



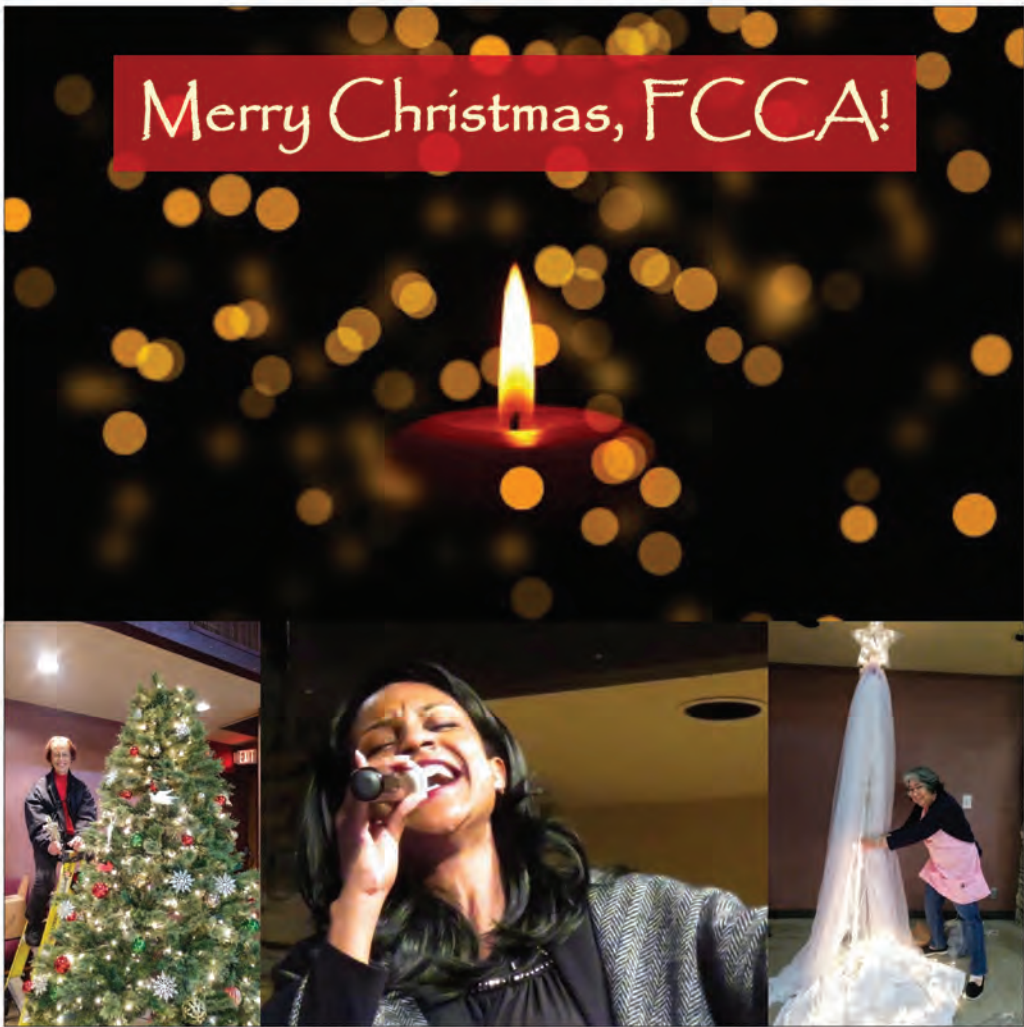
"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"

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December



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

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

Christmas 2020 Reflections

Penny Schibsted

My niece Michelle sent me something from this week's Opinion section of the New York Times. She often sends along thoughtful things. This one was written by Pope Francis and was quite good, entitled "A Crisis Reveals What Is In Our Hearts." In it Pope Francis reflects on the crises individuals, nations and the world have faced this year and then on a personal crisis of his own. When he was 21 he was gravely ill and says it was, "My first experience of limit, of pain and loneliness. It changed the way I saw life." He goes on to tell how God saved him through the actions of others and how the value of helping others stayed with him.

