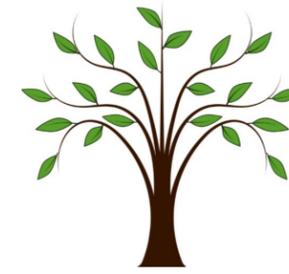


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM
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*The
 Call*

"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"

Vol. 371 No. 4

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April

Thank you to all who helped make
 Easter a special morning.
 Christ is risen!



Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

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 Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

Easter Reflections

Pastor Emily Miller-Todd

Since December, a Christmas card that I received has continued to ring in my mind. The cover of the card read:

“God always comes to us from beneath, and we must stoop at the manger, before the stranger, and our neighbor, to see the Christ Child in all we meet.”

I thought—is that true? What does it mean, God always comes to us from beneath? The card sparked so much curiosity and reflection in me, I still have it sitting out on the mantle where I see it every day.

As we moved towards Holy Week, I started to see the truth of the Christmas card all over Jesus’ life. Not only was he born in a humble manger in a barn, his entire life and ministry was about taking a humble posture—getting into raw life with people. He went directly to those who were broken, sick, and outcast—the people that the arrogant religious and political leaders would not come near. Instead of lording authority over people, he went into the dirt with them and served from the bottom.

On Palm Sunday, we celebrated Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus was recognized as the King who comes in the name of the Lord while he chose to ride in on a humble donkey. On Maundy Thursday, at the Last Supper with the disciples, Jesus left them with an important teaching moment. He washed the disciples feet. Peter tried to refuse the gesture, embarrassed that Jesus would do such a humiliating task. (Continued on Page 7)

April

Sunday Morning Worship
10:30am in the Sanctuary

Dinner and Worship with NorthEast of the Well
Mondays, 6-8pm
McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

Adult Choir
Thursdays at 7:00pm

International Children’s Choir led by Raffia Ford
Sundays, 9:00-10:00am
Griffith House Chapel
April and May Rehearsals:
Sunday, April 8th
Sunday, April 22nd
Sunday, May 13th
Sunday, May 27th

Men’s J.O.G. Meeting
Monday, April 9th
12-1:30pm
McKenzie Hall
RSVP to Mike Austin
714-425-2649
Cost: \$12

Women’s Group
Thursday, April 12th
Lunch at Tutto Fresco’s in Orange
11:45am
Linda Hill is starting to organize women’s fellowship opportunities and invites help from other women in the church!
Come to Tutto Fresco’s this Thursday as we enjoy time together at our first outing!
RSVP: 714-776-0960



April Birthdays

- 4 Shiana Carrington
- 4 Cecilia Morales
- 5 David Haas
- 5 Gabriel Velasquez
- 6 Dick Purvis
- 8 Sean Sham
- 10 Eleanor Phillips
- 12 Mike Austin
- 20 Leslie Nelis
- 20 Bethany Crouch
- 29 Jim Frannea

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or fccoffice@gmail.com.

Jesus responded that unless he wash Peter’s feet—Peter had no part of him. Finally, Jesus left the world even more humbly than he came into the world. He left being crucified on a cross as a criminal.

God came to us from beneath.

Jesus taught us that his love did not come to judge the world, but to save it. He did not come carrying a shovel to bury us deeper in the dirt and the guilt of our shame. He came bringing a bowl of water and a towel to sit at our feet and provide relief. Jesus’ last commandment was that we love others as he has loved us. To sit at another’s feet with a towel and a bowl of water, ready to provide some relief and help them meet the love of the Savior.

Our faith’s foundation rests on the amazing news that Jesus Christ is risen and has gone to the Father in heaven to prepare an everlasting place for us. Our faith is alive by the Holy Spirit that has been poured out by Christ for those who believe. We are not alone, and miraculously, God continues to come to us not only from beneath but also from within. This is everything. It is the Good News. Christ is risen!

