



CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

BE the BLESSING

February 11, 2024

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 Worship Service via YouTube

Upcoming Events

- Feb 12 Monday Guys' Group
- Feb 12 Women's Bible Study
- Feb 14 Flourishing Families
- Feb 14 Reynolds' Life Group
- Feb 15 Fosters' Life Group
- Feb 15 Conejo Tutoring
- Feb 16 Moms Better Together
- Feb 17 Guys' Golf Outing
- Feb 17 Anchor Meet Up
- Feb 17 Hiking Trails Ministry

Birthdays This Week

Paxton Van Atta	2/11
Heather Phillips	2/12
Jordan Cho	2/16
Troy Odenath	2/16
Christian Socquet	2/16
Andy Caldwell	2/17
Drew Hurley	2/17
Noah Socquet	2/18

Harbors and Oceans

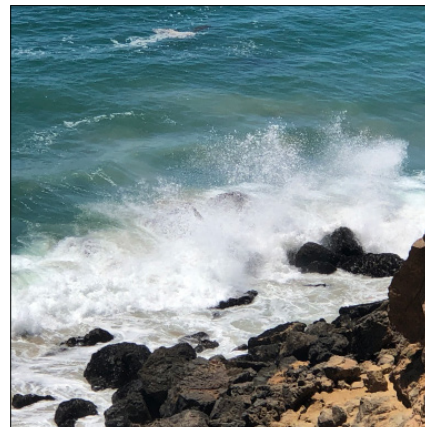
Andy Wall

All people seem to have an internal setting that governs how risk-averse and how risk-tolerant they are. Some seem to be born for danger and peril, and their exploits can be seen on a continuous video loop at any Islands restaurant. Others are naturally cautious, slow to stick their necks out, and reluctant to jump into the fray.

My risk tolerance is somewhere toward the middle of this continuum. I'm cautious in some ways, such as when I'm handling money and investments. I'm careful in social situations where there is potential to offend. In other ways, however, I have an adventurous streak. I'm what you might call a selective risk-taker. Put me on a high mountain straddling cliffs on both sides and I'm ready to climb. Send me to a third world country to eat in a sketchy hole-in-the-wall dive and I'm all in.

If you put me in a church of risk-takers and risk-avoiders, I'm going to come out somewhere in the middle. So let's talk about oceans and harbors. Some among us are like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz: "There's no place like home." This group appreciates familiar comforts, order and predictability, as well as some semblance of control. This group tends to view Church life as a safe harbor to sail into, a place for healing, respite, and revitalization. Others among us love the thrill of adrenalin, the fast pace of constant change, the engagement of something different every day. This second group is entrepreneurial, bold, inventive, and not afraid to make mistakes and risk failure. This group tends to view Church life as a gathering to equip us to sail into the vast oceans and uncharted waters of ministry and mission in the world.

So which group is right? If you know me, you know I'll say, "Wrong question." God has created us with this variety of risk tolerances and called us to live in community together. Why would God do this to us? Because God understands that we're better together. We need bold visionaries like Paul and nurturing encouragers like Barnabas. We need enterprising risk-takers like Esther and faith-filled mentors like Lois and Eunice. Sometimes, we need to hear the voice of prudence that calls us into the harbor to repair and rebuild. At other times, we need to listen to the bold voices that call us into the open water and new kingdom ventures. May God grant us wisdom and discernment to know what season we are living in, and may we ever seek to "Be the Blessing" during every season of life.



What's Happening At Conejo

Welcome to Our Guests!

We are so glad to have you visit with us. Whether you are new to the area or have just chosen to visit with us today, we feel blessed and thankful for the opportunity to spend the morning worshipping God with you.

Please fill out a welcome card (from beneath the chair in front of you) with your name and at least your email address. Then, drop it into the "offering bag" as these are passed or into the wooden box marked "offering" in the foyer. Having that information enables us to share information with you about the upcoming events and ministry of this church.



Sermon Series: "Envisioning Our Shared Future"

In the final week of our series on Conejo's Vision Description, we'll reflect on the concluding phrase of our statement: "When we genuinely belong to each other and are actively equipped for service, we can be God's ongoing blessing (Genesis 12) in the Conejo Valley and beyond."

Since 2017, we have used the language of "Be the Blessing" to describe our guiding purpose as a congregation. It's based on the foundational story of Genesis 12 in which God blessed Abram and Sarai in order that they might bless others. This theme of reflecting the goodness and blessing of God is found throughout the story of Scripture. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." "Freely you have received, freely give." "...forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." Like Abram and Sarai, like the early followers of Jesus, we too are called to "be the blessing," based on our deep gratitude and appreciation for God's many gifts to us.