The Pope has seen this theme demonstrated in so many ways during the COVID crisis but he has also seen the opposite, individuals and groups acting in ways that are short sighted and harmful to others. About crises Francis writes,

These are moments in life that can be ripe for change and conversion. Each of us has had our own "stoppage," or if we haven't yet, we will someday: illness, the failure of a marriage or a business, some great disappointment or betrayal. As in the Covid-19 lockdown, those moments generate a tension, a crisis that reveals what is in our hearts. In every personal "Covid," so to speak, in every "stoppage," what is revealed is what needs to change.

The way we are responding to the COVID crisis reveals both what is in our hearts and what needs to change. The shift in how we deal with world problems is not just in dealing with this pandemic, but in other things as well. We need to consider how we are interconnected and respond effectively to the needs of the least fortunate. The Pope is advocating for what Jesus advocated.

This message reminds me so much of what Robbie Robinson preached Sunday, November 29th! He shared with us that when we go through really difficult times, it's good to tell ourselves, "This is just a test" and it's an opportunity to let our faith go to work and grow. *(Continued on Page 7)*

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am, Sundays

We are holding worship in person and on Facebook Live. Please plan to wear your mask, social distance and remember when you greet each other that each person may have a very different comfort level.

Encouragement for Today

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends are sharing short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week through 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 click on the small x that appears in the top right corner of the login pop-up.

Christmas at FCCA Christmas Concert with the 5 Star Band

Sunday, December 20th
During 10:30am Worship

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thurs., December 24th at 7pm
*This service will be online only, broadcast live from the sanctuary.

November Updates



Food Distribution: The food distribution led by Unlimited Church continues! In November, we served 55 families at the first distribution of the month and 75 families at the second distribution. We ran out of food for the first time and had more volunteers participate than ever! Thank you all for helping us support this service to our neighbors. In December, we will serve food from 4:30-5:30pm on Wednesday, December 2 and on Wednesday, December 16th.

FCCA Online: We continue to hold worship online and in person on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. We also continue to post encouragement videos throughout the week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This month, we thank guests who shared with us. Bethany Devine, on staff with NorthEast of the Well, led worship one Sunday. We shared her singing in a couple of encouragement videos. Rev. Tom Fraker shared his testimony with us, and Robbie Robinson preached during worship on Sunday, November 29th. We are grateful for you all!



Getting to Know You, Getting to Know All About You

By: Eleanor Phillips

Here is a little test. Guess True or False.

The answers are at the bottom of the page—don't peek!

1. Wally bought antiques in England.
2. Pastor Jim has an oboe, and Penny has a drum.
3. Isy and Tyler play tennis.
4. Katie Purvis packed oranges.
5. Jeanette Walker went to Sunday School at FCCA.
6. Linda Hill likes geocaching.
7. Dennis Johnson sings karaoke.
8. The fountain on the church property once held goldfish.
9. Pastor Emily plays the ukelele.
10. Robbie worked for the Gas Company.



On the left: Jeanette Walker is the little girl on the far left. The kids are standing in front of the stained glass window in the Griffith House chapel. Eleanor Phillips and her daughter Jeanette were part of the church when it first began in the Griffith House.

Answers: T, T, T, T, T, T, T, T, T, T--All statements are true!

Missions' Corner: Featuring Mary's Kitchen



This month we are highlighting one of our newest missions, Mary's Kitchen in Orange. Back in 2004, Pastors Sandy Freud and Tom Fraker were serving New Faith Fellowship, their former church. They were looking for a local mission to support. An article in the OC Register mentioned the Shoe Drive for Christmas at Mary's Kitchen. It seemed like a perfect fit for their little church and from that Christmas on New Faith Fellowship and senior bowling friends supported Mary's Kitchen every Advent and Lenten Season. Last year during Advent, Pastor Tom brought it to the attention of all of us at FCCA. Through a combination of donations from individuals, the Mission Board, and Tom's bowling friends, a total of \$1435.00 was collected. We hope that during this Advent Season you will consider a mission donation to this wonderful organization. **If you would like to donate this year, please write "Mary's Kitchen" in the memo line on your check and mail it to the church or leave it in the offering on Sunday morning.**



Mary's Kitchen acknowledges the Christian principles upon which it was founded-- including compassion and respect for human dignity. Through volunteers, Mary's Kitchen feeds, clothes and provides services that support and enhance the quality of life for the hungry and homeless.

