



December



Merry Christmas!

STAFF

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kissoon—Accountant
Myra Allen—Event Coordinator
Janice Bowers—Missions, Gil Owen—Visitation
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

In recent years, my family has chosen to de-emphasize giving gifts to each other at Christmas. We have instead chosen to donate to a ministry or an organization that we felt strongly about supporting. It was freeing for a while to avoid getting pulled into the holiday rush. We figured we did not need more stuff. This year at Thanksgiving, we talked as a family about what we would do for Christmas. There was a strong pull back towards giving each other gifts. After reluctantly agreeing, I realized that I had missed the joy of giving to my family. There is something sacred and freeing that happens when we put heart and energy into thinking of specific ways to love on people in our lives.

The Gospel teaches us that we find our life when we give our life over to our love for Christ and for others. Christ coming into the world, as a baby, is God's heart poured out vulnerably to be with us that we may see how much God loves us and is for us. It's a love that changes us and shapes us into self-giving people. In a sense, when we give, it is an act of trusting that we are abundantly loved and we have an abundance to give.

I've been admiring others who seem to radiate service and generosity. Carson Davis has been working hard on wooden toys for kids at NorthEast of the Well all year. Delores Francis is making afghans that will be given to people in need this Christmas. Janice Bowers and the Missions Committee are organizing ways to bless others this Christmas—be sure to look at the Missions Corner. This week, I hear Susan Fraker was up until 3am one evening sprucing up some of our old Christmas supplies to help us get ready for the season! I even received a surprise call from Laura Jimenez, looking for ways that her work office may bless others this Christmas.

(Continued on Page 7)

December

Sunday Morning Worship
10:30am in the Sanctuary

NorthEast of the Well
Mondays, 6-8pm
McKenzie Hall/Sanctuary

NorthEast Christmas
On Monday, December 17th, NorthEast will have a combined Dinner and Worship Service for all of their sites that will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach.

FCCA Choir Rehearsals
Thursdays at 7:00pm

Men's J.O.G. Meeting
Join JOG for lunch, comedy, music and a testimony!
Monday, December 10th
12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall
RSVP: Mike 714-425-2649
Cost: \$12

5 Star Band Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 16th
Join us for a Sunday morning worship full of carols!

Women's Christmas Lunch
Monday, December 17th
11:30am-1:00pm
McKenzie Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24th
7:00pm, Sanctuary

JOG's Christmas Luncheon
Featuring Guest Speaker, LouAnn Lee

(A Special Christmas Event Designed Especially For Our Ladies)



LouAnn Lee is a gospel music award winning recording artist, song writer, and co-pastors a church with her husband in Meadow Vista, CA. Her music is played on radio stations all over the world. She has a passion for missions and 2019 will be her 12th year to share Christ in worship and the word in the Philippines. Her testimony on how learning to worship God healed her from abuse is powerful. She never tires in sharing that it is the love and kindness of Jesus that leads us to repentance and a new life in Christ.

When: Monday, December 10th 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

Thanksgiving 2018



Missions' Corner



FCCA Christmas Love!

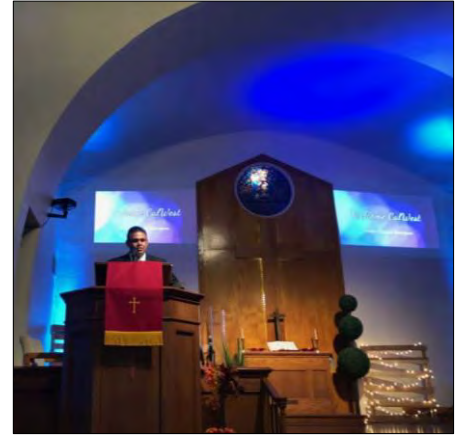
FCCA needs your help. Please be praying about how you might make a difference in the lives of some hurting FCCA families this Christmas. Our church wants to provide some food, gift certificates and toys for those in our congregation who are struggling. Please be generous and mark your donation "FCCA Christmas Love" and drop your donation into this Sunday's offering plate. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with our brothers and sisters in our congregation who are less fortunate.

Janice Bowers,

Missions

CalWest Association of Congregational Christian Churches

Fall Meeting in San Diego



First Family Community Church in San Diego hosted our fall meeting for the Southern California Congregational Churches. This was David Hill's final meeting as Moderator. Thank you, Dave, for leading our association so well these last couple of years! Dave took on the task of moderator as CalWest planned and hosted the national conference in San Diego this summer. The worship, dinner and the hospitality at the meeting were incredible. See the photo on the top left of the beautiful worship dance shared by young women from First Family Community Church!





December Birthdays

1-Dec Joshua Williams
4-Dec Maria Doyle
10-Dec Amber Johnson
14-Dec David Hoke
17-Dec Ryan Rolnicki
19-Dec Natalie Garis
20-Dec Maria Caicedo
21-Dec Bruce Edwards
23-Dec Vito Di Camillo
25-Dec Schvounder Robinson
26-Dec Cole Trimpe
27-Dec Cindy Ramsey
28-Dec Stephany Williams
30-Dec Dolores Rapp
31-Dec Debbie Fells

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

(Christmas, continued)

In different seasons and circumstances of life, the way we give changes form and appearance. Young parents are in a season of giving their all to the growing little ones in their own home. That is sacred work. Others this season are taking care of their changing families and the loved ones in their homes. We serve others in so many different ways at different times in our lives. Whatever your life season, may we remember this Christmas the wisdom and truth that is the center of Christ's birth and life. When we give our lives for the love of Christ and others, we find our lives more full and rich than we ever imagined possible.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Emily

5 STAR BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT and CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



THEYYYY'RE BACK!

Sunday, December 16th
10:30am

Join us for a morning full of carols with the 5 Star Band during Sunday worship!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00pm in the Sanctuary
Monday, December 24th

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806
phone 714.776.0960; email fccaoffice@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at www.fccanaheim.org

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Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

Please consider sponsoring an issue of "The Call".
Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714.776.0960