



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

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# September



## STAFF

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Linda Freud—Missions  
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)  
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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## **The Importance of Connection**

Rev. Emily Miller-Todd

This year, I have grown to value relationship and connection more than ever. Relationships provide support and safe space to be vulnerable. Adventures and new experiences come to life in the company of those we love. Relationships spark new ideas and inspire us as we share and hear from one another.

I have been amazed to watch human creativity and resourcefulness at work as we found new ways to connect even in the midst of a pandemic. It was fun to see how the Orange circle adjusted to new needs—traffic was blocked off and restaurants set up tables and umbrellas in the street. It was such a great solution that allowed the community to continue to come together and support local businesses!

Within our church, we have been able to connect in new ways as well. Now that location is not a barrier, church members who moved out of state and family members who live far away are able to join us in worship or in small groups. Those who have not been able to drive to attend small groups are now able to participate via Zoom from home. Linda Freud has connected with the children in the church—sending creative Sunday School packets with lessons and activities. We have even been able to hear from Missionaries via live interviews online. COVID-19 threatened our ability to connect, but in some ways COVID-19 has opened up new possibilities to connect.

Ephesians 4 talks about the body of Christ and our role in connection with one another. We each have unique God-given gifts that are meant to be used. We come to life and grow as we use our gifts. The church grows in maturity when all authentically participate in community. We need to be connected to one another in order to grow and thrive.

**Ephesians 4:7, 11-13** <sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it... <sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

*(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](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.

### **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 each week through Facebook Live.

### **Small Groups**

We will finish the second half of “Jesus Called: He Wants His Church Back” by Ray Johnston. Small Groups will meet via Zoom starting September 22nd/24th.

**Tuesdays:**

6:00-7:15pm

**Thursdays:**

7:00-8:15pm



# August Updates

**Sunday Mornings Outside and on Facebook Live:** We continue to be grateful for Salend



Krishna and Mike Villa-Real, who help with set-up, sound and video broadcasting on Sunday mornings. This month, Salend figured out how to create isolated videos of music from worship. As a result, we can now share videos of worship music as part of our Encouragement for Today postings on Facebook. This month, we enjoyed wonderful recordings of Raffia Thomas singing during worship, accompanied by Tyler Robinson.



Salend and Alpana's sons, Jayden and Rishon, have also been helping us set up on Sunday mornings. We are so grateful for the joy they bring and for their help!



**Sunday School Packets:** Linda Freud created more bags filled with Sunday School lessons and activities for the children in our congregation. What a blessing! Thank you for loving on our children and families, Linda. Desi and Aiden have been having fun with the activities this month! Aiden is pictured on the left. Packets were given to Jayden, Rishon, Aiden, Desi, Anna and Lilly.

**Guest Preacher:** Dr. Peter St. Don preached a wonderful sermon this month that reminded us to find rest in God. He preached from 11 Chronicles 20:15-17.

Verse 15 reads: "Do not

be afraid or discouraged...for the battle is not yours, but God's."

Dr. Peter invited us to exchange our stress for God's rest. Pastor Jim and Pastor Emily were able to each take time to be away with family this month. Technology enabled this to be possible – Encouragement for Today videos continued from Montana and Iowa!



# Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By: Eleanor Phillips

On the good ship Lollypop, this person of interest was born in Long Beach, CA and was raised in Bellflower, CA. At the age of 3 she was given tap dance lessons, but there were no ships or lollypops in her youth.

Her father chose to work hard enjoying his life but not provide for the family. For a time in her life, she was homeless and living on food stamps. She left home at the age of 16.

She then married and was blessed with two daughters. Her husband became a lawyer but that didn't work out as she didn't like the life he wanted to live, so a divorce.

Having her two daughters, she had to find a job. She worked as a teller at the Bank of America for 35 years. When she retired, she had advanced to loan office manager.

No boats or lollypops still, her life did change for the better as she met and married Carson Davis. They have been happily married for 34 years. She found Carson to be a very kind, quiet and humble man.

She has now put on those tap shoes and performs through the Anaheim Senior Center. She keeps very busy with many other interests. She uses Zoom for her morning exercise and cooking class and works hard in her yard and home.

She enjoys church, inspirational video time and the people of the church. She is Christine Davis.



# Missions' Corner

*"Truly I say to you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)*

In July your Missions Board met to discuss the 2020 allocations for missions. Being new to the job of chairperson, I reviewed Janice Bowers' notes and files to learn about the various missions FCCA has sponsored over many years. It was obvious that FCCA has a heart for missions.

