



## May

*Worship with us!*

Sundays 10:30 AM  
on Facebook LIVE

**...and the church was born online!**

**Small Group ZOOM**  
Tuesday or Thursday evenings  
*HE WANTS HIS CHURCH BACK*  
[Learn More](#)

get through this Pandemic. I look forward to meeting together again. 🙏❤️

2w Like Reply 3

**Penny Schibsted**  
Yes! I can't wait until we can meet together and hug!

2w Like Reply 5

**Penny Schibsted**  
Beautiful flowers Susan!

2w Like Reply 4

**Susan Fraker**  
Thank you all for our Easter service. 🌸🌿

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

### IN THIS ISSUE

## STAFF

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)  
Sandy Costa—Montessori Director

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## Embracing Change During the Corona Virus Pandemic

This morning when I arrived at the office I found a letter addressed to me from one of our church members. She wrote *"Hi Jim, So nice to see you and Emily online sharing such encouraging words during this time of uncertainty. Your sermons and daily talks have definitely been helpful. Please continue to stay safe and be well. Looking forward to gathering once again! Please say 'Hi' to Penny."* There was a check enclosed to help with the ministry at our church. It was a nice way to start my work day!

I then went into the library to put some water in the teapot and saw the library was filled with food ready to be distributed later this evening. There were bags of freshly picked grapefruits from Jim Taylor's tree and freshly picked lemons from Bev Aye's tree. There were also bags of potatoes, boxes of bananas, lettuce, eggs, etc. Wednesday, April 22, thanks to the efforts of Pastor Taisi, the Unlimited Church, a baker in Brea and Don Ramirez from Albertsons, 130 people received groceries at our church. Tonight, April 29, 260 people were given groceries! People from FCCA and Unlimited Church helped sort and distribute the food. It is such a blessing to know our churches are helping members from our community in need. If you are interested in helping at any of the future food distributions just call the church office at 714-776-0960. We will call you back and let you know when and how you can help.

The Corona Virus Pandemic has changed our lives in many ways, but as a church, we are in the process of embracing those changes in creative ways. **Sunday worship services along with the "Encouragement for Today" devotionals are now on the Internet** connecting us with people across the United States and even in a few foreign countries. This is a blessing I never would have imagined a few months ago. It's good to hear from missionaries we support and friends of our church who have moved away over the years. We are also meeting via ZOOM for small group meetings which is new for many of us. This is a time God is allowing us to draw closer to Him and to one another!

Today I was on a ZOOM call with pastors from around the country. Ideas were explored as to how churches can gather again during this challenging time. Keeping social distancing of at least 6' feet, wearing masks, making sure surfaces are cleaned between services and meetings, having drive-in type church meetings and meeting outside are some of the ideas that were explored.

One of our biggest concerns at FCCA is **keeping people safe and making sure everything is clean**. We also want to encourage people who feel isolated. I believe social meetings using FACEBOOK and ZOOM will continue to be the new normal in the months ahead. Some, however, are not on the internet and phone calls are really the way to go.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Connect

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am in the Sanctuary

\*We are using Facebook Live during the Stay at Home Order

### **What is the name of our church Facebook Page?**

"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](http://www.fccanaheim.org). On the home page, click on the link that says "Join Live." 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, or you may 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.

### Encouragement for Today

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends are sharing short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Check them out on Facebook!

### Small Groups

Small groups are currently meeting via Zoom! We are reading: "Jesus Called, He wants His Church Back" by Ray Johnston.