Adult Education This Winter

Christina Littlefield Eng is leading the adult auditorium class through a 12-week church history series using Mark Noll's text, *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (4th edition). Noll and his co-authors, David Komline and Han-luen Kantzer Komline, consider critical moments that shaped the faith, the church, and the larger society. Like the great parade of saints in Hebrews 11, studying the key people who have led the faith can help us better see the transformational power of God at work in the lives of human beings and help us all better follow Jesus Christ today. This Sunday, the class will explore the coronation of Charlemagne in 800, which established Christendom in the West and set off an ongoing tug of war between church and state. Next week, we'll explore the formal split between Eastern Orthodoxy and Western Roman Catholicism in 1054.

Our class in the north overflow room is for those raising kids of all ages at home. The class is titled "Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together." This class is overseen by Bill and Melissa Foster and includes time for prayer and fellowship. Topics for

the Spring will include a deep dive into Romans and Ephesians as well as a study on prayer and spiritual gifts.

MBT and Hiking Ministry / February 16 and 17

Two of our monthly groups will be meeting later this week. Please mark your calendars, RSVP, and touch base with the hiking leaders for all of the details.



Moms Better Together

begins at 5:45pm on

Friday, February 16 at the building and will include a meal.

Planners for this event request that all who are coming [RSVP here](#) or speak with Katie C. or Cassie H. so that they can have a meal and a place prepared for you.



The Hiking Ministry Group will meet at the Malibu Creek Canyon to hike to a variety of movie sites on **Saturday, February 17**. For additional details, please contact Jon Burke at jon.burke@pepperdine.edu.

40-Day Spiritual Adventure / Starting Next Week

Next Sunday, we'll begin our annual 40-Day Spiritual Adventure, also known as the season of Lent. Each year during this season, Christians around the world traditionally spend six weeks preparing for the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. This season can include an increased focus on any of the following:

- deeper prayer
- greater engagement in service and hospitality
- greater contrition over sins that push us away from God and neighbor
- deliberate curtailing of distractions and time-wasters
- expanding practices of generosity to those in need
- voluntary fasting from some of our typical comforts
- pursuing reconciliation in broken relationships

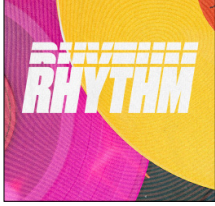
All-Church Game Night

Next Sunday, February 18, everyone is invited to join us at the building for an evening of fun and games. The fun will begin at 5pm and go until around 8pm. Bring your favorite games. Bring your friends—friends from school, friends from work, friends from your neighborhood. Bring snacks to share. Let's get to know one another better and have an evening of fun with our church family. All ages are welcome!



High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes



On Sunday mornings in February, we are doing a series called "Eyes to See," looking at how our thinking can distort the truth of Jesus' teachings in the gospels. 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 with tasty treats at the beginning of each class. On Sunday nights, we have dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Our Sunday night series is called "Rhythm," focusing on developing spiritual rhythms that contribute to our spiritual growth and our awareness of God.

February's Youth Group memory verse: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

Youth Group Winter Retreat



Anchor & Flourish Meet Up

Once a month during the school year, our youth group guys and girls meet separately for dinner, relationship building, a fun activity, intergenerational mentoring, and a devotional. The guys group is called Anchor, coming from Hebrews 6:19, and the girls group is called Flourish, coming from Psalm 92:12.

Anchor will be hosted on **February 17** at the home of Mark Davis from 6-8pm.

Flourish will be hosted on **February 24** at the home of Bridget Wootton from 6-8pm.

YG Families Potluck / February 25

Once a quarter, the youth group families get together for a potluck meal immediately following morning worship service. We are a family and can easily become disconnected or isolated by our own schedules over time. These gatherings give us regular opportunities for connection, fellowship, encouragement, and yummy food. All youth group families are invited to participate, bring some food to share, and enjoy the time together. Look for a potluck sign-up to come from Travis soon.

Mexico Mission Trip RSVP deadline / February 25

Mission team, assemble! It's almost that time of year where we figure out who will be on our 2024 Mexico mission trip team. The mission trip is for current 8th graders and older. This is also an intergenerational trip, so we are open to others in the congregation who want to go build a home for a family in need. If you plan to attend and haven't gotten a passport yet, please start the process now. More information to come soon!

Children's Ministry

Children's Class Offerings

Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.

2s/3s/4s - Leslie S. and Sarah G.

Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - _____ and Maxi M.

2s/3s/4s - Sandy S. and Sarah G.

Elementary - Penny W.

Valentines for Seniors

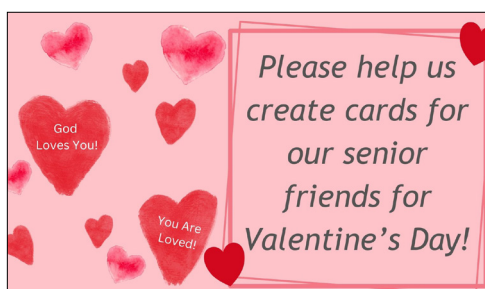
Today is our last day to add to our collection of valentines for senior citizens in our community. Please join us on the playground patio (or classroom if it is raining or too cold) after Bible classes and after worship service today.