The Board unanimously decided to allocate \$4,700.00 in support of the following missions:

**Mission Ministries in the Philippines**, Corrie DeBoer and Chonabelle Domingo

**Mission Ministries**, Andrew and Karen Bush

**CRU in the Middle East**

**NACC - Congregational Churches Philippines**, Rev. Symphony John Castillo

**Christ to the Villages, Nigeria**, Rev. Matthew Oladele

**Panamerican Institute, Mexico**, Laura Ramirez

**Congregational Church of Myanmar**, Pastor Elvis SaDo

**Pilgrim's Presence, Kenya**, Geoffrey Lipale

**The Macedonia Outreach, Greece**, Pantelis and Roula Sideopoulos

**Grandma's House, Santa Ana, CA**

We know that additional needs may be brought to our attention later this year, and we will address those as they occur. We are currently focused on the effort to build a deep water well to provide drinking water for a local church and community that is connected with Mission Ministries Philippines and was visited by Mike Villa-Real earlier this year. Also, we do not want to forget the

2019 Cashew Farm project started by Rev. Matthew Oladele from Christ to the Villages in Nigeria. Last, we plan to support one of our newest missions, Mary's Kitchen in Orange, during the Advent season. If your heart leads you to contribute to missions in the upcoming months, please mark your check appropriately on the memo line with the word MISSIONS or the name of a particular mission or a specific project.

Thank you and God Bless You,

The FCCA Mission Board

Linda Freud, Chair

Board Members: Pastor Jim and Penny Schibsted, Pastor Emily Miller-Todd, Mike Villa-Real, Dave and Linda Hill

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## **A Message from NorthEast of the Well:**

### ***"Help us bring the Gospel to the hardest places"***



NorthEast of the Well's mission is to bring the word of God to individuals that are hidden and in some of the hardest places. During this pandemic, we continue to reach out to those that are isolated.

In September 2020 we will be starting some limited onsite bible studies (following the current safety guidelines) and welcome volunteers to join. Also, we have a need for meal/dessert donations to bless our various programs. We could always use masks and hand sanitizer for our outings. Another way to get involved is to write scripture cards for the men and women in our programs or provide bibles. The scriptures could tie in with the theme of our current teaching thru Fall: "Encounters with Christ." Our outreaches expand from Los Angeles down to South County. Please call Shaneen Coston at 909.377.8240 to learn more or visit [northeastofthewell.org](http://northeastofthewell.org).





## September Birthdays

- 1-Sep Carol Peterson
- 4-Sep Michael Villa-Real
- 5-Sep Jay Ramsay
- 7-Sep Angelina Morookian
- 7-Sep Maria Doyle
- 8-Sep Laurie Donahue
- 10-Sep Derek Fender
- 18-Sep Amy Eades
- 18-Sep Daniel Arredondo
- 24-Sep Stacey Cohee
- 24-Sep James Richard Henri
- 28-Sep Bunnie Haas

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](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com).

### *Pastor's Letter Continued...*

The importance of connection has been highlighted this year, and so has the pain of disconnection. Respectful conversation and listening among people with different perspectives can be challenging, especially in an election year. Positions are sometimes announced in ways that project shame and blame instead of inviting dialogue. Ephesians reminds us that we need each other in the Body of Christ. Our goal is to be equipped for works of service, to be united in faith and to become mature in Christ.

**As Christians, I wonder how our conversations may shift if we focus on shared goals and shared values.** We all want to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. We are working to love our neighbor as ourselves. We value justice and empowering those who have been oppressed, because God values justice and abundant life for all. Our methods of engagement and our ideas about potential solutions will not be the same. My hope is that in the middle of challenging conversations, we will try to see our neighbor as God sees our neighbor. I hope that we will remember that each person is uniquely gifted and that each person's role in the Body of Christ is valuable. Iron sharpens iron, and different perspectives that create tension can actually be productive when handled with respect and grace. I hope we will grow as people who can create safe space for questions and honest, respectful dialogue—because in that kind of space, we all grow in maturity as the Body of Christ. I wonder how tough conversations would be transformed if we entered them asking: “What are our common goals and how do you think we can get there?”

I thank God for this church community and the connections that have been growing among us. **We are starting small groups again via Zoom the week of September 21st—all are welcome to join us!** We will read and discuss the second half of “Jesus Called: He Wants His Church Back” by Ray Johnston. I will facilitate a Tuesday evening group from 6:00-7:15pm and Pastor Jim will facilitate a Thursday evening group from 7:00-8:15pm. For more information, contact me at [fccaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com) or (714) 776-0960. If you need a book, let us know—we are happy to help.

I pray that we will continue to grow in strength and maturity through authentic conversations and connection. I pray that our growth will overflow in active love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Emily

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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