### **Tuesday nights w/Pastor Emily** **6:30-7:45pm**

Meeting through June 2

### **Thursday nights w/Pastor Jim** **7:00-8:15pm**

Meeting through June 4

Email or call the church if you are interested in joining a group:  
[fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com); (714) 776-0960



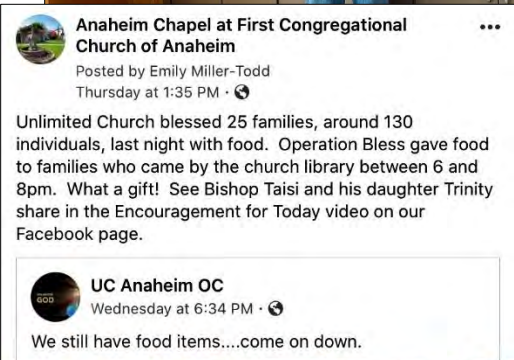
## April Highlights

*Unlimited Church has been distributing food on Wednesday evenings! Thank you to all who have contributed food and help! Unlimited Church will decide how often they will offer this service based on resources.*



### ***There have been many Good Samaritans!***

Pictured on the left, Don Ramirez brought food by this month to include in the distribution. Below is a photo of Bishop Taisi and Pastor Grettel leading the food distribution. Thank you so much Jeanette Walker and Anthony Zak for volunteering to help!



## ***Keeping FCCA Safe and Clean!***

*Thank you, Jon Schibsted and Glen Anderson, for spraying the church with the chemical being used in hospitals to kill COVID-19. This is a preventative measure, approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.*





# Holy Week and Easter Online

*It has been such a blessing to continue to worship as a community online.*



## Getting ready for Easter service online...

Thank you, Susan Fraker, for coming in separately to create a flower cross. Linda Freud also put up the beautiful Easter banners for us to enjoy. Salend Krishna and Mike Villa-Real have been helping each Sunday with the recording and sound. Thank you to those who are helping us continue to worship together while staying distant!





LETTER  
FROM

*Laura*

**DESPITE THE CURRENT HEALTH CRISIS, NORTHEAST IS ALIVE AND WELL.** While we continue to follow current restrictions, limiting activities and cutting back staff hours, **there is still much good news to report:**

NorthEast has reached two **new programs** in South Orange County: Vera's Sanctuary in Trabuco Canyon, a facility for sex trafficking victims; and Victory House, a men's substance abuse program in Lake Forest. **New partnerships with churches** such as Trabuco Presbyterian and Village Church will provide volunteers the opportunity to support our efforts as we continue to expand and grow. Our **new job readiness program**, Steps to Success, helps community members with criminal backgrounds or lack of work experience prepare for and secure employment.

Until then, we will continue to reach out through social media, podcasts, phone calls, and cards, assuring our vulnerable community that they are not forgotten, and are loved. Likewise, your health and welfare are of concern to us; please let us know how our staff can pray for you and your loved ones.

NorthEast of the Well remains committed to bringing the **hope of the Gospel message and the assurance that God's plans are to "...give you hope and a future."** (Jer. 29:11-12). In that passage, God promises to bring His people back from captivity – something we can hold onto today, as well.

Once current restrictions are lifted, NorthEast is fully equipped to resume all ministry activities. **NOW, MORE THAN EVER, YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS VITAL.**

BE SAFE AND BLESSED,

*Laura Suk*

LAURA SUK  
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**WE WILL NOT FEAR ...  
BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM**

**GOD**  
PSALM 46

**GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,  
AN EVER-PRESENT HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.**



# ALEX

Alex is our Men's Teaching & Discipleship Associate, working to help heal, encourage and love others through teaching the Word of God.

"I grew up in Mission Viejo - using coke, partying, hanging with the wrong people. I tried heroin once and became addicted, then came meth. This took me down an 8 year heroin addiction - living in abandoned houses, going in and out of jail, experiencing an overdose, and eventually losing custody of my daughter. At one point, I was on day 7 of not sleeping because of my addiction, which resulted in me falling asleep behind the wheel and flipping my car on the freeway. **God must have been looking out for me, even then...**

During my last experience in jail, I felt God shift my heart; I soon after discovered Teen Challenge, and later on, NorthEast. **It was at NorthEast that I felt this new light within myself and new-found joy with Jesus.** My life has truly transformed... now my biggest joy is watching people's lives change through NorthEast just as mine did. I'm proud to say I've been a part of the NorthEast community for two years now and became a staff member last year. As I jumped right into helping with men's teaching and discipleship, I just knew this was the place for me - a place where I get to teach His Word; a place to love and help the broken."



