



July



Join us this month for...

***Conversations on Race:
A Multicultural Approach to Reconciliation***

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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Conversations on Race: A Multi Cultural Approach to Reconciliation

"Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger."

James 1:19

What a challenging but rewarding time to be in ministry! The Covid 19 Virus has forced many of us to reevaluate our priorities as the props have been knocked out from under us. Over 120,000 people in the USA have died from this virus which is more than we lost in WWI. According to the New York Times *"The U.S. jobless rate skyrocketed in the past three months, peaking at nearly 15 percent in April and standing at 13.3 percent in May. That is the highest level since the Great Depression and nearly fourfold increase since February, when the rate was 3.5 percent."*

Racial tensions have surfaced since the death of George Floyd. Protesters have taken to the streets demanding justice while looters have taken advantage of this crisis to line their own pockets with stolen goods. How important it is that we humble ourselves before God as we pray for our country and world.

A couple of weeks ago some of us tuned in to the Thrive Conference which reached over 225,000 people in 98 countries. Honest conversations regarding race were unsettling as we heard our brothers and sisters' pain. I personally was filled with hope after hearing Bishop T.D. Jakes, Pastor Miles McPherson, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Pastor Rick Warren share from their hearts. What better time for the church to step up as we learn together what it means to *"Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God."* *Micah 6:8.*

Recently I spoke with the other pastors using our facilities about the idea of having a **3 part series** entitled **Conversations on Race – A Multi Cultural Approach to Reconciliation**. They were excited about participating in this series. We will meet outside in front of the Griffith House and show the following videos from the Thrive Conference followed by a different multicultural panel each night.

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am, Sundays

*We are using Facebook Live

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. 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.

Worship on the Lawn

We are holding in person worship on the lawn. We have chairs spread out 6 feet apart. Masks are required and social distancing is to be taken seriously. We will continue live streaming worship as well.

Encouragement for Today

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends are sharing short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week through Facebook Live.

Conversations on Race: A Multicultural Approach to Reconciliation

Meet Outside the Griffith House

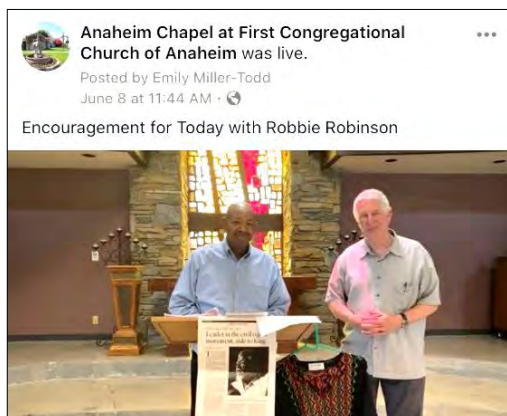
7:00pm

Thursday, July 9

Thursday, July 16

Thursday, July 23

June Updates

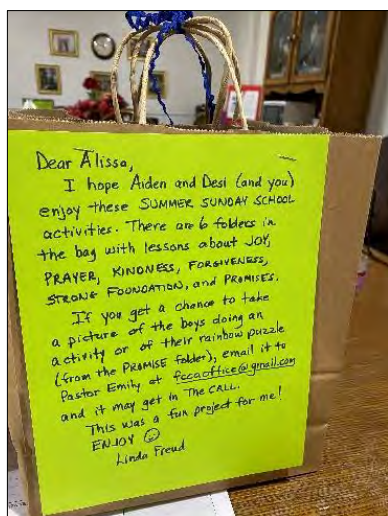


Encouragement for Today Guest Speaker

Robbie Robinson shared in an Encouragement for Today video with the church this month. He shared about his family's experience through the Civil Rights movement and about their experience moving to California. After he spoke, he and some visitors had a nice conversation outside the sanctuary about hopes and ideas moving forward.

Unlimited Church Food Distribution

Unlimited Church food distribution continues every other Wednesday. The distribution starts at 6pm, and families are already lined up along the hedges by 5:40pm. Thank you to those who have volunteered. Thank you Jeanette Walker, Brandon Poole, Tyler Robinson and the Zavala family for volunteering to help this month!



Sunday School Packets

Linda Freud created Sunday School bags to give to families with children this month! The bags include 6 folders with lessons and activities about JOY, KINDNESS, FORGIVENESS, STRONG FOUNDATION, and PROMISES.

Fountain Work

Jim Taylor has continued to be hard at work. He took down old wallpaper in



Pastor Emily's office and repainted her office. Now he is focused on the fountains. He cleaned out and repainted the fountain outside the Griffith House Chapel, and he retiled the swan fountain. The swan will be replaced this month. More photos to come!

Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By Eleanor Philips

Joy to the world is a Christmas carol. This person of interest was born in St. Louis, Mo.

