



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

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October



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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STAFF

"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

“Interruptions or Blessings?”

Life is messy. It's not always neat and tidy. Schedules don't always go the way we plan. Unsettling things happen. The Coronavirus, racial unrest, an economic downturn and wild fires in the West have caused our routines to be upended as we find new ways to cope. Throughout our lives we learn to deal with the unexpected. That's how it was in the time of Jesus and that's how it is for us today. But sometimes those interruptions become a blessing.

Interruptions can irritate us, drain our energy, play havoc with our schedules, and hurt our relationships if we're not careful. They pop up and invade our routine. The Poet Robert Browning wrote in Bishop Blougram's Apology...

Just when we are safest, there's

A sunset-touch

...someone's death.

A chorus ending from Euripides,

And that's enough for fifty hopes and fears.

Browning was talking about profound, life shattering interruptions, “a sunset-touch...someone's death” - or maybe an unexpected divorce, the loss of health or a job. These interruptions are a part of life and sometimes in the middle of these interruptions, if we pause long enough, beneath the pain and the shock, we discover the grace and strength of God. **Interruptions** help us to **realize that persons, not things** are of ultimate value.

Somehow Jesus could integrate interruptions into his life because he had a clear sense of purpose. Early on he understood his purpose. In today's reading out of the book of Mark we have one of the most thrilling stories in all the New Testament. This was one of many interruptions in the life of Jesus. We find him on his way to heal Jairus's daughter, when in the middle of this crowd he felt someone touching him. This woman, **full of fear and trembling** took a chance and reached out and touched the hem of his garment. And in the process Jesus healed her.

“But this woman knowing what happened to her, came in fear and trembling. Falling down before him, she told Jesus the whole truth. And He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your disease.’” Mk 5:33-34. Like Jesus, we can cope with interruptions if we keep the perspective that persons, not things are of eternal value. (Continued, pg. 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am, Sundays

Join us in person or on Facebook Live. If you attend in person, please plan to wear your mask. We are now meeting inside, social distanced, and we will also plan to have a few more outdoor services this fall.

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.fcanaheim.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 each week through Facebook Live.

Small Groups

We are finishing the second half of “Jesus Called: He Wants His Church Back” by Ray Johnston. Small Groups are meeting via Zoom from September 22nd/24th through November 10th/12th.

Tuesdays: 6:00-7:15pm

Thursdays: 7:00-8:15pm

*Contact the church office for more information.

September Updates



- paint
- disassemble, clean and reassemble ceiling fans
- replace crib pads
- add a new couch and a new crib
- add bookshelves, toy shelves and storage
- add 50 new toys
- add new books and new movies
- add new diapers

Sophie Morookian's Girl Scout troop freshened up the nursery in the Griffith House for us this summer. We are so grateful that the girls and their moms took on this project for us! They completed the following list of tasks as part of their project:

- wipe and disinfect toys, tables, etc.
- tighten all furniture
- perform electrostatic disinfection



Thank you to the old and new volunteers who helped at the food distribution this month!

Unlimited Church hosts a food distribution every other Wednesday at 6:00pm. The next distribution dates are Wednesday, October 14th and Wednesday, October 28th.



Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By: Eleanor Phillips

This month's person of interest was born in Long Beach, California. His Marine father told him their ancestor's were from Scotland. He was then interested in checking on their clan, enjoying the Scottish games and buying a kilt. In addition, his father enjoyed baseball and at an early age they enjoyed throwing the ball back and forth, creating a lasting bond.

In 1956 they moved to Anaheim. At the time they moved, there were many orange groves. Their home had five orange trees. He went to Loara High School and in 1972 and 1973, he attended U.C.I—joining his wife to be. He majored in business, then went to law school. In 1979 he received his law degree at the age of 24. At that time, he was the youngest to become a lawyer.

After graduating, he joined his father in business. He also worked for the state workman's comp and did consumer counseling.

Marrying his school sweetheart, they have raised four daughters. Cooking has been one of his specialties and their table was always full with people and food. Another accomplishment has been receiving his pilot's license, and his hobbies include golf and tennis.

He was a moderator at the church for 12 years, and he sang in the church choir. He, Carol Lutz, Valerie Gotez and John Fender—tenor, soprano, alto and base—have performed at church. He also played guitar.

Bruce and Joan Edwards will be celebrating 47 years of marriage this November. Traveling and connecting with the quartet is on their bucket list.



