

# CONEJO VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

# BE the BLESSING

March 24, 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
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

### Upcoming Events

- Mar 25 Monday Guys' Group
- Mar 25 Women's Bible Study
- Mar 26 Fifth Commandment
- Mar 27 Flourishing Families
- Mar 27 Life Group at the Reynolds'
- Mar 28 Life Group at the Fosters'
- 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

- |               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Jacob Michael | 3/22 |
| Piper Davis   | 3/26 |

## A Blessing for Palm Sunday

[**Editor's note:** Today's reflection, by author and professor Kate Bowler, offers a blessing for Palm Sunday, reflecting on what that might mean for us today. She has written two New York Times bestselling memoirs, "Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)" and "No Cure For Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)." A cancer survivor, her motto is, "Life is so beautiful. Life is so hard. So, if you have ever ruined some perfectly good small talk at a party with your honesty, we're already friends."]

"Blessed are those who have learned to walk in the light of your presence."

— Psalm 89:15

Oh God, you are interrupting us with eternity once again.  
 Open our hearts and minds and eyes and ears to hear what you have to teach us.  
 On this Palm Sunday, time is marked as one small donkey  
 plods toward Jerusalem,  
 One with a face set like flint, feet almost grazing the ground, walks forward  
 toward the eastering of all sorrow  
 —not in the power of horses and swift victory,  
 but in small, steady steps.  
 toward the mystery  
 that through suffering, healing comes,  
 that through shame, dignity is restored,  
 that through the cross that powers are disarmed,  
 and death done away with forever.

Blessed are all those walking forward  
 into the great, small work they do:  
 in hospitals, homes, grocery stores,  
 classrooms, churches, and cubicles.

And blessed are we joining the crowds  
 waving palm branches  
 to shout ourselves hoarse:  
 "Hosanna! Save us! Save our world."



# What's Happening At Conejo



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

This week's message concerns the capital vice of lust, which has been described as depraved thought, unwholesome morality, and inordinate desire for excitement. Jesus and Paul, in addition to affirming the time-honored Jewish prohibitions against fornication and adultery, also warned against lust. Jesus taught that adultery of the heart has serious spiritual ramifications; Paul taught his Gentile converts from paganism that their new calling was to holiness, not impurity, and that they were to control their bodies honorably, not with lustful passion.

These biblical teachings to pursue sexual purity, chastity, and self-control will sound as foreign to many in the twenty-first century as they did in the first. But while it makes big promises, lust is merely a caricature of genuine love. Lust falls far short of love because it is incapable of mutual appreciation, trust, commitment, deep friendship, and the willingness to sacrifice.

## 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). 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 French Revolution and the rise of a Modernist mindset that favored natural reasoning over supernatural revelation. Next week (March 31), we'll cover the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement and its contributions to the Christianizing of America in the Second Great Awakening.

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

This Sunday, we will conclude 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. Please let Andy Wall know if you or your child is interested in taking part in this class.

## "In It Together" Class / April 7

Sunday, April 7, we will have an "In It Together" Bible class. This will be a children's style class for everyone in the congregation. We will meet in the auditorium for a Bible lesson, songs, a craft, and then to play together. Please plan to join us as we practice being a thick, intergenerational community.

## Welcome to the World!



Ty and Eliza Erickson welcomed Eloise Bennett Erickson earlier this month. As a church, we love to provide meals for families as they adjust to life with their newborns when the family agrees that this will be helpful. Please use the QR code above to see how you can bless the Erickson family as they adjust to life with little Eloise.



## 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. Bowls of Hope is taking place today at the Hyatt Regency, located at 880 South Westlake Boulevard in Westlake. General admission costs \$50 and proceeds support the programs of Many Mansions.

## Many Mansions Spring Fair / March 28

Many Mansions, our neighbors across the street, will be sponsoring their annual Spring Fair for the children in their community on Thursday, March 28, from 3-5pm. Our church is collaborating with Many Mansions on this year's fair, providing activity stations.



