



# BE the BLESSING

April 7, 2024

## Welcome!

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

### Today

- 9:00am "In It together" Class for All Ages
- 10:00am Virtual Meet-and-Greet via YouTube Chat
- 10:15am On-Site and Virtual Worship Service via YouTube
- 5:30pm YG Dinner and Devo

### Upcoming Events

- Apr 8 Monday Guys' Group
- Apr 8 Women's Bible Study
- Apr 10 Flourishing Families
- Apr 10 Life Group at the Reynolds'
- Apr 11 Playdates with Haylie
- Apr 11 Life Group at the Fosters'
- Apr 11 Conejo Academy Tutoring
- Apr 12-13 CVCC 24-Hr Fest
- Apr 20 Hiking Trails Ministry
- Apr 28 Youth-Led Service and Habit Truck Lunch

### Birthdays This Week

- |                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Ashlyn Thomas    | 4/8  |
| Vincent Chambers | 4/9  |
| Jan Willis       | 4/11 |

## The Ever-Present Poor

Andy Wall

*"For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me."*

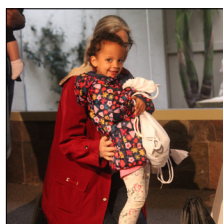
**- Matthew 26:11**

There are some problems in our world that strike us as so monumental that we are tempted to give up before we even start. Poverty is certainly one of those challenges. According to World Vision's website, some 719 million people, about 9.2% of the world's population, live on \$2.15 a day. More than 24% of the world's population, or roughly 1.9 billion people, live in fragile contexts, defined by dire circumstances and impoverished conditions. Within the United States, over 37 million people were living in poverty in 2021; children accounted for 11.1 million of those. Encountered on this scale, poverty is overwhelming and can easily cause us to say, "What can I do in the face of such enormous need?"

Perhaps this is why many Christians, upon reading Jesus' words in Matthew 26:11, say, "See, even Jesus knows that you can't overcome poverty." This verse, found in the story of Jesus being anointed by a woman with a jar of costly ointment, seems to condone a lackadaisical attitude toward the poor. But when Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you," he was referring to Deuteronomy 15:11, "There will always be poor people in the land." The rest of that verse says, "Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." Jesus was not advocating that we ignore the poor, but instead was expressing gratitude for the woman's generous gift and reminding his followers of their ever-present duty toward the poor.

So how do we keep from being stricken with "compassion fatigue," an ailment that impacts those who seek to be open handed but find their hands weary from continually giving? Here are a few of my favorite strategies:

- Give strategically – pick an area of need and focus on it; for example, at the Conejo Church we have chosen to focus a number of our mission and local efforts to bless and care for children.
- Give personally as well as financially – it's fine to write a check for a worthy cause; but find ways to get personally involved as well, whether through Habitat for Humanity, a local Many Mansions project, Manna Food Bank, or tutoring with Conejo Academy.
- Think globally, act locally – a wise teacher once told me, "Remember, the world already has a Messiah and he isn't you!" Your job is not to save the world; but God does call you to be a difference-maker where you can.
- Ask yourself, if everyone did what I did for the poor, would the world be a better or worse place? Remember this wisdom from the Talmud: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."



# What's Happening At Conejo

## Welcome to the World!

We're delighted to welcome, Isla Day Sutherland. Andrew, Chloe, and big sister Ellie welcomed Isla into their family on Tuesday, April 2. She was born at 10:04am and weighed in at 7lbs., 6oz. and was 19 inches long. All are doing well. Bonnie Rockey will set up a meal train for the family which will begin on April 10. Watch your email for the meal train link so that we can help the Sutherland family as they adjust to life with little Isla. Our prayer is that Isla will grow in wisdom, stature, and in love and devotion to God and to God's beautiful creation.



## Winter / Spring Small Groups

Our congregation has an active small group ministry that connects a wide variety of people. Please click the [Small Groups](#) link for a detailed description of the current groups that meet in and around the Conejo Valley and their meeting days.

## Passover Seder / April 26

You are invited to the Scarberry home to observe the traditional celebration of Passover on April 26. Seder will begin at 5:30pm and will include a traditional Passover meal with songs and liturgy. It will end by 9:30pm. Well-behaved children are more than welcome to join us, but there is no childcare. RSVP to Suzanne at [mecmom@yahoo.com](mailto:mecmom@yahoo.com). There is only room for about 20 people, so please save your seat by April 21. It usually fills up, so sign up early if you can.

## Thank you from the Whites

Dear Church Family,

*Thank you for the many ways you have loved and supported us as we cared for Joanna these past 2 years. Joanna was so proud of her church – she loved the worship services and all the special events – Carols and Candlelight, Christmas at the Marrs, All Sing and Ice Cream, and Taco Night. It was a special joy for her to participate in Trunk or Treat and Armloads of Love as well as supporting summer camps and the mission trip. She was thrilled with all the sweet home visits from her Conejo friends that continued after her move to her Board and Care home.*



*We are so touched by the encouragement in your cards and especially for the beautiful cards from the children and teens many of whom sang to Joanna and the residents at her Care home. We have needed help caring for Joanna, moving her things, and solving problems of all kinds and we are grateful that our church family has stepped in every time we needed help. We are very thankful for the 5th Commandment Support and Prayer Group that provides practical ideas and support for caregivers.*