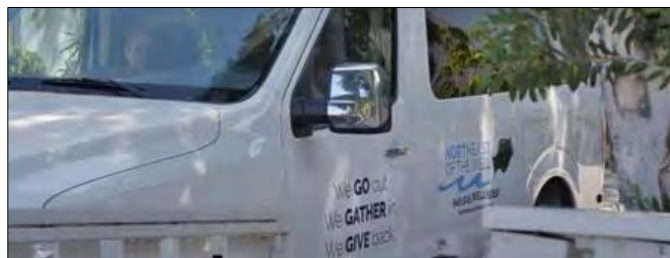
Missions' Corner



NorthEast of the Well is a Christ-Centered, worshiping community, bringing hope and healing to those impacted by generational patterns of addiction, abuse, sexual exploitation and incarceration. They provide an environment where people can have a life-changing encounter with Christ and grow alongside others with similar experiences.

THEY GO DIRECTLY TO THE NEED BY:

Reaching out each week to more than a dozen transitional programs, shelters, safe houses and drug treatment programs and bringing God's Word and sharing ourselves in a way that leads to deep personal connection.



THEY PROVIDE A PLACE TO CONNECT BY: Gathering weekly as an extended community at 3 separate locations and providing a place to learn and grow alongside others with similar life experiences. For 5 years, one of their locations has been right here at FCCA. Dinner is held in McKenzie Hall, and worship is held in the sanctuary. Every other month, FCCA prepares and serves the dinner, and I (Linda) have been blessed to be Penny's "right hand man" in the kitchen.



THEY EQUIP PEOPLE TO INVEST IN THEIR OWN PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION BY:

Offering small groups, discipleship opportunities, and a path to leadership and helping people to lead productive lives that point to Christ, through mentorship and education.



NorthEast of the Well has grown to cover new territory and reach many more lives seeking change. They reach out locally, gather in community, and rise up in leadership. Through all they do, the mission of NorthEast of the Well remains the same -- to go to those in need and declare that grace, new life, and full restoration can be found in Christ Jesus.

NorthEast of the Well's 5th Annual Fall Fundraising Gala

Join Virtually, October 5-9

For the past 10 years, donor support has brought a wellspring of hope and healing to more than 10,000 people in hard to reach places throughout Southern California. As a result, many have chosen a new path for their lives that will have a lasting impact on generations to come. The goal is to lay the foundation to reach the next 10,000 lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, their 5th Annual Fall Fundraising Gala will be replaced by THEIR VERY FIRST VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER running October 5-9 as they celebrate a decade of changed lives and look to the future as they REACH, CONNECT and EQUIP people to embrace God's plan for their lives. You can go to www.northeastofthewell.org to learn more about this fundraising project -

"10,000 REASONS: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF CHANGE"



Contact NorthEast of the Well:

www.northeastofthewell.org

949.515.9355 (WELL)

admin@northeastofthewell.org

Orange County Main Office: 2025 Newport Blvd., Ste. 110; Costa Mesa, CA 92627



October Birthdays

1-Oct Helen Hummel
5-Oct Daniel Ahl
6-Oct Virginia Tressler
9-Oct Jessy Luquez
9-Oct Robbie Robinson
16-Oct Rudy Marderos
17-Oct Rev. Emily Miller-Todd
19-Oct Amanda Pacillas
23-Oct Nancy Clark
24-Oct Pam Evans
24-Oct Jon Ryan Hill
26-Oct Justyn Gonzales
29-Oct David Hill
30-Oct Penny Schibsted
30-Oct Lucas Rider

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.

Pastor's Letter Continued...

When the phone call comes in the middle of the night from someone who is hurting, or the neighbor drops in because he needs to talk, or the old person needs help walking to her car – those interruptions may be an opportunity to experience the grace of God. I have spoken with many people over the past six months, some of whom are working at home. They enjoy spending more time with family and meeting new neighbors as they walk the neighborhood. A slower paced life is an unexpected blessing from this Coronavirus.

Finally, I want us to take to heart this letter written by Skid, a Methodist minister here in Southern California. He wrote to his congregations when we learned he had cancer. The doctors said he had between six months and one year to live.

Dear Christian friends,

It has taken me 51 years of living and 33 years in the Christian life to learn the real meaning of Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount. "Do not be anxious about tomorrow." I have been a very ambitious man, and I have abhorred the mediocre. Always within me has been the desire to excel. In living this way I have been impatient and anxious, inattentive and often unkind. My goals have been long distance and compulsive. In consequence, I have given less than my best to the person in front of me, because I was thinking way ahead to the goals and plans beyond. Now all is different.

*My anxieties are gone. I have no idea how long I shall live, but then there is today. Each day is meaning more to me than ever before. Each person I meet can have all there is of me than ever before. **Each person I meet can have all there is of me for those moments we're together.** I may not get as much done from here on out, but life is far more peaceful. I have at last come to accept the words that Jesus has for me, "Don't be anxious about your life."*

The interruption of cancer did not stop Skid but rather clarified his purpose that people not things are of ultimate value. When life gets messy because of interruptions, may we see them as opportunities to discover again God's grace and strength. Amen.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jim

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714.776.0960