

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

March 12, 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
- 12:00pm Vision Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 6:00pm Lip Sync Mission Trip Fundraiser

Upcoming Events

- Mar 13 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 13 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 15 Flourishing Families Group
- Mar 15 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Mar 16 Life Group at the Fosters
- Mar 16 Conejo Tutoring
- Mar 17 Moms Better Together
- Mar 18 Hiking Ministry
- Mar 19 Amor Team Meeting #1
- Mar 19 Combined YG Worship & Devo at Johnsons' home
- Mar 23 Reception for Nathan and Sarah Heard

Birthdays This Week

- Olivia Argano 3/14
- Larry McNutt 3/19
- Sue Ann Meador 3/19
- Jose Rivera 3/19

You're the Man!

Andy Wall

"Fully human, fully divine." That's how Jesus Christ was described by the Council of Ephesus in AD 431. Christian theologians and philosophers had wrestled for several hundred years as they sought to come to terms with who Jesus was and is. That wrestling has not ceased in the 1600 years since.

Throughout the history of the Church, non-believers have objected to the Christian belief in Christ's divinity. "Sure, Jesus was a good man, a worthy teacher, a courageous revolutionary. But quit with all that talk equating Jesus with God." If only we could!

I find it interesting that for many who are able to put their faith in Jesus as one who is co-equal with God, the harder issue has been to believe that Jesus was truly human. The Docetic heresy of the second century found the idea of a human Jesus repugnant, arguing that the Lord only "seemed" to be human, only "seemed" to suffer, only "seemed" to be one of us. Such an enfleshment would be "unthinkable" for a truly divine being. But the early Church pushed back hard against Docetism, rejecting it as a dangerous misunderstanding of who Jesus was. Why? Because the human side of Jesus matters deeply to a vital faith.

One reason for the Church's pushback was theological and philosophical. Many Greek philosophers considered matter to be inherently evil, which caused them to disparage the human body in favor of the human spirit. Plato had argued that the human soul longed to be free from the body like a bird from a cage. But Christians, in line with their Jewish forebearers, understood that the whole universe, including humans and matter, was created by God, and was therefore good. John's teaching that the "Word became flesh" was understood as God's affirmation of the human body. Against early false teachers, 1 John 4:2-3 argued, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God."

Another reason for the Church's rejection of Docetism was practical and pastoral. When humans are going through great trials and temptations, it is extremely helpful to know that Christ our Lord knows and understands. The writer of Hebrews encouraged his readers to approach God's throne boldly because Jesus sympathizes with our human weaknesses, having gone through his own testing. As such, Jesus is a high priest who intercedes on our behalf for God's grace in our times of need. Dietrich Bonhoeffer would later reflect that "only a suffering God can help." In other words, for humans who have endured great suffering, the understanding that God has taken on human form and has stood in solidarity with human suffering on the cross makes a tremendous difference. God is not removed from our struggles. God came near. May we affirm with great gratitude that Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human!

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: More Than Meets the Eye

During the series, "More Than Meets the Eye," 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 looking at the story of Job. Here's the setup: The teachings of Moses, Deuteronomy, and Proverbs establish a biblical principle of "moral symmetry," that God will bless the faithful and upright and punish the unfaithful and wicked. The character Job, however, experiences horrible suffering and loss and decides that there is little moral symmetry. This leads him to raise some haunting questions: "Is God reliable? Can we count on God?" The book of Job is one of the books in scripture that wrestles most profoundly with such questions. The answer Job receives may surprise you!

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 greater engagement with prayer, acts of service and hospitality, contrition over sins, practices of generosity, voluntary fasting, and the pursuit of reconciliation. 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

We're offering a 3-week baptism class in the children's worship area 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.

We are in an eight-week class in the north overflow room based on the book "Counterfeit Gods" by Tim Keller. This class, led by Rick Furino, is exploring 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.

In the auditorium, we are continuing our detailed Scripture studies series 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. Chris Heard is leading our current series focusing on the minor prophet Jonah.

Moms Better Together / March 17

Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to be a part of Moms Better Together. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 17, from 5:45 to 7:45pm at the CVCC church building. Please [click here](#) to sign up for the event. Since we will share a meal, we need to know how many are coming.

Hiking Trails Ministry / March 18

The Conejo Hiking Trails Ministry hikes once a month in the Ventura County area. Hikers of all levels are welcome. The focus is fun, faith, fitness, friendship, and fellowship while enjoying the beautiful gifts that God has given us in the areas that surround us. For more information please contact Lynn B. at (805) 273-4565, or Jon B. at (805) 284-1111. Please [click here](#) for details about this month's hike. See you on the trail!

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, March 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.

Thank you from the Heards

Dear church family,

Thank you for your love as we've been grieving the loss of my mom. Thanks for the cards, hugs, texts, caring conversations, prayers, and encouragement. This has been, and continues to be, a difficult season. Having a loving and supportive church family helps tremendously. Additionally, I want to thank the ministry staff and elders for understanding my need to be present with my parents in their final years. Thank you for allowing me to do my work remotely multiple times per year for the past decade. Both the time spent with Daddy and Mama as their memories faded, as well as the ability to offer my sister and her husband regular breaks with the role of caregiving, made a very difficult situation more doable for us all. Thank you for the gift of presence you afforded me.

With loving appreciation, Rene, Chris, and Nico

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.

Lip Sync Fellowship Fundraiser / March 12

Please join us TONIGHT at 6pm for the 2023 LipSync Fundraiser. We have a great show planned for you. Please come enjoy an evening of fun fellowship, desserts, and entertainment while helping our teens gain needed funds for their summer trip to Mexico. This is a great event full of fun for the whole family.



Mexico Mission Team Meeting / March 19



Next Sunday, March 19, is our first 2023 Amor Team Meeting. All Mission Team members need to attend the meeting at 1pm. 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. Please remember to begin the process of obtaining your

passport if you don't already have one. [Click here](#) for more information on mission team expectations and mission team meeting dates. Looking forward to another great trip!

Worship Night & Devotional / March 19

Once a month, the middle school and high school groups combine for a worship and devo night at various locations. Next Sunday, they will gather from 5-7pm at the home of Amber and Jeremy Johnson. Dinner will be provided. Looking forward to worshipping together!

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!

| CVCC Children | | | | |
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| Age | Allergies | Signed In By | Class | Wid |
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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.

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.

Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

"Set your minds 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)

Safe return of **Haylie Douglas** from short term mission to Romania

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 Rockey – loss of father, Steve Rockey

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) – 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

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire at work

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

March 5 Attendance

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|-----------------|-----|
| On-Site Service | 131 |
| Online Viewing | 89 |

March 5 Giving

\$19,804

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Giving Average | \$16,953 |
| Weekly Giving Budget | \$14,406 |
| Be the Blessing Giving (To Date) | \$1,646,371 |
| Property Settlement | \$225,000 |

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Elders: Michael Ditmore, Bill Foster, Chris Heard, David Rhoades, Mike Rivas, Chris Stivers, Tim Willis – elders@conejochurch.org



CHURCH

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