



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 19, 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 Mexico Mission Team Meeting
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 5:00pm Combined YG Dinner, Devo, Worship Time

Upcoming Events

- Mar 20 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 20 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 22 Flourishing Families Group
- Mar 22 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Mar 23 Life Group at the Fosters
- Mar 23 Conejo Tutoring
- Mar 23 Reception for Nathan and Sarah Heard
- Mar 24-26 Springfest Youth Rally in Bakersfield
- Mar 28 Fifth Commandment Group
- Mar 31 Spring Fair for Many Mansions
- Apr 1 Baby Boy Shower for River Reed Bailey (grandson of Jon and Lynn Burke)
- Apr 4 First fruits Group

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| Larry McNutt | 3/19 |
| Sue Ann Meador | 3/19 |
| Jose Rivera | 3/19 |
| Nathan Hurley | 3/20 |
| Jacob Michael | 3/22 |
| Piper Davis | 3/26 |
| Eliza Jane Norris | 3/26 |

Who Would Hide Me?

Andy Wall

How can you tell who your real friends are? What criteria do you use to discern between casual and serious friends? Is a real friend someone you'd hit up if you needed to borrow \$1,000 on the double? Or someone you'd talk with before making a major life decision? Or someone you'd call at 2am during a crisis?

Joseph Heller's novel, *Good as Gold*, contemplates a different type of criteria for friendship in the question, "Who would hide me?" The question is asked from the viewpoint of a Jewish person living with the memory of Germany during Hitler's regime. As that person weighs his relationships with his Gentile friends, the ultimate criteria of friendship becomes, "Would he risk his skin to hide me if the Nazis came knocking again?" The darker side of this friendship question is "Who would betray me? Who would sell me out?"

Jesus once entertained a similar question: "Who is my neighbor?" The lawyer asking the question was really wanting to know, "What are the limits of neighborliness? At what point am I absolved from my responsibility toward others?" The answer Jesus provided, in the form of the parable of the Good Samaritan, was not one the lawyer was hoping to hear. He concluded, based on Jesus' story, that a neighbor is "one who shows mercy." Jesus then replied, "Go and do likewise."

Who is my neighbor? Who is my friend? Jesus and Joseph Heller both emphasize safety and protection as vital parts of neighborliness and friendship. The Samaritan who responds to the needs of the roadside robbery victim and the Gentile who welcomes in his vulnerable Jewish friend are both taking risks to provide safety and shelter.

One of the things Carrie and I tried to teach our girls as they made choices about friends was just this: pick friends who won't betray you with on-again, off-again friendship. A true friend is someone who provides the shelter of friendship, even when it's inconvenient or costly.

Jesus modeled this type of deep friendship. He told his followers that "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Then he lay down his life for them and for all humankind. The apostle Paul tells the Colossian believers that "your life is now hidden with Christ in God," describing the effects of their baptism in sheltering them in Christ.

Two questions in conclusion. First, who would hide you? Who is hiding you in the shelter of their friendship? Second, who are you hiding? Whom are you welcoming within the mercy of your protective loyalty?

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." Having met Jacob, Jonah, and Job during the first three weeks of our series, we move now to characters whose encounters with Jesus pushed them toward a bigger world of faith, hope, and love. This week we'll meet a scribe (teacher of the Jewish law) who tested Jesus with a question. The scribe gave a "correct" answer but Jesus challenged him to understand neighborliness in a far more generous and uncalculating way.

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We're about halfway through our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, the annual tradition 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.

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.

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.

Flowers for Susie Lindley

For many, many years, Susie Lindley delivered flowers for our church each weekend to brighten the auditorium for our worship time together. Today, Susie, the church wants to share the bouquet from our shared worship time with you. We love you and your family and want you to know that you are dear to us. Please know that we love you and ache for you as you walk through the grief of losing your beloved Jim.

Lip Sync Fellowship Fundraiser Thank You!

A huge thank you to the youth group for a wonderful event last Sunday evening. Lip Sync 2023 was an evening of community fun for the purpose of raising money for the summer mission trip to Mexico. Thanks to all—young and old—who took the stage and made us smile! Thanks to those who brought snacks for our intermission / fellowship time. Thank you for contributing toward our mission trip. A total of \$2,793 was raised. Please pray for us as we prepare to go in late June.



Reception for Nathan and Sarah Heard / March 23

Nathan and Sarah will be visiting for the first time since their wedding last year. There will be a come-and-go reception for them this Thursday, March 23, from 7-9pm 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.

Spring Fair for Many Mansions / March 31

Many Mansions, the premier provider of low-income housing in our community, is sponsoring their annual Spring Fair for their resident children on Friday, March 31 from 3-6pm. The church is collaborating with Many Mansions on this year's fair, providing four activity stations, similar to our Harvest Festival activities. We have committed to staffing four activity stations, and are looking for adult or teen volunteers. Please email [Stu Warford](mailto:Stu.Warford) (or text him: (805) 304-0501) know if you are available and would be willing to serve our community in this way.

Baby Shower / April 1

All CVCC women are invited to the home of Suzanne Reynolds on Saturday, April 1, at 3pm for a "Welcome to the World" baby boy shower for River Reed Bailey (newest grandson of Jon and Lynn Burke). Please [click here](#) to see their registry at Target. Parents also welcome books for little River's library.

High School + Middle School

Mexico Mission Team Meeting / Today at 1pm

At 1pm today, we have 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. Please remember to begin the process of obtaining your passport if you don't already have one. Please begin obtaining your passport. [Click here](#) for more information on mission team expectations and mission team meeting dates. Please pray for us as we prepare for our trip in late June.

Worship Night & Devotional / Today at 5pm

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

This year's theme for Springfest, the annual youth rally put on by the Westside Church of Christ, is **SEEK**. God, because of his great love, is seeking a relationship with us. When we understand how much God loves us, we seek a heartfelt relationship with him. If you are a 6th-12th grade student, you are invited 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!

Summer Camps: Early-Bird Registration...Now

Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids. 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 2023 "Collide" (July 9-15)

Teen Camp is for students who have finished 8th-12th grades before camp. You can see more info about [Teen Camp](#) and complete the [early-bird registration](#) by connecting to the links. *Early-bird prices end May 1, so please register now!*

King's Kamp 2023 "Saddle Up" (July 23-29)

King's Kamp is for students who have finished 3rd-7th grades before camp. To learn more, please check out the [King's Kamp website](#). *Early-bird registration is now open and forms are accessible on the website. Reduced registration rates end May 1.*



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

Our annual Family Good Friday Experience will be Friday, April 7, from 5-7:30pm with staggered start times for family units. This event is family-led, meaning the adults from each group will guide the children through the program. This will provide our families with the space and time to remember Jesus and talk about the event that led to his death. This is also a great event to invite your friends to join. Please [click here](#) or go to tinyurl.com/CVCCgoodfri to access the sign up page to reserve your time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Haylie at (979) 676-1529 or haylie@conejochurch.org.



Vacation Bible School / June 19-22

Please save the date for VBS 2023. The theme this year is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light."

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

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

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

Tammy Roby (mother of Bonnie Rockey) – recovering from hand surgery

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, road repairs, 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 caregiving 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; 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 12 Attendance

On-Site Service	133
Online Viewing	103

March 12 Giving

\$54,868

Weekly Giving Average	\$15,740
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,646,421
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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