



BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 10, 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
- 1:30pm Mission Team Meeting #1
- 5:30pm Lazertag Axtreme Trip

Upcoming Events

- Mar 11 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 11 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 13 Flourishing Families
- Mar 13 Life Group at the Reynolds'
- Mar 14 Conejo Tutoring
- Mar 14 Life Group at the Fosters'
- Mar 15 Moms Better Together
- Mar 16 Hiking Trails Ministry
- Mar 17 Baptism Class
- Mar 21 Unity Worship Service
- Mar 24 Bowls of Hope
- Mar 28 Many Mansions Spring Fair
- Mar 29 Good Friday Services
- Mar 31 Easter Celebration Service

Birthdays This Week

- | | |
|---------------|------|
| Erin Opdahl | 3/11 |
| Alice Overton | 3/11 |
| Olivia Argano | 3/14 |

The Comparison Game

Andy Wall

"If you desire glory, you may envy Napoleon. But Napoleon envied Caesar, Caesar envied Alexander, and Alexander, I daresay, envied Hercules, who never existed."

– Bertrand Russell

From our youngest days, we are forever comparing ourselves with others. Which sibling notches the taller pencil mark on the door frame? Who gets the better grades in school? Who can eat the most helpings of enchiladas? Who's stronger? Who weighs less? Who runs faster? Who's better looking? Who is less prone to tears?

Competition is literally built into our schools. Students compete for the highest grades and vie for the best SAT scores so they can gain admission into the most prestigious universities. Athletes train and compete year round in order to win Division I college scholarships. We award Most Valuable Player and Valedictorian honors to distinguish the highest achievers from all the rest.

Once we complete our schooling, we still play the game. Who drives the more stylish car? Who makes more? Who lives in the nicer neighborhood? Who married well? Who landed the Fortune-500 account? Who's getting published by the most prestigious publisher? Who got tenure at the top-notch university? Whose church is bigger? Who looks most like their senior picture at the 20th reunion? Who has the cutest, smartest, or most talented kids?

I suppose that we might debate the relative merits of living in a competitive world. In an Olympic year, I can certainly think of positive goods that result from the dedicated pursuit of "faster, higher, stronger." However, we should also admit that competition has a dark side. One of the bitter fruits of our unceasing competition is envy.

Envy starts with the desire for something others have. It can escalate to harboring ill will or acting out against the one we envy. Envy says, "I want what you have." It resents the achievements and advantages of others. It not only pursues its own success but also seeks the demise of its competition.

Dealing with our envy requires that we come to grips with our own sense of who we are. Francis Bacon said that "where there is no comparison, there is no envy." Rebecca DeYoung observes that envy involves a sense of inferiority, a feeling that we lack something others have. Ultimately, envy is our failure to "love [our] neighbor as [ourselves]." When we envy, we fail to love others as Christ has taught us. More fundamentally, we envy because, at some level, we do not love ourselves or believe that we are loved as we are.

Robert Roberts provides the following insight on rising above envy. "The Christian's self-understanding is that she is precious before God—however much a sinner, however much a failure (or success) she may be by the standards of worldly comparisons—and that every other person she meets has the same status... This vision, when appropriated, is also the ultimate ground of self-confidence. For the message is that God loves me for myself—not for anything I have achieved, not for my beauty or intelligence or righteousness or for any other 'qualification,' but simply in the way that a good mother loves the fruit of her womb."

What's Happening At Conejo



Sermon Series: "Glittering Vices, Glorious Virtues"

Today's sermon is on envy, which, like its cousin greed, is characterized by comparative desire. However, the object of its desire is focused upon anything another person has, be it love or success, intelligence, or beauty. The envious person resents another person's good gifts because they are superior to his or her own. Thus, envy is inherently comparative and competitive, in that it not only pursues its own success but also seeks the demise of its competition. Scripture has numerous stories of envy, including those of Cain and Abel, Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah, Joseph's brothers and Joseph, King Saul and young David.

Envy, rightly called "the enemy of love," is countered with the virtue of kindness, which is not competitive, but seeks the good of others. Knowing we have unconditional worth based on God's gracious love (not our superiority to others) enables us to affirm the gifts of others without feeling threatened or inferior.

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 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 week, we'll explore the Roman Catholic Counter Reformation through the lens of the Jesuit order that refined the church and spread the Gospel to foreign lands. 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.

Baptism Class / Starts Today

This Sunday, we'll begin a three-part class for all who are interested in learning more about baptism as well as those who are preparing to be baptized. The class will take place at 9am in the children's worship area on March 10, 17, and 24. Please let Andy Wall know if you are interested in taking part in this class.

GO CONEJO! Thank You!

Yesterday, we had about 43 people gather to serve at Conejo Academy (campus beautification projects) and at Manna Food Bank (organizing donated goods). Thank you to all who participated as well as to all who brought food to share with Manna Food Bank. Thanks for helping our first "Go, Conejo!"

service day a wonderful time of helping others while deepening friendships among members of our church family.

Meals for the Hortons

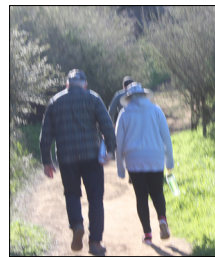
Please click the link to the [meal train](#) for the Horton family if you are able to help by providing a meal as Josh, Cassie, and big brother Cooper adjust to life with Zander "Zip" Paul Horton.

MBT and Hiking Ministry / March 15 and 16

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, March 15**, at the building and will include a meal. Planners for this event request that all who are coming [RSVP here](#) so that a meal and a place can be prepared for each person.



