



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2, 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
- 10:20am CM Palm Procession during worship service
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 2:00pm Mission Committee Meeting
- 6:00pm Combined Youth Group Meeting

Upcoming Events

- Apr 3 Women's Bible Study
- Apr 3 Monday Guys' Group
- Apr 4 First Fruits Group
- Apr 5 Flourishing Families Group
- Apr 5 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Apr 6 Life Group at the Fosters
- Apr 6 Conejo Tutoring
- Apr 7 Good Friday Events
- Apr 9 Easter Celebration Service

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| Lizzy Daringer | 4/2 |
| TJ Reynolds | 4/3 |
| Lorna Thomas | 4/3 |
| Michele Davis | 4/4 |
| Shirlene Watson | 4/4 |
| Ashlyn Thomas | 4/8 |
| Vincent Chambers | 4/9 |

Falling Down

Andy Wall

"Don't worry about failure; worry about the things you miss when you don't even try."

Teddy Roosevelt

At 9 years of age, his mother died. At 22, he failed in business; the next year he lost in a bid for the state legislature and failed to get into law school. At age 24, he went bankrupt and spent the next 17 years paying off his debt. At 27, his fiancée died, leading to a nervous breakdown the following year. Over the next 20 years, he lost bids for the state legislature, Congress (3 times), state land officer, and the Senate (twice). But at the age of 51, Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. He has come to be regarded by many experts as one of the highest-rated presidents in US history.

Have you ever experienced the kind of failure or defeat that makes you doubt you have anything to offer the world? Chances are good you've experienced falling flat on your face more than once in life. It's not fun. But failure can provide significant learning opportunities.

Nothing reveals our blind spots like failure. Successes, while certainly more fun, rarely challenge our assumptions, clarify our misconceptions, provoke deeper self-reflection, inculcate greater humility, or increase our empathy. At times we might feel like Charlie Brown, when Lucy reminds him that "You learn more from your defeats than you do from your victories." Charlie Brown responds, "That makes me the smartest man in the world!" Charlie Brown is onto something.

Consider the experience of the apostle Peter following his appalling denials of Jesus. The risen Christ meets him on the shore of Galilee, where three times he asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter is wounded by this questioning, seeing in it a painful echo of his three-fold renunciation a few days earlier. Each time after Peter reaffirms his love for him, Jesus calls Peter to "feed my sheep." Clearly, Jesus sees more in Peter than his greatest failure, inviting him on the greatest adventure of his lifetime as a leader in the early church. Far from disqualifying Peter from this invitation, I believe Peter's failure helped him become a better leader, tempering his natural boldness with humility and providing a personal experience for helping others in their faith struggles.

May we remember our Lord's gracious response and invitation to Peter, understanding that we are more than our worst failure. And may we experience the deeper wisdom that failure can bring as we seek to live out our faith with love and humility.

What's Happening at Conejo

Welcome to Conejo!

We're delighted to welcome Kim Milanovich to the Conejo church family. We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with you, Kim. Our prayer is that you will be blessed by your association with this church family, and that you will be encouraged to grow in faith, love, and service to others.

Kim's current contact information is:

555 Laurie Lane, Apt B4, Thousand Oaks, 91360
kimbocapt@hotmail.com • (626) 676-7161



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 the apostle Peter's struggle to comprehend that the road of Jesus the Messiah necessarily led through suffering and death. There's no question that Peter was committed to "the cause." The problem was that "the cause" Peter was willing to fight and die for—restoring Israel to religious-political-military ascendancy—had little to do with Jesus' mission of inaugurating God's kingdom reign.

A long-running temptation among Christians is to try to bring in God's kingdom by power, force, and coercive strength; but we can often be blind to how God moves through apparent weakness, humility, tender patience, and suffering love. May this week serve to bring us closer to the ways of the one who suffered, was crucified, died, buried, and rose again!

40-Day Spiritual Adventure

We're entering the final week of our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, when 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 Lenten Season.

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.



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.

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.

Thank you from Nathan and Sarah Heard

*Dear Conejo Family,
Thank you all so much for your continued love and generosity. Sarah and I are beyond grateful for the reception and for the ongoing support, prayers, and enthusiasm around our marriage, education, and new ventures. We love and miss you all and look forward to the next time we can return to California!
Love, Nathan and Sarah*

Bridal Shower for Jessica Wall / April 23

Ladies, please mark your calendars! Sunday, April 23, gather with other Conejo women at the home of Paula Marrs at 2pm for a bridal shower honoring Jessica Wall and Richard Smith. The couple's [registry](#) lists items at Target, Amazon, and Pottery Barn. Please make your plans to join us and celebrate this wonderful time in the life of our dear Jessica as she prepares to marry the love of her life.



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

Springfest Youth Rally in Bakersfield

Last weekend's youth rally in Bakersfield was a good weekend of fellowship with friends. We took our traditional visits to Dewar's Ice Cream parlor and Sonic. We are grateful to Westside Church of Christ for hosting this event and giving us an opportunity to grow closer to God and each other.



Dinner, Worship, and Devotional / April 23

Once a month, the middle school and high school groups combine for a worship and devo night at various locations. They will gather from 5-7pm on Sunday, April 23 at the home of Amy & Travis Moore (12904 Sleepy Wind St. Moorpark). Dessert and drinks will be provided by the Moore's, but those attending should bring a dinner item to share with the group. Looking forward to another night of worshipping together!

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.

Summer Camps: Early-Bird Registration...Now

Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids. If you desire for your child to grow closer to God, camp is one of the greatest assets we have in helping that become a reality. Websites for each camp are listed for each camp below so that you can learn more about these great opportunities.

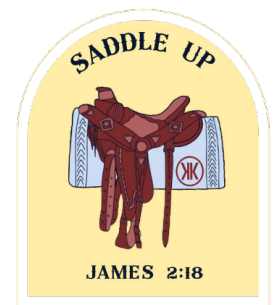
SoCal Teen Camp 2023 "Collide"

Teen Camp, *July 9-15*, 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"

King's Kamp, *July 23-29*, 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, so please register now.*



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.

Palm Sunday / Today!

Today, 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.



Mr. Dwayne's Challenge

Congratulations to Luke Zola for completing Mr. Dwayne's Challenge of memorizing all of the books of the Bible!

Memory Verse

Our memory verse is Colossians 3:2.

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



Vacation Bible School 2023 / Volunteers Needed

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.

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 - Shaya B., Sarah G., Lauren K., Amy M., Kari O, Tami W.

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

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

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, Donovon 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 26 Attendance

On-Site Service	123
Online Viewing	70

March 26 Giving

\$11,090

Weekly Giving Average	\$14,876
Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,646,621
Property Settlement	\$225,000

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

(805) 371-1381 Office | (805) 371-1384 Fax

www.conejochurch.org

Haylie Douglas

Children's Minister
(979) 676-1529 cell
haylie@conejochurch.org
R&R Wednesdays

Rene Heard

Worship & Media Manager
(818) 665-8598 cell
reneheard@sbcglobal.net
R&R Tuesdays

Kathia King

Office Manager
(805) 371-1381 office
office@conejochurch.org
R&R Thursdays & Fridays

Travis Moore

Youth & Family Minister
(520) 591-8246 cell
travis.moore926@gmail.com
R&R Mondays

Andy Wall

Preaching Minister
(805) 331-0187 cell
andy@conejochurch.org
R&R Fridays

Jack Williamson

Spiritual Formation Min.
(805) 331-0183 cell
jack@conejochurch.org
R&R Mondays

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



CHURCH

2525 E. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362