



BE the BLESSING

April 16, 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 Crafty Women Craft Event
- 2:00pm Sunday Afternoon Hoops
- 6:00pm Combined Youth Group Meeting

Upcoming Events

- Apr 17 Women's Bible Study
- Apr 17 Monday Guys' Group
- Apr 19 Flourishing Families Group
- Apr 19 Life Group at the Reynolds
- Apr 20 Life Group at the Fosters
- Apr 20 Conejo Tutoring
- Apr 22 Memorial for Jim Lindley
- Apr 22 Dinner and a Movie—"Risen"
- Apr 23 Bridal Shower for Jessical Wall
- Apr 30 Youth-Led Service
- May 2-5 Harbor / Pepperdine Bible Lectures
- May 7 Conejo 50th Anniversary Celebration

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| David Chesson | 4/16 |
| Marissa Davis | 4/17 |
| Evie Chambers | 4/19 |
| Susie Lindley | 4/19 |
| Ken Waters | 4/19 |
| Kindy De Long | 4/20 |
| Michelle Williams | 4/20 |
| Bronn Landis | 4/21 |
| Suzanne Scarberry | 4/22 |
| John Downey | 4/23 |

Faith and Science: Finding a Third Way

Andy Wall

"So vast, without any question, is the Divine Handiwork of the Almighty Creator!"

- Copernicus, De Revolutionibus, 1543

Since the period of the Enlightenment, when philosophers advocated for reason as the primary authority for knowing any truth, many have pitted biblical faith and science against one another. Renaissance astronomer Copernicus ran afoul of the Roman Catholic Church of his day because his studies led him to see that the Earth orbits around the sun, rather than the other way around. Such a view, however, was contrary to existing church dogmas which understood Scripture to claim that the Earth was the center of the universe, not one of many planets orbiting an average-sized star. Surely Copernicus' vision of the Earth as spinning one revolution each day and whirling around the sun each year contradicted Psalm 104:5: "He has set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved."

The vast majority of Christians no longer make that argument because they have come to understand the verse in question as being a poetic description of God's creation rather than a scientifically rigorous description of reality. But the perception persists that since Christians accept the authority of biblical revelation, their faith commitments automatically shut down honest scientific inquiry and truth-seeking. To be fair, this perception rests on a variety of historical examples, Copernicus being one of them.

However, despite those clashes between faith and science over the centuries, is it fair to assume that this must automatically be the case? Since 1916, surveys have found that about 40% of working scientists are believers. Today's prevailing assumption that having a half a brain and an open mind will automatically lead to disbelief is belied by world-class scientists and believers such as Harvard Astronomer, Owen Gingerich, Human Genome Project Director, Francis Collins, and Templeton Award-winning Physicist, John Polkinghorne. These thoughtful believers, among others, suggest that we need not allow the terms of the religion/science discussion to be set by religious fundamentalists on one side and vociferous atheists on the other.

I have long believed that truth has nothing to fear from investigation. The Christian virtue of humility is a most appropriate means for us to hold our Christian convictions while always allowing God and God's universe to surprise us with wonder and perplex us with mystery. In his book "The Language of God," Geneticist Collins writes: "I have found there is a wonderful harmony in the complementary truths of science and religion. The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. God can be found in the cathedral or in the laboratory. By investigating God's majestic and awesome creation, science can actually be a means of worship." As followers of Christ, may we faithfully seek to understand our Creator and the creation with equal parts gusto, curiosity, and a childlike openness to discovery.

What's Happening at Conejo



Sermon Series: More Than Meets the Eye

We've been discussing various Biblical characters who, when encountering God or meeting Jesus, discovered "more than meets the eye." Today we're reflecting on an astronomer, physicist, and engineer whose Christian faith ran afoul of the church hierarchy of his day when his scientific observations led him to a sun-centered view of our solar system. His name was Galileo, and while his planetary discoveries were deemed heretical by the 16th century church, they have been fully embraced by believers and non-believers for hundreds of years.