At the age of 2 she contracted polio, the 13th case in St. Louis. She had to wear a cast and have surgery on her right leg. Going through this trauma, she grew up fast. As young as she was, she knew the Lord was with her. Her school years were spent in St. Louis. She enjoyed visiting the Ozarks and seeing the beauty of it.

After graduating from high school, she attended Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO where she met and married her husband. Seeking the right job, they traveled to 9 different states in 11 years. When she was 20, she gave birth to a daughter, then 4 years later a son.

After her divorce she had to work, but she saved using a Christmas club plan so they would always have a nice Christmas.

Into her life came a man close to her heart - his name was Jack. He was a friend for 20 years and she lost him to a heart attack. The two men in her life treated her well.

She loved the Lord and when she would fall He would always help her up. She taught herself the accordion and played for years. Never meeting a stranger, she enjoys many friends. She talks on the phone and goes everywhere with her electric wheelchair. She loves her independence, gardening and flowers. She has joy in her life, God, her children, her grandchildren, and friends.

This carol, Carole White, is a joy to the world.



Missions' Corner



Andrew and Karen Bush have served internationally for almost 35 years. They seek to make the love of Christ Jesus known through servanthood in the way of the cross.

Here is their recent letter with thoughts on COVID-19:

Dear Friends

*We are praying for you during these very difficult days. We are also praying for those who have contracted the virus to be healed, and that Jesus will overcome. We are praying for hope for the 40 million U.S. citizens who are out of work now as a result of the pandemic. **40 million**, that is a staggering figure. And approximately 40% of these will no longer be able to return to their previous jobs. At the same time, we are witnessing the deepest cultural divisions in our country being laid bare. The pain that African Americans and other minorities have had to endure for too long needs a transformative response.*

How should we respond?

We have been encouraged by seeing brave people reach across the divide to support and be kind to each other. Such acts stand in stark relief to physical violence, and are a ray of hope that a better day can come in which, as Jesus taught, people will love their neighbors as themselves, and even, love their enemies. But this will take a lot of work, prayer, self-examination, and continued commitment to the love of Jesus.



*In all of this, rather than draw back, we must push forward in bringing the love and the gospel of Jesus to our neighborhoods and to the world. In May, I was able to transfer several thousand dollars to Harvesters Christian Fellowship in the Philippines to help the most distressed families in our various congregations. Pastor Waven Beguiras, (left) who leads our HCF congregation in a rural province north of Manilla, distributed 2000 pesos (\$40/each) to ten families, including this young mother and her son. **Thank you!!! \$40 is a huge blessing to this humble mother.***

The closures in Manila have been very strongly enforced. People are beginning to be able to go out into their neighborhoods. The pastors of HCF are strategizing how to reopen their congregations in shifts in order to satisfy social distancing.

We are continuing to work hard on our reconciliation project in Bethlehem and in leading the East Jerusalem International Church weekly, even though Israel remains closed – and its Tel Aviv airport virtually empty – to international travelers. Israel hopefully will begin to open, as it has indicated, after June 17. This opening will at first only include a few neighboring countries. We are praying that by July travel will be restored for Americans.

Let's hang in there and hang on to Jesus!

With love always –

Andrew and Karen

Donations may be mailed to: Mission Ministries PO Box 6546 Santa Ana, CA 92706

(Checks may be written to 'Mission Ministries' and noted for 'Bush')



July Birthdays

- 3 Cynthia Montes
- 8 John Michael Morookian
- 9 Katherine Nguyen
- 9 Christina Ramsay
- 12 Raquel Wangsness
- 11 Carolyn-Ann Alba
- 11 Carson Parker
- 12 Terri DiCamillo
- 13 Tanya Santos
- 15 Jim Schibsted
- 17 Raul Caicedo
- 21 Jennifer Brunson
- 22 Teresa Davies
- 22 Christina Alba
- 23 Ramina Swanson
- 24 Ray Craig
- 27 Janice Bowers

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.

(Pastor's Article Continued...)

Schedule for July Discussions

Conversations on Race:

A Multi Cultural Approach to Reconciliation

Each Discussion will begin at 7:00pm outside the Griffith House

Thursday, July 9:

Video of Pastor Miles McPherson and Discussion Panel

Thursday, July 16:

Video of Condoleezza Rice (former Secretary of State) and Discussion Panel

Thursday, July 23:

Video of Bishop T.D. Jakes and Discussion Panel

The purpose of these meetings is *to gain understanding and awareness – to learn to listen and really hear one another as we take the Apostle James' words to heart. "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger." James 1:19*

I think this will be a good opportunity to address this important issue as we gain understanding by listening with one another in a clean and safe environment. If you have any questions you would like discussed by different panels please submit them to either Pastor Emily or myself ahead of time. I am so very grateful for the various churches using our facilities, for the unity we experience as we learn to love one another.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jim

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Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960