The Hiking Ministry Group will hike to the seal rookery near Carpenteria at 9am on **Saturday, March 16**. From 101 N., take Bailard exit and turn left. Drive over freeway and straight into the parking lot (5669 Carpenteria Ave., Carpenteria). For additional details, please contact Jon Burke at jon.burke@pepperdine.edu.

Unity Worship Service / Thursday, March 21

The Reseda Church of Christ is hosting a "Worship Convocation of Brotherhood Unity" for the Churches of the greater Los Angeles area at 7pm on Thursday, March 21. The evening will include a praise service and unity-themed messages by Jeff Walling and Jerry Taylor. Make plans now to participate in this evening promoting the message of Ephesians 2, of how Christ has broken down dividing walls of hostility between people groups so that he might create one new humanity, reconciling us to God in one body through the cross.

Bowls of Hope Event / Sunday, March 24

Each year, Many Mansions puts on an event called "Bowls of Hope" to raise awareness of the affordable housing needs in our community, as well as to raise funds for Many Mansions' programs that serve the formerly homeless, veterans, seniors, and families with very low incomes. All proceeds from this event help provide affordable housing and life-changing services to local individuals and families.



This year, the event will take place at the Hyatt Regency, located at 880 South Westlake Boulevard in Westlake. If you're interested in attending, our congregation has been given 16 free tickets to this event on Sunday, March 24 (11am - 2pm). Contact Stu Warford or Andy Wall for more details. Click [Bowls of Hope Event](#) to sign up for free, discounted, or at-cost tickets to this upcoming annual event.

High School + Middle School

Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in March, 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 youth group gathers at 9am each Sunday with tasty treats at the beginning of class. On Sunday nights, youth group has dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Our Sunday night series is called "Justified," focusing on the times when we are angry and how Jesus shows us how to respond.

March's Youth Group memory verse: "In your anger, do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." Ephesians 4:26

Mexico Mission Trip Team Meeting #1 / Today

Today, in the youth room at 1:30pm, the mission team will gather for their first team meeting. We will meet for introductions, to decide on a theme for our trip, and to pray. If you have not begun the process of obtaining a passport, please do so now. For first time passport holders, once everything is submitted correctly, the process can take up to 90 days.

Lazertag Xtreme / Tonight

This evening, instead of our regular meeting, we will meet at Lazertag Xtreme (591 Country Club Dr, Simi Valley) at 5:45pm. Each youth group member will have 2hrs of unlimited lazertag and a drink for free. Please eat dinner before arriving as dinner will not be provided at Lazertag Xtreme.

If your kids would like to play any of the video games, they will need to bring their own money to buy a game card.

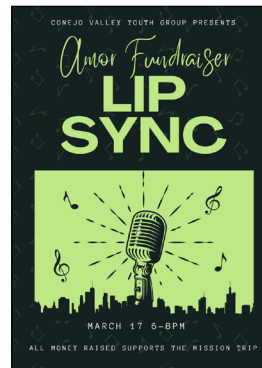
Please fill out the online waiver form from Lazertag Xtreme

before arriving Sunday night. Click [Lazertag Xtreme](#) and fill out the online waiver for all who will attend.

YG Calendar

Teens, there are many opportunities for us to share life, build deeper friendships, and grow in faith. Click [Spring Calendar](#) to see the youth events for the coming weeks.

Lip Sync Fundraiser / March 17



Each year, the youth group hosts a fellowship fundraiser lip sync night. Everyone is invited to lip sync a song or organize a group to perform. The event will be from 6-8pm, and dessert and drinks will be provided. We appreciate the time to have fun as a church family, so even if you don't want to perform, please make plans to join us on March 17 to support our performers and to

help us raise funds for our summer mission trip. The link to sign up to perform is here. Click [Lip Sync](#) or connect to the sign-up sheet through the QR code.



Anchor & Flourish Meet Ups / March 23

Each month, our guys and girls meet separately to build relationships with one another and with other church members. They share a meal together, a fun activity, and a short devotional. This month, the girls will be led by Haylie and Noel and the guys will be led by Travis. More details will be shared 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 - Haylie D. and Maxi M.

2s/3s/4s - Amy M.

Elementary - Penny W.



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

King's Kamp

Registration for King's Kamp 2024 opens this week! Our theme will be Christmas in July as we learn about the Light of the World. We're dreaming of a Kamp Christmas with you!

Save the Dates for VBS and Summer Camps

As you make plans for this summer, we hope you include our events in your calendar!

- VBS is June 17-20 for all ages
- Teen Camp is July 7-13 for students entering 8th grade through just graduated high schoolers
- King's Kamp is July 21-27 for students entering 4th grade through students entering 8th grade and counselors at least 16 years old.



Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

PRAISES

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

BIRTHS: **Zander "Zip" Paul Horton** (son of Josh and Cassie Horton); **Gwenyvere "Gwen" Luna Ditmore** (granddaughter of Michael and Tammy Ditmore); **Brooklyn Davis** (daughter of Jodi and Matt Davis)

BAPTISM: **Brooklyn Baird**
NEW MEMBERS: **Noel Tomlinson**

THOSE GRIEVING

Vincent Chambers – loss of father, Buford Chambers
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; facing long-term cancer suppressor drug therapies
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

Joanna White – suffered stroke; beginning in-home physical, occupational, and speech therapies
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 2 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

March 3 Attendance		March 3 Giving	
On-Site Service	150	Weekly Giving Average	\$20,884
Online Viewing	69	Weekly Giving Budget	\$16,301
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$12,502
		Property Settlement	\$1,663,867
			\$225,000

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