



BE the BLESSING

June 4, 2023

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We pray you will encounter God as we worship together.

Today

- 9:00am Promotion Sunday in Auditorium
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 12:30pm Adult Education Team Meeting
- 5:30pm Combined YG Gathering at CVCC Building

Upcoming Events

- Jun 6 Women's Bible Study Dinner at BJ's
- Jun 7 Flourishing Families
- Jun 8 Life Group at the Fosters'
- Jun 10 Saturday Guys' Golfing
- Jun 11 Senior Celebration Sunday
- Jun 11 Baby Shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn Williamson
- Jun 15 Summer Youth Series #1
- Jun 16 Moms Better Together
- Jun 17 Hiking Ministry
- Jun 18 Newborn Dedication Service
- Jun 19-22 Vacation Bible School
- Jun 25-30 Mexico Mission Trip

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| Suzanne Reynolds | 6/6 |
| Loree Hunnicutt | 6/7 |
| Maxi McAfee | 6/8 |
| Patti Furino | 6/9 |
| Jonathan White | 6/9 |
| Larry Bumgardner | 6/10 |

What Are We Really?

Andy Wall

The following poem, "Zebra Question" by Shel Silverstein, uses humor to raise the age-old question concerning how we understand human nature.

I asked the zebra,
 Are you black with white stripes?
 Or white with black stripes?
 And the zebra asked me,
 Are you good with bad habits?
 Or are you bad with good habits?
 Are you noisy with quiet times?
 Or quiet with noisy times?
 Are you happy with some sad days?
 Or are you sad with some happy days?
 Are you neat with some sloppy ways?
 Or are you sloppy with some neat ways?
 And on and on and on and on
 And on and on he went.
 I'll never ask a zebra
 About stripes again.

In the history of Christian theology, the question of our human nature has exercised many a thoughtful believer. Some have argued that humans are essentially fallen creatures with an inescapable sin nature, incapable of even desiring to love God without God's gracious enabling. Others have emphasized that we are beings created in the image of God and irrevocably loved by God, brimming with potential and the capacity for dominion over God's creation.

So who are we? Are we those who, in the words of Paul, "can will what is right, but cannot do it" (Romans 7:18-19)? Or are we those who, with the Psalmist, God has "made a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor" (Psalms 8:5)? Are we divine image bearers (Genesis 1:27) or children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)? Are we "good with bad habits? Or bad with good habits?"

One approach that has helped my thinking on this timeless question was articulated by Randy Harris. He observed that on the one hand, we humans share with the animals a lower nature: basic biological appetites, desires, impulses, and needs (which can be pursued in healthy or unhealthy ways). At the same time, we mysteriously bear the image of God, a higher nature, which includes things like the ability to create, communicate, love, forgive, repent, and plan. With both our biologically transmitted lower nature and our divinely created higher nature, we find ourselves making a series of daily choices. Will we live merely by the dictates of our lower nature? Or will we rise and live out of our higher nature as well?

I suspect that the mystery of our human nature will continue to resist our attempts to fully unravel. But I am convinced that God has called each of us to govern our lower nature by our higher nature. While there is nothing inherently wrong with our human appetites for food or safety or sex, the ways in which we satisfy those appetites must be in accord with how God has created us to reflect the divine image, flawed image-bearers though we be. In Jesus, we find the exemplar par excellence, in whom coexisted both a human and divine nature, who was tempted as we are yet who was without sin. Whether you believe "we are good with bad habits or bad with good habits," may we each seek earnestly to follow in his steps!

What's Happening at Conejo

Welcome to the World, Lara Elizabeth Chambers!

Lara Elizabeth was born to Vincent and Holly Chambers on Monday, May 29. She weighed in at 7 pounds 1 ounce and measured 19.75 inches long. Our prayer is that Lara will grow in wisdom, stature, and in love and devotion to God and God's creation. We welcome this precious little one to the world.



Bonnie Rockey has created a meal train for Vincent, Holly, and Evie as they adjust to life with little Lara. Please [click this meal delivery link](#) to sign-up for a date to bless the Chambers family.



