

# BE *the* BLESSING

CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 17, 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
- 6:00pm Lip Sync Fundraiser

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 18 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 18 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 20 Flourishing Families
- Mar 20 Life Group at the Reynolds'
- Mar 21 Conejo Tutoring
- Mar 21 Life Group at the Fosters'
- Mar 21 Unity Worship Service
- Mar 24 Baptism Class
- Mar 24 Bowls of Hope
- Mar 28 Many Mansions Spring Fair
- Mar 29 Good Friday Services
- Mar 31 Easter Celebration Service
- Apr 6 Spring Clean Church Workday

### Birthdays This Week

SueAnn Meador	3/19
Jose Rivera	3/19
Nathan Hurley	3/20
Jacob Michael	3/22

## I Want It All!

*Andy Wall*

From times ancient to modern, greedy characters have populated our legends, stories, and films, from King Midas to Gordon Gecko (Wall Street), from Ebenezer Scrooge to Henry Potter (It's a Wonderful Life), from the Pardoner (Canterbury Tales) to Mr. Krabs (SpongeBob SquarePants). Some of the most infamous characters in Scripture were known for their greed as well: King Ahab and Queen Jezebel in the incident with Naboth's vineyard, the Prodigal Son, the Rich Fool, Judas, and Ananias and Sapphira.

I find it fascinating that greed rarely makes the list of concern for Christian voters during election years. We live in a culture that idolizes the conspicuously rich, worships wealth, and lionizes consumption. Yet the greedy are criticized in the Proverbs, condemned by the Hebrew Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Habakkuk), rebuked in the teachings of Jesus, censured in Paul's letters, and reproached in 1 and 2 Peter. Greed is repeatedly called idolatry (Eph. 5:5, Col. 3:5) as it violates the first of the ten commandments as well as Jesus' teaching on the greatest command.

In our day, greed is typically described as an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what we need, especially with respect to material wealth. Greed can also be an unhealthy desire for more or an insatiable desire for wealth. The older word for greed is avarice. Avarice is a blanket term that can describe many other forms of sinful behavior, including disloyalty, betrayal, or treason, especially for personal gain, as when someone accepts a bribe. Avarice may entail getting material possessions at the expense of another person's welfare. The many aspects of avarice show how far unchecked greed can reach its tentacles, corroding our character and compromising our integrity.

Contentment and generosity are two of the great virtues that help us combat greed. I conclude with four diagnostic questions to help us discern how much greed has a hold on our hearts. May God protect us from this powerful and corrosive sin!

- When was the last time you declined to buy something you could afford because you realized you had enough?
- When was the last time you passed up a lifestyle upgrade in order to give away more money?
- Are you worrying more or less about whether you'll have "enough" in the future?
- Are you growing more or less hard-hearted toward those who are in need?



# What's Happening At Conejo

## Welcome to the World!



Ty and Eliza Erickson welcomed Eloise Bennett Erickson to their family on Saturday, March 9, at 8:45pm. Eloise weighed in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long. Our prayer is that Eloise will grow in wisdom, stature, and in love and devotion to God and to God's beautiful creation.

Please use the QR code to the right to see how you can bless the Erickson family as they adjust to life with little Eloise.



## Baptism Class

This Sunday, we will continue our 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 17 and 24.

## 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. If you'd like to ride in the church van, please [click here to sign up](#) or use the QR code. The van will leave at 6:15pm on March 21 from the church parking lot.



## Sermon Series: "Glittering Vices, Glorious Virtues"

This week's message concerns greed and its counterpart, generosity. Greed is an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what we need, especially with respect to material wealth. Like gluttony and lust, greed is a sin of excess. The old word for greed is avarice, a blanket term that can describe disloyalty, betrayal, or treason, especially for personal gain, as when someone accepts a bribe. Avarice may also entail getting material possessions at the expense of another person's welfare.