From this historical example, we're reminded that God works in the cosmos in ways we can't imagine and often don't comprehend. That doesn't stop us from theorizing and theologizing about what God is up to. Sometimes we connect the dots appropriately; sometimes we miss by a wide margin. This story teaches us to be humble in our beliefs (even as we hold firmly to faith), especially when they're based on philosophical or theological conjecture.

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. Kindy DeLong is leading our current series focusing on 2 Thessalonians.

Memorial Service for Jim Lindley / April 22

There will be a memorial service for Jim Lindley on Saturday, April 22, at 1pm at the Conejo building. This will be a time to celebrate his life, to grieve his passing, and to love on his family and one another. The Lindley/Randolph families have been part of our congregation for many decades, and we pray for God's comfort and sustenance during this time of loss. A coffee and cookie reception will follow the service.

"Risen" Movie Night / April 22

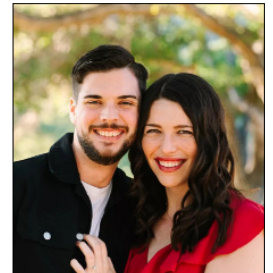
Saturday night, April 22, from 6:30-9:30pm, Conejo will host a dinner and movie night at the church. We will be watching



the 2016 PG-13 movie, "Risen," starring Joseph Fiennes and Tom Felton. The movie is about a Roman tribune who is charged with finding the missing body of Jesus, who rose from the dead. The event is free, but we want you to invite friends and family to join you. We have hosted several family and friend outreach events outside of the church in the past year. With this event we move to invite friends to the building for something that is centered around Easter, showcases a mainstream movie, and gives opportunity for conversation around the resurrection of Jesus. [RSVP here](#) to receive dinner. Click for [printable event flyer](#) to share with friends.

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.



MITS Update Class / April 30

On Sunday, April 30, we'll have a special combined auditorium class in which Francis Mbuvi, director of the Made in the Streets (MITS) ministry in Nairobi, Kenya, will be sharing an update on this important ministry. Our congregation has supported MITS for many years and we're grateful for this opportunity to hear from Mbuvi, our beloved friend and brother in the Lord.

Conejo 50th Anniversary Celebration / May 7

Please mark your calendars for a very special Sunday on May 7, when we celebrate our congregation's 50th year of ministry in the Conejo Valley! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to give praise for God's care, provision, and blessing of this congregation through the years. After the worship service, we'll share in a luncheon together—dust off those beloved recipes of yesteryear and let's have an old-fashioned potluck, complete with such timeless classics as crushed potato chip chicken and rice casserole, green bean dish with crispy onions, and banana pudding with Nilla Wafers. Please help us spread the word by inviting former Conejo members you're still in touch with and posting the news on social media. [Click for CVCC 50th flyer.](#)

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

Throughout the month of April YG is studying a series called "Plot Twist." [Click here](#) to learn more about meeting times and this month's theme. Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The combined group gathers at 9am each Sunday.

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 Team Meeting / April 23

Sunday, April 23, is our second 2023 Mission Trip 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. This year's mission trip theme is "Strength in the Building." There is strength in the building of a house as you labor to complete the task. We learn

to work together to build the house as we look to the interests of others, as we humble ourselves with hard work, and we get to be used by God as he builds more than just a house for a family in Mexico. As a part of God's family, we are strengthened as we work to build God's house and become more like Christ in our love and service to the world. [Click here](#) for more information on mission-team expectations and meeting dates.

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 open through May 1 and forms are accessible on the website.

Children's Ministry



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCY: **Holly Chambers** (May)

NEW MEMBER: **Kim Milanovich**

THOSE GRIEVING

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Dena, Elissa, Luke McAllister (former members) – loss of husband and father, Ted

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, 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

Mary Goodner (aunt of Chris Heard) – in ICU following stroke

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

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 (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

April 9 Attendance	
On-Site Service	203
Online Viewing	70

April 9 Giving		\$9,062
Weekly Giving Average		\$14,475
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,647,463
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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