



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 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
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 2:30pm YG Returns from Springfest

Upcoming Events

- Mar 27 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 27 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 29 Flourishing Families Group
- Mar 29 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Mar 30 Life Group at the Fosters
- Mar 30 Conejo Tutoring
- 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 2 Children's Palm Sunday Processional
- Apr 4 First Fruits Group
- Apr 7 Good Friday Events
- Apr 9 Easter Celebration Service

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| Piper Davis | 3/26 |
| Eliza Jane Norris | 3/26 |
| Lyzette Daringer | 4/2 |
| TJ Reynolds | 4/3 |
| Lorna Thomas | 4/3 |
| Michele Davis | 4/4 |
| Shirlene Watson | 4/4 |

Who Are You Kidding?

Andy Wall

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." **Mark 10:14-15**

"It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ." **Colossians 1:28**

Because of the richness of Scripture's literary contexts, historical backgrounds, life settings, and genres, you can find verses like the two above that sound like they're moving in opposite directions. But these two verses highlight an important faith tension, one we should seek to hold in balance, gaining insights from both sides of the equation.

On one side, we have the incident during Jesus' ministry (Mark 10:14-15) in which adults are bringing children to be blessed by Jesus. The disciples, annoyed at this interruption, spoke harshly to them. Jesus, indignant with the disciples' self-important response, says, "...do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Jesus goes on to affirm the central importance of childlike humility, dependence, and simple faith, declaring that those who don't receive the kingdom like a child will not enter it. By his words and deeds, Jesus affirmed the place of children in the kingdom of God and the importance of the child-like qualities of vulnerability and trust.

But Paul's words in Colossians 1:28 express another angle, applying the analogy of moving from immaturity to maturity in the Christian faith. While Jesus commends some child-like qualities in his teaching, Paul is thinking of the process of growing up spiritually, of how one moves from childish qualities such as inconsistency, ignorance, or a lack of self-control, into more dependable adult behaviors. Paul is not negating the need for a humble and reliant faith but rather is emphasizing that faith is a process of change, transformation, and growth analogous to how we move from physical and emotional immaturity to physical and emotional maturity.

One way of maintaining this biblical tension in the practice of our faith is to say that we are to be child-like in our faith without being childish. Some qualities of children are appropriate for grown-up followers of Jesus while others are not. We need to be open to learning from the simple sincerity of children even as we invite them to learn from the mistakes and experiences we've made that have challenged simplistic faith. There are childish ways we are to put away as adults (1 Corinthians 12:11) even as we also know that when we welcome a child in Jesus' name, we are also welcoming Jesus (Mark 9:37). May God grant us the wisdom to know the difference!

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." Today, we're reflecting on how Jesus pushed his disciples toward a greater understanding of who the kingdom of God is for and what qualities define those who are part of it.

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We're in week five of 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.

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 learn to confront and turn from it.

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.

Fifth Commandment / March 28

The fifth commandment tells us to "Honor your father and mother." How do we do that in our adult lives as our parents age, face health challenges, and live hundreds or even thousands of miles away? Join us this Tuesday at 7pm as we share our current challenges and concerns regarding our aging parents and spend time praying for wisdom, direction, and comfort for those we love. [Zoom Meeting Link](#).



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 to 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.



Thank you from Valerie and Travis

Dear Conejo church family,

We are so blessed to be part of such a kind and loving church. We really appreciate all of you who came to my bridal shower and those of you who reached out who weren't able to come. Thank you for all the thoughtful gifts and gift cards, they have been so helpful to us. We are so blessed to have support from you all. And thank you to everyone who helped put it together, it was beautiful.

Love, Valerie and Travis

First Fruits Potluck / April 4



Our next First Fruits food growers meeting will be a potluck hosted at the home of Stu and Co Warford (AKA Warford Farms) Tuesday, April 4 from 6 to 8pm. Our theme will be "Planning a Summer Vegetable Garden." All levels of food gardeners are invited.

The Warfords will provide a main dish, and attendees are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Please let Stu or Co know if you plan to attend.

Good Friday Worship Service / April 7

The congregation is invited to a Good Friday Service on Friday, April 7, at 9pm. In this service, we will reflect on the Gospel account of Jesus' final hours leading up to his crucifixion, seeking to more fully appreciate the significance of Christ's death on the cross to overcome the power of evil, sin, and death.



High School + Middle School

Springfest Youth Rally in Bakersfield / March 24-26

Several of our youth group members are in Bakersfield this weekend for Springfest, the annual youth rally put on by the Westside Church of Christ.

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.

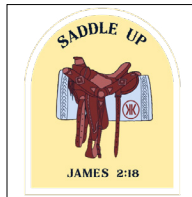
SoCal Teen Camp 2023 "Collide" (July 9-15)

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.*



Mexico Mission 2023

The dates of the 2023 Mexico mission trip are June 25-30. Please begin the process of obtaining your passport if you do not already have one. [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.



Fun and Fellowship at Recent Lip Sync



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.

Palm Sunday / April 2

We have lots of opportunities for families to get plugged in this Easter! On Palm Sunday we are inviting our kiddos to participate in a processional at the beginning of church service where they will be waving palm fronds to help us all get in the mindset of Palm Sunday. If you would like to participate in this event, please drop off your children in the Children's Worship Area by 10:05.



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." Mark your calendars for your kids and for you. It's going to be out of this world! If you would like to help with VBS this year, please fill out the form at tinyurl.com/stellarhelp to let Haylie know your interest.

Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

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

Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: Holly Chambers (May)

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

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – cancer has returned

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

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, 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 19 Attendance	
On-Site Service	118
Online Viewing	90

March 19 Giving		\$9,160
Weekly Giving Average		\$15,191
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,646,571
Property Settlement		\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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