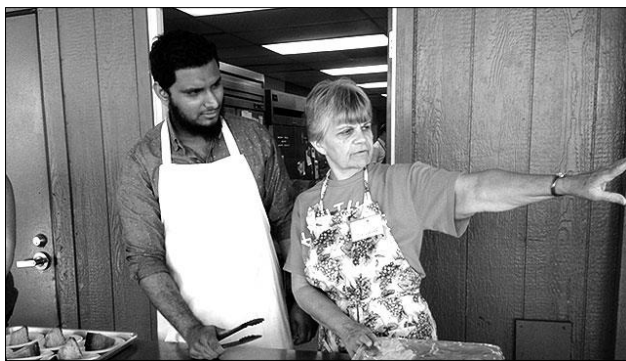
In 1984, an 82-year-old woman named Mary

McAnena found her "calling" and first helped a homeless woman in Hart Park in Orange. "Hart for the People" began with meals prepared in Mary's home that were driven to the park to feed the homeless there. (Continued on next page...)

Mary's Kitchen Continued... It continued there until 1995. When the number of homeless guests reached 200, neighbors in the area complained. With help from the City of Orange, land was leased at 517 W. Struck Ave., and Mary's Kitchen got its new name. Mary's Kitchen receives no state or federal funding. They are supported through individual and company donations. It is a volunteer organization whose aim is to provide compassionate care for the less fortunate of Orange County. All services are conducted in a manner which preserves dignity. This is why those who are assisted are considered guests. 100% of monetary donations maintain the services provided for the guests.



For more than 35 years, the nonprofit has served guests from all over Orange County with hot meals six days a week and with other services. With ongoing planning and adjustments, they continue to serve the homeless despite the coronavirus pandemic. The showers are currently closed due to COVID-19, and for now, all food is boxed in "to go" containers. All those served must wear masks, use hand sanitizer, and enter five at a time for social distancing. All staff wear



gloves, masks, and have their temperatures checked as well. Guests may only come in to pick up the packages and go back outside to eat. Many guests hang around outside until the next meal is provided. Hopefully, they will soon be able to have distanced seating for mealtimes. An electrostatic sprayer was purchased to sanitize everything.

Every Thursday, clothing is distributed. 10 guests are allowed inside at a time for 10 minutes at a time, with a second entry allowed. Rev. Tom Fraker makes regular trips over to Mary's Kitchen with clothing, boxes of non-perishable food, and other donated items. Many of you bring these things to Tom throughout the year. Let's keep Mary's Kitchen in our hearts especially during Advent so we can offer support to this worthwhile local mission at Christmas.



December Birthdays

1-Dec Joshua Williams

4-Dec Maria Doyle

14-Dec David Hoke

17-Dec Ryan Rolnicki

19-Dec Natalie Garis

20-Dec Maria Caicedo

21-Dec Bruce Edwards

23-Dec Vito Di Camillo

25-Dec Schvounder Robinson

27-Dec Cindy Ramsey

28-Dec Stephana Williams

31-Dec Deborah Miller

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.

Christmas 2020 Reflections Continued...

Maybe the Spirit of God is trying to tell us something during this worldwide crisis! For one, we really are all in this together and we need to act like it or we all are in deep trouble! As Francis puts it, "We have to recover the knowledge that as a people we have a shared destination. The pandemic has reminded us that no one is saved alone."

When Jesus came to earth it was a really challenging time in history too. There was poverty, sickness and groups of people judging and mistreating other groups of people. Jesus advocated for purity of heart, earnest faith and acts of justice and kindness. He then offered to help us and said his spirit would live inside so we would be restored and come closer to doing God's will.

So may Christmas 2020 be a time to remember the coming of Christ, what he taught, how he saves and how he can help us express God's love to all. Merry Christmas to you, your family and to all of God's children!

Join us this month for a

Christmas Concert with the 5 Star Band

Sunday, December 20th during 10:30am worship!

*You may join us outside on the lawn or on Facebook Live.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Please consider sponsoring an issue of "The Call".
Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960