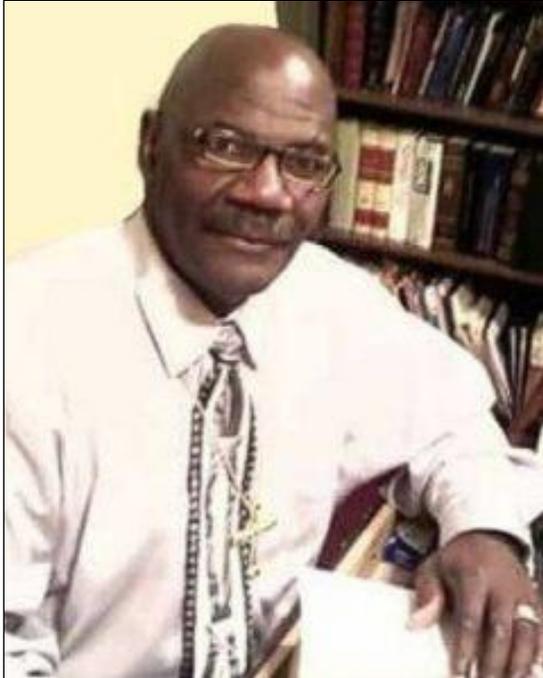
Women’s Group

“It is always God’s grace that forms life’s sweetest spot, the softest place to land when we want to rest, revive, or just revel in the fun of God’s beautiful goodness.”

Quote by Jennifer Gerelds, “Everyday Grace”

Linda Hill is starting to organize women’s fellowship opportunities and invites help from other women in the church! Come to Tutto Fresco’s in Orange at 11:45am this Thursday, April 12th, as we enjoy time together and share ideas at our first outing!
RSVP: 714-776-0960 or fccoffice@gmail.com

JOG Men's Luncheon
Featuring Guest Speaker, Bishop Donnie Williams



Bishop Donnie Williams was born in 1947 in Savannah, Georgia. His early upbringing in the ghetto gave him a keen instinct for survival, which he channeled into his martial arts training to become one of the most dynamic and outspoken personalities in sport karate. By the time he retired from competition, Williams had amassed more than 85 championship trophies and began to appear in several motion pictures, including "Truck Turner," "Black Belt Jones" and most notably "Enter The Dragon." After making an agreement with God before a competition, he found himself making good on his promise to serve God years later after an interesting turn of events. Come hear Donnie Williams share his testimony with JOG!

When: Monday, April 9th, 2018
12:00 pm - 1:30pm

Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim
515 North State College Blvd Anaheim, Ca 92806
(Located one block south of La Palma on the west side of State College in the city of Anaheim)

Cost: \$12

Plan on enjoying another delicious meal prepared especially,
By Adam Curry and his helpful staff.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or
Call Chuck at 714-350-8983 or Mike Austin at 714-425-2649