New Testament writers commend combating greed with the practices of generosity and contentment. While Jesus taught that no one can serve God and money, he did call his disciples to serve God with money. The apostle Paul urged those with financial means to be humble, to rely on God (not wealth), and to use their resources to help and bless others.

## Adult Education This Spring

Christina Littlefield Eng is leading the adult auditorium class through a 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 learn about the evangelical pietist movement that spread over Europe and the Americas, and spurred the First Great Awakening in the American colonies. Next week (3/24), we'll explore the French Revolution and the rise of a Modernist mindset that favored natural reasoning over supernatural revelation.

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.

## 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.

Designed to represent a soup kitchen, attendees select a bowl handcrafted by community members and enjoy delicious and comforting food, in community. The event includes an informative exhibition on the homelessness issue, affordable housing, and Many Mansions, as well as crafts, games, a raffle, a silent auction, and more!

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.



## Conejo Church Spring Clean-Up Day / April 6

All teens and adults are invited to participate in a church building exterior powerwash, general clean-up and a little painting. The cleanup begins at 9am and goes to 1pm with lunch provided. We could use a range of gifts from "moving stuff" to "painting" to "skilled craftsman".

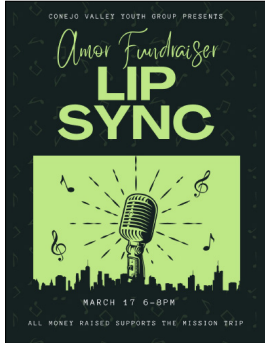
**When a group works together, large jobs become small.**

We will need power-wash equipment, but hand tools and paint will be provided. You will need to bring your own gloves. Please send an email to T.J. Reynolds at [tjreyn@gmail.com](mailto:tjreyn@gmail.com) to sign up. Also, **please indicate if you can bring power-wash equipment.** Due to space limitations, only the first 75 that sign up will be accepted.



# High School + Middle School

## Lip Sync Fundraiser / Today at 6pm



It's here! This evening, the youth group hosts a fellowship fundraiser lip sync night. Join us this evening from 6-8pm for an evening of musical fun. 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 this evening to support our performers and to help us raise funds for our summer mission trip.

## 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. On most 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 best to respond. This week, however, we will be meeting with the whole church for an evening of fun Lip Sync. We hope that you will all come to entertain or be entertained by tonight's summer mission fundraiser activity.

**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

## 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.

## Mexico Mission Trip



As we prepare to go to Mexico this summer, our focus is Ephesians chapter 2. 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.

## 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.

# Children's Ministry

## Children's Class Offerings

### Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.

2s/3s/4s - Haylie D. and Sarah G.

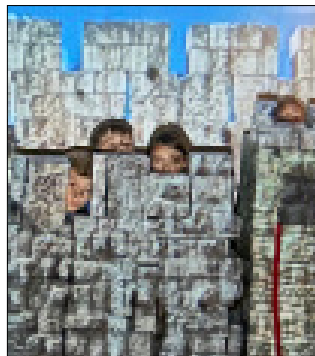
Elementary - Paula M. and Lynn B.

### Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Haylie D. and Maxi M.

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

Elementary - Nissa H.



## 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 is open! 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: 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.



Save the dates for our next few Children's Ministry events!

**Palm Sunday is March 24.** Our children are invited to be a special part of our worship service.

**Good Friday is March 29.** We will have our Good Friday Experience for families that evening. Be on the lookout for a sign-up link to reserve your spot.

**Easter is March 31.** Our children are invited to bring a flower to worship service to help beautify our Living Cross.

# Prayer Corner

Devote yourself to prayer being watchful and thankful. Colossians

## PRAISES

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

BIRTHS: **Eloise Bennett Erickson** (daughter of Ty and Eliza Erickson); **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 Rocky** – 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** – recently suffered stroke

**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 10 Attendance		March 10 Giving	
On-Site Service	135	Weekly Giving Average	\$17,465
Online Viewing	53	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,663,968
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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