



April



HAPPY EASTER, FCCA!

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Beverly Aye—Office Assistant
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kissoon—Accountant
Linda Freud—Missions
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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STAFF

It is April! The time of Spring and Easter and bright, happy things. But throughout the world this April the human family is experiencing a different kind of Spring. We are facing a frightening and largely unknown enemy, a virus that has spread to pandemic proportions and changed so much of our daily lives. Some people are in the middle of unspeakable tragedy. Others are waiting to see how bad it will be for them. We all are having to stay socially distant from each other which feels so wrong!

How can we handle this unique and challenging situation we are in? How can we take care of our physical, mental and spiritual health as well as look out for each other?

Jesus provides a model for us. The Christ story is one of God, for a time, living as a human subject to limits and pain, but still mindful of eternal things. The gospels are full of stories of Jesus doing work with people in need and then pulling himself away for quiet reflection, prayer and renewal.

In stressful times I too have found help by seeking to balance action behaviors with restoration behaviors. I seek to find some type of useful work, and then pull back from it for focused reflection and prayer. These past two weeks have been full of reflection and prayer mixed in with new ways to work.

A week ago I listened to an online worship service from a congregational church in Ohio. The minister shared something that had been shared with him as a means of a healthy routine for this time. It sounded good and I tried it out. Maybe it will be helpful to you.

It is called, "A Daily Checklist for Times of a Pandemic." The instructions are "Each day pause and ask yourself these questions":

What are you grateful for today?

Who are you checking in on today?

What expectations of 'normal' are you letting go of today?

How are you getting outside today?

How are you moving your body today?

What beauty are you cultivating today?

(Continued on Page 7)

April

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am in the Sanctuary

*We are using Facebook Live.

How do I find the church Facebook Page to see worship and postings?

To access the church Facebook postings, visit us on Facebook at "Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim."

What if I don't have Facebook?

No problem! Go to our church website at www.fccanaheim.org.

On the home page there are a couple of locations that say "Join Live." Click on the button. That will take you to our church Facebook Page. Scroll down to see postings. Click on videos to watch.

What do I do when Facebook asks me to login?

You can click "Not Now" at the bottom of the pop up window and it will go away. You can also wait until a small x appears in the top right corner of the login pop-up. Click the x to get rid of the pop-up.

Holy Week

Facebook Live Maundy

Thursday Service

April 9th at 7:00pm

Facebook Live Easter Service

April 12th at 10:30am

Small Groups

We are setting up a church zoom account to meet online for small groups! We will be reading:

"Jesus Called, He wants His Church Back" by Ray Johnston

Tuesday nights w/Pastor Emily

6:30-7:45pm

April 14-June 2

Thursday nights w/Pastor Jim

7:00-8:15pm

April 16-June 4

Church Updates & March Highlights

Facebook Live Worship and “Encouragement for Today” Postings:

Visit our website at www.fccanaheim.org.

Click on the link that says “Join LIVE.”

That will take you to our church Facebook page (Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim). You may scroll down our page to see the most recent postings. Worship is posted every Sunday at 10:30am. You may view live or you may view after the recording is finished—it will stay posted on Facebook!



Remember to hit the share button on your Facebook. Let's continue to touch people through the internet with Words of Encouragement.

Online Giving:

If you would like to continue tithing, you may mail checks to the church—Pastor Jim and Pastor Emily continue to check the mail. You may also give online! Visit the church website at www.fccanaheim.org. The yellow “Donate” button is towards the bottom of the home page.

Was March two months long?? See church highlights from before and after the COVID-19 “Stay at Home” order. The Church is alive online!

Before: Remember the good old days when we met in person?