Date Night Babysitting / February 23

On Friday, February 23, bring your kids to the church building from 5:30-7:30 for a night of free babysitting. We'll watch a movie, have some pizza, and play while you get an evening to yourself. RSVP at tinyurl.com/cvccbabysit.

Contact Haylie if you have any questions.



Memory Verse

"But build one another up every day. Do it as long as there is still time. Then none of you will become stubborn. You won't be fooled by sin's tricks."

Hebrews 3:13

Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

PREGNANCIES: **Eliza Erickson** (Mar.); **Cassie Horton** (Mar.); **Chloe Sutherland** (Apr.); **Melody Reilly** (Apr.)

BIRTHS: **Brooklyn Davis** (Jodi and Matt Davis); **Callahan Churchill Sanders** (son of Arthur and Lindsey; grandson of Ed and Sheryl S.)

BAPTISM: **Brooklyn Baird**

NEW MEMBERS: **Randy, Jennifer, Cameron, and Jacqueline Reed; Joel, Tiffany, Alexey, and Joey Ornelas**

Carina Grant (granddaughter of Mark and Suzanne Scarberry) – Carina's cast removed, hip staying in place, now moving freely!

THOSE GRIEVING

Darlene Rivas – loss of Lucinda Hodges, sister-in-law

Daelan Blankfein – loss of father, Fred Blankfein

Kim Milanovich – loss of grandmother, Alice Michael

Tammy Ditmore – loss of mother, Darlene Fielder

Christy Guilbault (former member) – loss of brother, David Gonzales

Char Hurley – loss of nephew, Matthew Horner

Bonnie Rockey – loss of Jerry Roby, grandfather

Rodney and Brian Smithers – loss of nephew / cousin, Jason Knight

Pepperdine Community and Families – recent death of

student Alec Kesheshian in a traffic accident in Los Angeles and October death of students Deslyn, Asha, Niamh, and Payton in accident on Pacific Coast Highway

Kay Falletta – loss of brother-in-law, Bill McQuillan

Tim Willis – loss of father, John Willis

Loree Hunnicutt – loss of mother, Judy Long

Andrew Clark – loss of mother, Kerrie Clark

Susie Lindley – loss of husband, Jim Lindley

Mark and Suzanne Scarberry – loss of daughter, Caitlin Scarberry

FIGHTING CANCER

Erin Opdahl – recovering from surgery for cancer on tongue

David Green – not a candidate for chemotherapy or radiation therapy; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies ahead with unpleasant side effects

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

Cindy Hall (cousin of Matt Joyner) – stage IV metastasized breast cancer

Kurt Krebs (friend of Ed Sanders) – multiple myeloma

Justice Howard (cousin of Yashica Budde) – thyroid cancer

VARIOUS CONCERNS

Linemen, firefighters, all first responders during the recent floods

Griffin McAfee (grandson of

Maxi McAfee, brother of Freya) – recovering from recent kidney surgery; doing well

Julie Waters – recovering from recent surgery to remove kidney stones

Amy and Kevin Stalbaum (niece and nephew of Kay Falletta) – returned home to continue recovering from numerous injuries following automobile / bike accident

Peace and safety for all in war-torn areas Israel, the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia

Marty Lince (brother of Suzanne Scarberry) – congestive heart failure; recovering and healing after leg amputation; infections

Marilyn Aurand – nodules in lungs are noncancerous; additional tests in 4 months

Carol McNutt – recovery from knee replacement surgery; neuropathy

Reilly Phillips (son of Phil and Heather Phillips) – type I diabetes

Jack Horn (coworker of Robert Charles) – lineman seriously injured by high voltage wire; pray for healing and hope as he recovers at home

Joe Reynolds (father of Brittany Joyner) – heart failure

Calvin Hill (friend of Haylie Douglas) – severely burned, many complications

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

Mary Zollman (friend of Lisa Scott) – multiple sclerosis

Harriet Nutter (mother of Daphne Green) – depression

MISSION EFFORTS

Raul and Betty Alvarado – mission efforts in Panama

Baja Missions – Baja California, Mexico

Julie Broyles – Bible English Study Center (BEST) in Cambodia

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Made in the Streets – Nairobi, Kenya

Medical Clinic Mission Support – Ghana

Daniel and Karly Napier – Thessaloniki, Greece

Megan Randolph – Associate Director of Teacher Services, TeachBeyond

David and Danna Willis and family (brother of Tim Willis) – mission work in Samoa

MILITARY SERVICE

Javon Johnson – six-month deployment to Okinawa

Michael Warford – stationed in Spain with the Navy

Derek Willis (nephew of Tim Willis) – serving in PA in the Army

Attendance
+ Giving

February 4 Attendance		February 4 Giving	
On-Site Service	112	Weekly Giving Average	\$20,251
Online Viewing	74	Weekly Giving Budget	\$14,406
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,662,880
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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