# SHANEEN

Shaneen is our Re-Entry Program Coordinator, dedicated to using her spiritual gifts and testimony of change to encourage others to rise above just as she did.

"I was a heroin addict for 6 years. I was broken, lost, I became a thief, a liar. I did whatever I could to get my next fix. I had no hope; no meaning in my life. At age 16, my "friends" left me at a party - I ended up getting raped by 3 different guys that night in a black-out. After graduating high school in Upland, things only escalated. My friends and I were drinking and driving, and drove off the edge of the freeway; the car tumbled. I broke my back and another girl was ejected from the car and died. My brother and sister suggested heroin; they told me, "...this will make your back feel better." This led me on a 6 year heroin addiction - the brokenness, the pain, the mess, the stealing from my parents.

Eventually my father said, "You need to get help or I am not going to speak to you anymore." He told me about this program called Teen Challenge. Through this bible college, I met NorthEast of the Well. I saw what they do

- they bring God's Word into the hardest places, literally - to people who are lost, broken, in addiction, homeless, victims of human trafficking. I saw how NorthEast was able to break those walls down. **They walk in unashamedly with the Word of God, worship, and just pray with each person.** I love how they did not wait for people to come to them; they went to the dark places with the Word of God in hand and testimonies to share.

I once was hopeless and had no purpose in life, but NorthEast helped me to see that God has a purpose for me. I have now been on staff with NorthEast for over a year; growing in my calling, in the Lord, in teamwork and leadership. **I have been able to see lives change; not by who we are, but by who we bring, which is Jesus Christ."**







## May Birthdays

3-May Diego Zavala  
5-May Carlos Luquez  
5-May Daniel Hoke  
7-May Robert Robinson  
9-May LaneII O'Neill  
11-May Linda Hill  
14-May Cheryl Cook  
23-May Isy Martin  
25-May Danielle Morookian  
26-May Maggie Santos  
26-May Genevieve Perez  
28-May Helen Gilmore  
28-May Jackie Torres  
29-May Jasmine Williams

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](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com).

*(Pastor's Article Continued...)* Hopefully, within a few months, we will be able to worship in person with limited numbers in the sanctuary. I pray a vaccine will be developed so we can hug one another again! In the meantime we must be creative and continue to reach out in whatever ways we can.

With God's help, I believe we will get through this Pandemic together as we embrace the changes before us!

Grace and peace, Pastor Jim

### **I was asked by Pastor Emily to share some thoughts about our dear Millie Gardner...**

Over the past several years while worshipping here at FCCA, Millie was full of sweetness, smiles, and hugs. When she gave you a hug, she did not let go and despite her frail appearance, she gave you a very strong hug. Honestly, I could say I felt the love of Jesus in her hugs.

Going back many years, I think of determination and persistence, not sweetness, when I think of Millie. But she had a motive. Her love of the Cal-West Association of Congregational Christian Churches was so great that she was determined and persistent in keeping this organization vibrant and its churches connected.

I asked Sandy to describe Millie's impact on Cal-West, and he called her our Ambassador. Absolutely true. An ambassador acts as a representative or promoter and that's exactly what she did to strengthen the Congregational Way amongst our churches. Millie was known for her surprise visits to Cal-West churches from San Diego to Sherman Oaks. Then I thought of the fairly modern term "networking" which includes linking, connecting, interacting, communicating, associating, contacting, reaching out. Ambassador Millie passionately devoted her life to networking with her fellow Congregationalists.

Her first way was through The Congregationalist periodical which she one-handedly put together four times a year for many, many, many years. Secondly, she proudly represented Cal-West at the National Association annual meetings across the country. She always offered to be your delegate or alternate delegate if your church could not attend. I loved seeing all the delegate badges hanging around her neck as she attended each business meeting.

Her home was here at FCCA, her heart was the Cal-West Association. Jesus and the Congregational Way were first and foremost in her life. Millie you are missed, but you are safely home with your Lord and Savior. You were a faithful servant. You have shown your Love to Him by caring for other believers. We thank you and love you.

Lovingly submitted, Linda Freud

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

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