Photos from JOG: Just Ordinary Guys on Monday, March 9:

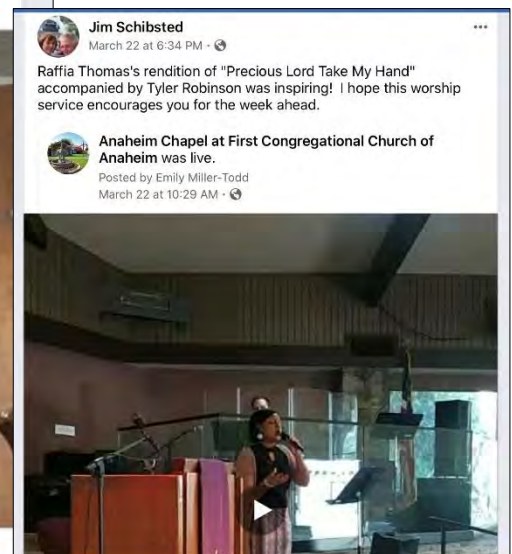
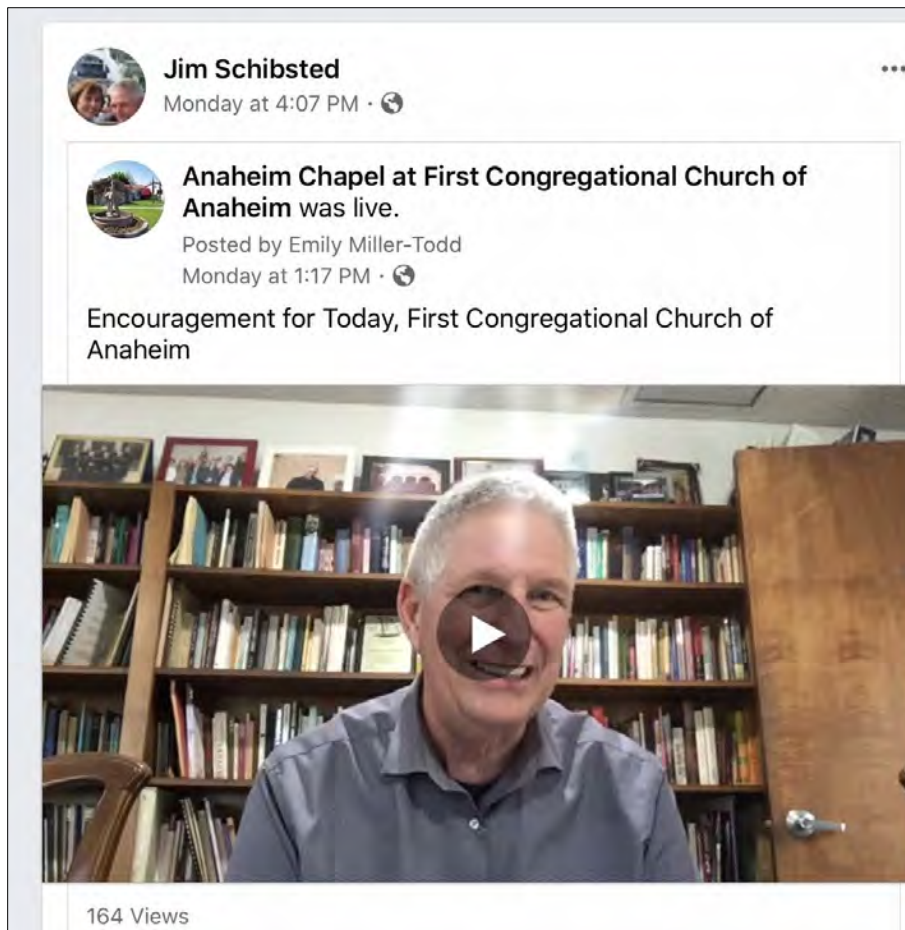
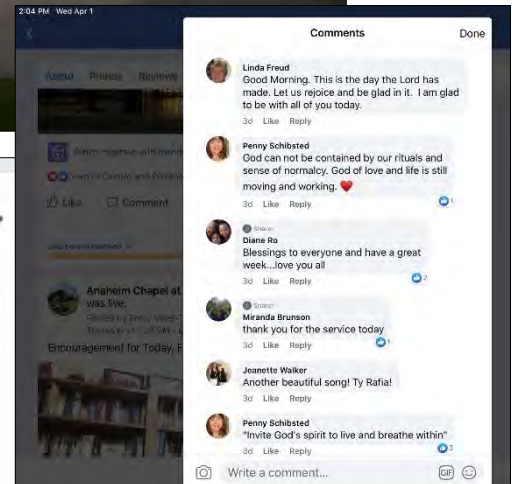
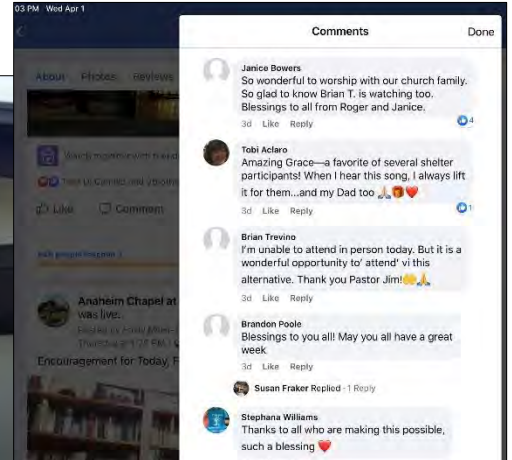