*Thank you church, for walking with us in this season of life.*

*Jim and Penny White*



## Sermon Series: "Act, Love, Walk"

What does God desire from us? If we had to boil down the message of Scripture, from the creation accounts in Genesis 1-2 through the new creation vision in Revelation 21-22, what would we say appropriately summarizes God's will for our lives? One great teaching we can point to is found in the writings of the prophet Micah. In chapter 6, the prophet asks the question, "With what shall I come before the Lord?" He rhetorically entertains some extravagant gestures of worship: thousands of sacrificial rams, tens of thousands of rivers of oil, even the giving of one's own firstborn (a response clearly contrary to the law of Moses)! Micah then offers his answer, based on Israel's historic teachings: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" We'll spend the next three weeks exploring each of these pregnant phrases more deeply, beginning with the notion of "doing justice" or "acting justly."

## "In It Together" Class / April 7



This Sunday, 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.

Next Sunday, we'll resume with our classes on *Turning Points: Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity* (auditorium) and *Rooted: Growing the Next Generation Together* (north overflow room).



## Mission Messenger / Panama

Our first highlight is on the mission we support in Panama City, Panama. Betty and Raul Alvarado are native missionaries who have a long history with Conejo Church. They serve the city there in a recently constructed building, and they are dedicated workers for the Lord. The Alvarados also minister to other neighboring congregations. As a congregation, they meet at the building on Sunday mornings and on Zoom and Facebook Live on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. Lighting was finally installed, so now they can meet in the evenings and use their new auditorium for many other church activities. To see their latest update, please click [Alvarado News](#). Please continue to pray for Betty and Raul as they bring the Good News to the people of Panama.

# High School + Middle School

## Youth Group Bible Classes

On Sunday mornings in April, we are going through the letter to the Ephesians, looking at the spiritual blessings we have in Christ. 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 "Enough," looking at how the earliest followers of Jesus created a new kind of community as God's family.

**April's Youth Group memory verse:** "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." **2 Corinthians 9:8**

## Registrations Open For Summer Camps

It's time to register your kids for summer camps! King's Kamp is for kids entering 4th grade through finishing 8th grade, and Teen Camp is for kids entering 8th grade through finishing 12th grade. Summer camps are an experience you don't want your kids to miss. King's Kamp 2024 is celebrating Christmas in July by looking at Jesus' birth and how He is the "Light of the World." The SoCal Teen Camp 2024 theme is "All In" from Ephesians chapters 1 & 2. The theme focuses on helping kids find themselves formed by a faith and trust in a God who is not limited to certain spaces, times, and ideas but who transcends those limitations to invite all into abundant life.

To learn more about camp and register your child, please click [King's Kamp](#) or click [SoCal Teen Camp](#).

## CVYG 24-Hour Fest / April 12-13

CVYG 24-Hour Fest is a 24-hour event filled with some fun and sleepover at the church, a service trip to feed the homeless at Midnight Mission, a visit to the Broad art museum, and a dinner together in Los Angeles. This is a free event for both middle school and high school students. RSVPs are required because space is limited for portions of this event. Contact Travis as soon as possible to ensure you have a spot. Looking forward to a great time together!



## Youth-Led Service & Habit Truck Lunch / April 28

On Sunday, April 28, we will give the keys of leadership to our youth as they lead us in morning worship. This is an opportunity for them to practice leadership in several areas as they think about serving our family regularly during the worship service moving forward. Right after service, lunch will be provided from The Habit truck. We will also be raising funds for our summer camps, so please consider donating to support those efforts. Looking forward to worshipping with you and enjoying lunch together afterwards!

## 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

Combined in Auditorium: "In It Together"

Worship Classes are available for children during the sermon.

Nursery - Suzanne R. and Joy R.

2s/3s/4s - \_\_\_\_\_, and Sarah G.

Elementary - Penny W.

## Playdates with Haylie / April 11



**Playdates with Haylie**

Every 2nd Thursday of the month at the church building at 10:30am we'll have playdates with Haylie. This will be a time for our kiddos that aren't yet in school and their parent/grandparent/nanny to spend some more time with Haylie and play together. We want our littles to know the church is a safe place for them to learn, grow, and have fun.

## "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 together. Our VBS final show will be the morning of June 23.



## 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](#).

Please don't let cost keep you from joining. Kamper scholarships available for those who need financial help.

## 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: **Melody Reilly** (Apr.)

BIRTHS: **Isla Day Sutherland** (daughter of Andrew and Chloe Sutherland); **Lucienne Zazie Rushford-Colyer** (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 MEMBER: **Noel Tomlinson**

## THOSE GRIEVING

**Stan Thomas** – loss of father, Leroy Thomas

**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

**Sherry Horner** – stage IV breast cancer, metastasized to bones

**Maria Baake** – recovering from surgery for breast cancer

**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 current rains

**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 hospitalization due to serious bacterial infection

**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 31 Attendance		March 31 Giving	
On-Site Service	238	Weekly Giving Average	\$15,890
Online Viewing	41	Weekly Giving Budget	\$12,502
		Be the Blessing Giving (To Date)	\$1,664,272
		Property Settlement	\$225,000

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