Sermon Series: "Talk With Me"

In this four-part sermon series, we're exploring the art of caring conversations. This week, we'll consider biblical foundations for becoming better listeners to those we know and want to love better. While we all share a human yearning to be known, we tend to be better at talking than listening. One of the greatest gifts we can give to others is to listen with sincere interest and follow up with genuine curiosity. We live in a time when people are reporting loneliness and isolation at high levels. As Jesus' followers, our conversations can be a way to love others better, to honor others above ourselves, and to demonstrate kindness and compassion.

Promotion Sunday / June 4

Please join us this Sunday for our annual promotion Sunday class in the auditorium. This is a time to celebrate the growth of our children as they move from one grade to the next, recognize their teachers, and celebrate with our fifth graders as they move from the Children's Ministry into the Youth Group. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate, reflect, and recommit to partner with parents in our congregation as together we seek to grow in God's grace and love.

Prayer Class

Rodney Smithers is wrapping up a class entitled Developing a Closer Relationship with God through Prayer. This discussion-oriented class takes place in the overflow classroom. The final class, taking place next Sunday, June 11, will reflect on "The Practice of Prayer."

Scripture Up Close Class / Epistle of James

In the auditorium, we are continuing our 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. Next week, Jack Williamson will teach on the epistle of James.

Welcome to Conejo, Javon Johnson!

We're delighted to welcome Javon Johnson to the Conejo church family. We look forward to sharing in ministry and community with you, Javon. 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. Javon's contact information is:

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(702) 577-4587 • johnson1052001@yahoo.com

Women's Bible Study Dinner / June 5

Ladies, the Women's Bible Study group will meet at BJs in Thousand Oaks on Monday at 6pm to share a meal together. Please contact Paula Marrs in person or by call or text (805) 479-7267 by Sunday and let her know if you plan to come so that she can make a reservation.

Baby Shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn / June 11

There will be a baby shower for Brendin and Kaitlyn Williamson on Sunday, June 11, at the home of Joy and David Rhoades, 6035 Kerrmoor Drive, Westlake Village. This is a co-ed come-and-go event which begins at 1pm and runs to 4pm. Baby Registry Link. Click the [Baby Gift Registry](#) to see the items that Brendin and Kaitlyn have selected for their coming baby.



Recent Church Fellowship Gatherings



Game Night Fun



Memorial Day Picnic



High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes and Event Calendar

Throughout the summer, the YG has chosen to study 1 Samuel on Sunday mornings during class time. Please help our students participate, learn, grow, and encourage one another by taking part in our weekly times together. The combined group (middle and high school) gathers at 9am each Sunday.

Also, teens and parents of teens, there are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in our faith this coming summer. [YG Summer Events Calendar](#).

Promotion Sunday CVYG Parent Meeting

Today, following service and our welcome of the new 6th graders into the youth group, there will be a parent meeting for all youth group parents. For existing youth group parents, this will be information on summer activities and fall sabbatical plans. For parents new to the youth group, this will be a "welcome to the youth group and here's what you can expect" meeting. Pizza will be provided for lunch.

Senior Sunday and Graduate Banquet / June 11

It's almost time to honor our 2023 high school graduates! This is a special Sunday. We will have a "web of love" during Bible class where we will share memories and things that we appreciate about the graduating seniors. During the service, they are presented with Bibles filled with encouraging messages from members of their Conejo church family. Then, at 6pm, we come back to celebrate with the seniors and their families, enjoy dinner, games, and family blessings together. Parents, please make sure your kids are involved in this important day for our seniors! The senior Bibles are available in the foyer for you to write messages in for our graduates.

These messages can be words of encouragement, a favorite scriptures, or nuggets of wisdom for this next chapter of life.