March Highlights Continued...

After COVID-19 "Stay at Home" order: We are now in experimental territory! We have appreciated the online engagement with worship and with each other! The church is not the building, it is the people.



Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim
@fccanaheim



Pastor Jim's Visit to Washington, D.C.!

At the end of February, Pastor Jim was able to travel to Washington, D.C. with the National Diversity Coalition. One step at a time, God provided for Pastor Jim's travel and stay. It was a blessing for him to participate and share with our church family!



On February 25, Pastor Jim shared: *"What an incredible day as our National Diversity Coalition met with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, committee members, Congressional leaders and Senators from both sides of the aisles. How good it is to have civil discourse and respect differing views as new policies are reformed. I have met some amazing people today!"*



Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By: Ms. Eleanor Phillips

This month's person of interest is from a Louisiana family. His family moved from Louisiana to Los Angeles, CA, where he was born. He lived with his grandmother until he was in the 4th grade. Then, he lived with his father.

He was interested in track in school, but it was Hi Ho, Hi Ho off to work I go. After high school he worked for a purchasing agent at a Helicopter company. He was married at 19 and had 2 children. He served 8 years in the Air Force. He served in Germany on the ground crew on helicopters, then came back to the states.

He remarried after meeting Stephana. They had two children—a boy and a girl. Back to work again, her job took them to Anaheim while he worked for the city of Los Angeles.

It was Easter Sunday while taking his children to Easter breakfast at FCCA that he started attending. His work for L.A. took him to many interesting places and he met many distinguished persons. This March marks his retirement; however, he isn't stopping work, as he remains Plant & Personnel Council Member for the church. He and Stephana also prepare the sacraments for communion Sunday. He ushers and does many other tasks as well.

His daughter, Jasmine, is a medical therapist and his son Joshua is in Germany studying jewelry design.

Happy retirement Jeffrey Williams!





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
13	Jim Taylor
16	Rev. Sandy Freud
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 fccaooffice@gmail.com.

(Penny Schibsted Article Continued...)

The season of Spring and Easter are seasons to think of new life arising from a time of darkness. Well we are in a time of darkness in our world right now, but there are also many signs of hope and life. Let these be like little shoots of much needed life!

Some of the things I've noticed this week that I am grateful for are: The Sunday FCCA Facebook Live worship services! Co-workers being extra kind. Family members calling each other. Teachers being creative in how they reach out to their students. People taking more walks outside.

Manufacturers are repurposing tools and plants in order to make much needed medical supplies. Health care workers are traveling to New York to help out desperate hospitals. Neighbors are waving at and checking in with each other. There are good things happening!

This is a stressful time but it is also an opportune time for prioritizing what is important and establishing life affirming habits. Keep in touch with others in ways you can. Find something useful to do within the limits of our temporary safety boundaries. Look for the good and trust in God.

May God bless all you dear people of First Congregational Church of Anaheim and may we all find new spiritual habits this Easter!

Peace to you,

Penny Schibsted

A Writing Shared at Pastor Don Sturm's Memorial Service last summer:

The deepest level of worship is praising God through pain. Thanking God during trials. Trusting God when we're tempted to lose hope, and loving him even when He seems distant. At my lowest, God was my hope. At my darkest, God was my light. At my weakest, God was my strength. At my saddest, God was my comfort. At my happiest, He celebrated with me. To have loved and been loved were the greatest gifts I was given.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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