JOG



Of Orange County
Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

March and Easter Photos



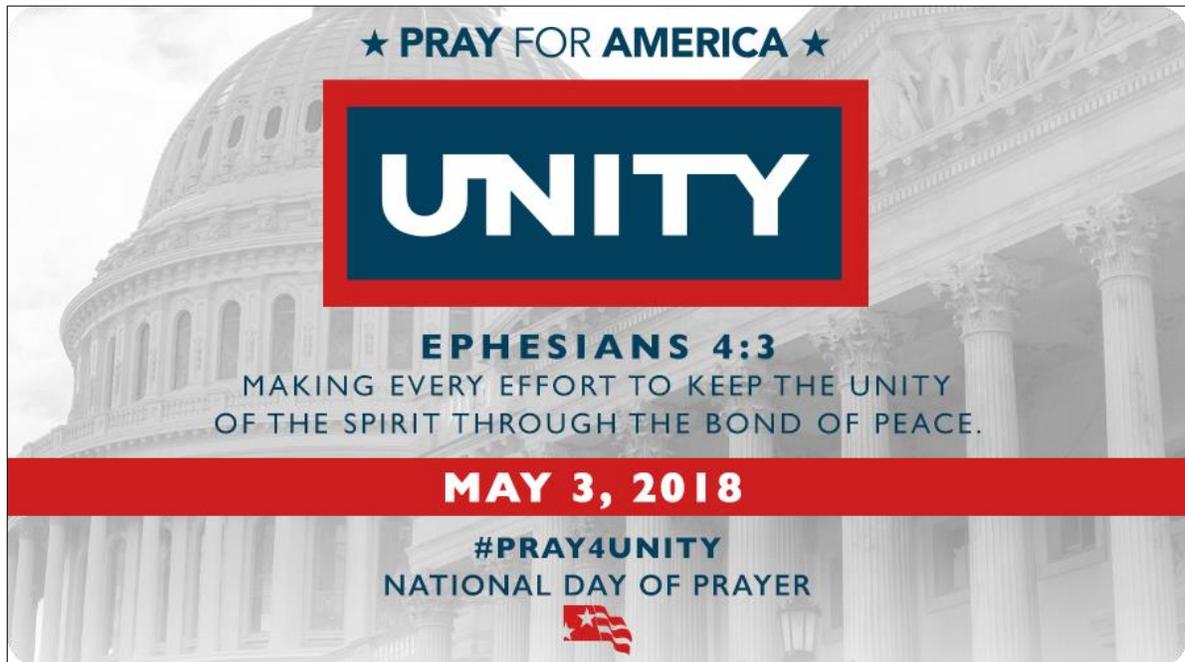
Above: On Sunday, March 25th there was a Celebration of Life dinner for Marilyn Jennings in McKenzie Hall. It was a wonderful dinner with blues music and memories – a party Marilyn would have enjoyed. We hope you are dancing in heaven, Marilyn.

Below: We had a wonderful Easter Breakfast with the families of Unlimited Church before our worship service. Thank you to all who volunteered to make sure we were ready for the meal and the Easter Egg Hunt!



Missions' Corner

MAY 3, 2018 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR AMERICA



Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name, fill us now with your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus' name for America.

Oh God, we are burdened for our nation today. We turn from the sins that we have committed against your Word and your Name. We turn away from our contentious words and ways toward one another that has led us to division and polarization. We turn away from our disrespect and lack of dignity toward each other, and we turn away from our continual devaluation of all human life from the womb until death in this world. We also turn away from and refuse to participate in skepticism, criticism, and cynicism in our nation. We turn away from anything that divides us, and we run toward the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the only thing that has the power to **unite** us together.

(Prayer Continued on Next Page)

Lord, in this critical hour in our nation, we pray for **unity** in America. Only You can bring **unity**, harmony, and oneness in America. As your Word calls us in Ephesians 4:3, "*Making every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace*", we ask You to empower us to make every effort to live in **unity**, to call for **unity** and to forward **unity** in America continually.

We pray for the churches in America to **unify** families, workplaces, communities, and cities in America. By Your Spirit, lead us to forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and **unity**.

We pray for people of all ethnicities and races in America to come together as one, living in peace and **unity** together. Oh Lord, because each of us is created in Your image, please give us the courage to stand against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as evil and sinful, while simultaneously coming together in **unity** with all persons knowing this is God's will for us.

We pray for **unity** for the security of our nation. We ask You to preserve the United States of America from the forces of evil that are threatening our lives and our future. God, please guard all persons in public and private settings from anyone or anything that desires to harm us or take our lives. Our future is in Your hands.

We agree clearly, **unite** visibly, and pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. Oh Lord, wake up Your church spiritually and convict Your people to agree clearly, **unite** visibly and pray extraordinarily until the next Great Spiritual Awakening occurs in our generation.

Oh God, we stand together upon Your words in *Psalm 133:1*, "*How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony.*" Through Jesus' name and by the Holy Spirit's power, we pray for all Americans to **unify** and live together in **unity**.

In the mighty and majestic name of Jesus Christ who is the Only Savior and the Only Hope in this world, we pray. Amen.

Ronnie W. Floyd

Senior Pastor, Cross Church, Arkansas

President of the National Day of Prayer