SYS #1 "Disclosed: God Revealed Through Christ"

A week from this Thursday, on June 15, our summer intern, Nico, will start a series he has been preparing called "Disclosed: God revealed through Christ." This series will cover the story of Jesus and how God is uniquely revealed through the life and death of the Son of God. Nico hopes the participants will leave with a better understanding of what is unique about each gospel. Middle school, high school, and college-aged adults are all invited. Each series meeting will go from 6-8pm and consist of time for dinner/fellowship, games, a Bible lesson, and experiential learning. Afterwards, all are encouraged to grab ice cream together. Hope to see you at SYS #1!

Summer Camps: Final Day For On-Time Registration

It's time to sign up for summer camps! Camp can be a profound spiritual experience for our kids and is a place in which we continue to see God work in powerful ways in our kids' lives. 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.

Teen Camp 2023 "Collide"

Teen Camp, *July 9-15*, is for students who have finished 8th-12th grades before camp. Learn more about [Teen Camp](#) and complete registration by connecting to the links on the website.

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](#) and register there.

Children's Ministry

Sign In, Please!

Parents, please be sure to sign in your kiddos for Bible class and worship time. The green sign-in pages are on a table as you head back toward 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 - Shaya B., Sarah G., Amy M., Kari O, Tami W.

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

Memory Verse

But I trust in your faithful love.

My heart is filled with joy because you save me.

I will sing to the Lord.

He has been so good to me.

Psalm 13:5-6

Mr. Dwayne's Challenge



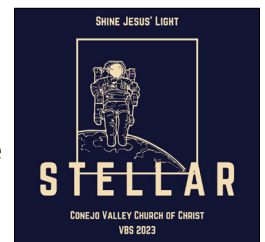
Congratulations to Clark Zola for completing Mr. Dwayne's Challenge which consists of memorizing and reciting the names of all of the books of the Bible. Way to go, Clark!

Vacation Bible School 2023 / Volunteers Needed

Come join the fun! VBS registration is open! Stop by the table outside or fill out the Google form below to sign up the kids today. Our four-day VBS runs Monday, June 19 through Thursday, June 22, from 9am-12pm. Invite your friends and family to join us, just make sure to register for them too!

[Stellar VBS Registration Form](#)

[Volunteer Form \(adult and teen\)](#)



Prayer Corner

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

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Morgan Williamson** (July), **Kaitlyn Williamson** (September)

BIRTHS: **Lara Elizabeth Chambers** was born to **Vincent and Holly Chambers** on Monday, May 29

ENGAGEMENT: **John Stephens** and **Ellie Cirillo** were recently engaged; they are planning to marry in November 2023

THOSE GRIEVING

Andrew Clark – loss of mother, Kerrie Clark

Friends and family of **Barbara Schlosser** (former member)

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Dena, Elissa, Luke McAllister – 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

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Dede Koldyke (cousin of Steve Scott) – her 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

Lucinda Hodges (sister-in-law of Darlene Rivas) – multiple myeloma and cardiac amyloidosis

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed and Sheryl Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

John Aurand (caregiver for Marilyn Aurand) – recovering from recent back surgery

Jerry Roby (grandfather of Bonnie Rockey; father of Brett Roby) – in hospital with heart issues

Mary Goodner (aunt of Chris Heard) – recovering at home from recent stroke

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

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

prayers requested for his physical, emotional, spiritual healing and hope as well as for his wife and 3 small children

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Sharon Box (mother of Amy Moore) – undergoing tests to determine cause of confusion

Kathy Williams (mother of Lynn Burke) – recovering from recent surgeries for brain bleed

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – 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

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

Caleb Rodriguez (son of Marcus and Julia) – ongoing seizures

Carol McNutt – neuropathy

MISSION EFFORTS

African Mission Hospital – support to Mobile Medical Mission Clinics in Ghana

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

City of Children – celebrating 50 years of service!

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

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

May 28 Attendance	
On-Site Service	129
Online Viewing	68

May 28 Giving		\$12,131
Weekly Giving Average		\$13,074
Weekly Giving Budget		\$14,406
Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)		\$1,648,905
Property Settlement		\$225,000

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CHURCH

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