We are looking for adult and teen volunteers to help run activity stations. Please click [MMSpringFair](#) and sign up to indicate your interest and availability.

## Good Friday Worship / Friday, March 29

The congregation is invited to a Good Friday Service on Friday, March 29, at 9pm. During this service, we'll reflect on the Gospel account of Jesus' final hours leading up to his crucifixion, seeking to more fully appreciate the significance of Christ's self-giving death on the cross to overcome the power of evil, sin, and death.

## 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 a "skilled craftsperson."

*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. We will have jobs for about 75 workers. Please sign up!

# 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. On most Sunday nights, youth group has dinner and devo from 5:30-7pm. Our Sunday night series, called "Justified," focuses 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



## Lip Sync Fundraiser Thank You

Thank you to all those who performed in the 2024 Lip Sync and to those who came out to support us! We had a great night filled with songs, celebrity guest appearances, and delicious desserts. Thank you to our Conejo family for your generosity in supporting the summer Mexico mission trip. We have met our fundraising goal for 2024!

## Good Friday Experience / March 29

We will have our walk-through "Good Friday Experience" for families Friday, March 29. Sign up for your time slot at [tinyurl.com/goodfri24](https://tinyurl.com/goodfri24). We've added a guide better suited to our youth group kids and their families for this year. All are welcome to join.

## SoCal Teen Camp Registration Opening Soon!

It's almost time to register your kids for SoCal Teen Camp 2024! Early bird registration opens very soon and will only last a month before the price goes up. Teen Camp is available for kids entering 8th grade through exiting 12th grade and is an experience you don't want to miss. More information on the 2024 theme coming soon.

# Children's Ministry

### FAMILY EASTER EVENTS

<p><b>Palm Sunday</b> Children meet in Children's Worship Area by 10:05am then walk through auditorium with palm fronds.</p>	<p><b>Good Friday</b> Family Self-Guided Experience with staggered start times from 5:30-7:15pm. Sign up for your time at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/goodfri24">tinyurl.com/goodfri24</a></p>	<p><b>Easter Sunday</b> Children are invited to bring a flower to add to our Living Cross that in person on the stage in our auditorium.</p>
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## Special Easter Celebration Opportunities

Save the dates for our upcoming Children's Ministry events!

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

**Good Friday** is **March 29**. We will have our Good Friday Family Experience that evening. Sign up for your time slot at [tinyurl.com/goodfri24](https://tinyurl.com/goodfri24). All are welcome to join.

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

## "You've Got A Friend In God" VBS / June 17-20

VBS is coming soon! All are invited to join us **June 17-20** for four fun evenings learning about the friend we have in God. We will begin each night by sharing a meal all together. Our VBS final show will be the morning of June 23.

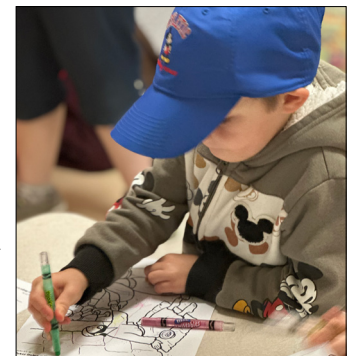
## Children's Class Offerings

### Bible Classes This Week

Nursery - Noel T.  
2s/3s/4s - Haylie D. and Sarah G.  
Elementary - Lynn B. and Co W.

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

Nursery - Haylie D. and Maxi M.  
2s/3s/4s - Noel T.  
Elementary - Penny W.



## King's Kamp

Registration for King's Kamp 2024 is now 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! Information and registration can be found at [kingskamp.org](https://kingskamp.org).

Please don't let cost keep you from joining. We have camper scholarships available for those who need it.

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

**BIRTHS:** **Lucienne Zazie Rushford-Collyer** (granddaughter of Jerry and Lori Rushford); **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

**Jim White** – loss of mother, Joanna White

**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

**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

**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

**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** – 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 17 Attendance		March 17 Giving	
On-Site Service	155	Weekly Giving Average	\$15,607
Online Viewing	57	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,664,019
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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