mar 18 Hiking Ministry
- Mar. 19 Amor Team Meeting #1

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Matthew Johnson | 3/5 |
| Michael Williams | 3/5 |
| Michael Thomas | 3/7 |
| Jim White | 3/7 |
| Jennifer Downey | 3/9 |
| Caleb Bearman | 3/11 |
| Erin Opdahl | 3/11 |
| Alice Overton | 3/11 |

"X" Marks the Spot

Andy Wall

"Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment." —**J.R.R. Tolkien**

Charles Steinmetz was called the "Electrical Wizard" by his coworkers when he worked for General Electric in the early days of the 20th century. After he retired, his fellow engineers at GE were mystified by the breakdown of a complex of machines. After some futile attempts at repair, they invited Steinmetz to come in as a consultant and diagnose the problem. After surveying the machines for several minutes, he used a piece of chalk to place an "X" at one particular juncture of one of the machines. It turned out that this was the exact spot of the breakdown.

A few days later, Steinmetz sent his bill—for \$10,000, a staggering amount considering the few minutes the job had taken. The engineers asked him if he could provide a breakdown of specific costs. Steinmetz complied, as follows:

"Making one cross mark.....\$1.00

"Knowing where to put it.....\$9,999.00"

Knowing where to place the "X" is a much needed skill in our world. I think about Jonah the prophet in this regard. God called him to deliver a message of judgment to Israel's despised enemies, the Assyrians. After initially trying to avoid God's call, followed by some divine persuasion, Jonah went to Nineveh and declared the word of the Lord. To Jonah's dismay, the entire city repented, turning from their evil ways! So God relented of his plans to bring calamity upon the city.

God's change of plans angered Jonah, who told God, "...I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing." Essentially, Jonah says to God, "I knew you'd botch the job! You're too indulgent of these wicked people!" Jonah is furious because of God's "inability" to put the "X" in the right place, to mete out grace and judgment in the correct measure. But it turns out that Jonah is the one who doesn't understand the heart of God.

Jonah understood the Scriptural teaching about justice and wanted judgment applied lavishly... to his enemies. But what he lacked was insight into God's priorities when it comes to meting out divine justice and divine grace. The oft quoted confession that Jonah references, "You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love," affirms the priority of grace in all of God's dealings with creation. God's relationship with the world is not equal parts grace and wrath. While God will exercise judgment when need be, God is always willing to relent and show mercy upon the repentant. May we seek to mirror this divine priority of grace, not by ignoring God's call to justice, but by understanding that the heart of God is toward the repentant.

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: More Than Meets the Eye

Our Lenten sermon theme for this year is "More Than Meets the Eye." During this series, we'll meet various Biblical characters who encountered God or met Jesus and were chagrined, challenged, and ultimately changed by that encounter. This Sunday, we're reflecting on how Jonah's hatred of Israel's despised enemies was challenged by God's willingness to afford the Ninevites the opportunity to repent and be forgiven.

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We've begun our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure. It is the traditional time each year in which Christians around the world prepare for the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. This season of preparation can include 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, expanding practices of generosity toward those in need, voluntary fasting from some of our typical comforts, and 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.

Baptism Class

This Sunday, we're offering the first of three sessions of a **baptism class**. It will take place in the children's worship area on March 5, 12, and 19 for all who are preparing to be baptized as well as those who are interested in learning more about baptism. Please let Andy Wall know if you or your child is interested in taking part in this class.

Adult Bible Classes

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.

This Sunday, 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, to turn back to the true God.

Our auditorium class of detailed Scripture studies is entitled **Scripture Up Close**. In each "mini-series," we're working through a Biblical text in order, giving careful attention to its content in an effort to hear more clearly what the Biblical authors were trying to tell their readers, and what those messages might mean for us today. Our current focus is on the minor prophet, **Jonah**, and is led by Chris Heard.

Thank you, Clean-Up Crew!

A huge thank you to Ron S., David S., and Stu W. for their help last week clearing a fallen tree from the church parking lot after last week's storm. Your hard work on Saturday made our lives much easier and less stressful on Sunday. Thank you!

Annual Meeting / March 5

This Sunday, 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 members-only area of the church website. Please plan to stay for the meeting after church. We believe it will last about 30 minutes.

College and Young Professional Lunch / March 5

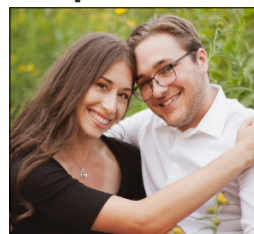
This Sunday, the Williamsons and Zolas are hosting lunch for our college students and young professionals. We will eat and make plans for more gathering times in the months to come. Please plan to come join us right after the annual meeting! The Williamson home is directly across the street from the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

Bridal Shower for Valerie Patenaude / March 11

Ladies, please 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.

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

HS Winter Retreat — Rescheduled for April 14-16

The high school winter retreat was postponed until 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



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. It's very important to 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., Kelsey B., Harmony H.

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

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

Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

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

Family Good Friday Experience

Please save the date for this year's Family Good Friday Experience on **April 7, 2023**. Sign-up details coming soon.



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 our recent **Vision Sunday Workshop!**

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 – recovery from most recent abdominal surgery

All who work outside during the extreme weather restoring electricity, helping with tree clean up and flooding issues from recent storms

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 from recent surgeries for brain bleed

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

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 Auran – 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; transitioning 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 26 Attendance

On-Site Service	125
Online Viewing	102

February 26 Giving

\$23,191

Weekly Giving Average	\$16,189
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,116
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,645,579
Property Settlement	\$225,000

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