



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

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## July



### Happy Fourth of July!

The Montessori Academy of Anaheim put on a wonderful graduation ceremony for the graduating Kindergarteners.

## STAFF

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor  
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor  
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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### IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
July Calendar	2
Church Updates	3
JOG Flyer	4
Missions Corner	5
Birthdays	7



## Being a Christian and Being a Patriotic Citizen

As we approach the 4th of July I've been giving extra thought to what it means to be a person of faith AND a responsible citizen of our beloved country, the United States of America.

This country is the place of our earthly home. A place most of us, or our ancestors, immigrated to, seeking a safe place to build lives and families. Our relationships, struggles and joys have happened here. In school we were taught some of our country's history and values and we may have family members who have given much of themselves in public or military service. All of these things should help us love this country and motivate us to live as good citizens. But we are also people of faith who believe there is a God who created all people everywhere and who cares not just for the USA, but for everyone in every country. Our first allegiance is to God and to spreading the kingdom of God. Jesus, in the story of the woman at the well, emphasized that what God cares about is not what group we belong to but that we worship in spirit and truth. Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippian Christians that our citizenship is in heaven, not on earth.

Patriotism can take many forms. It can be expressed in a form of humble gratitude, recognizing we get to live in this place and want to help it live up to its stated values or it can be expressed in a form that basically says, "I'm better than you and can do whatever I damn well please!" As Christians who love this country and want to be good citizens in it, we should aim, I believe, to filter our concepts of "Good Citizenship" through the lens of what we have been given through Christ.

Such values are:

*Love God with all your heart, soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself.*

*Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.*

*By grace you have been saved.*

*Love others as you have been loved.* (Continued on Page 7)

## Connect

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:30am Sundays  
In Person and on Facebook Live

### Encouragement for Today

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

### Church Facebook Page

"Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim"

### Operation Bless Food Distribution

Operation Bless will now continue once a month. The time will be extended since we are not meeting every other week.

July Date:  
**Wednesday, July 21st**  
**4:30-6:30pm**  
Setup will start at 3:30pm.

### JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

The second Monday of every month, join the guys for lunch, comedy, music and a testimony.  
**Monday, July 12th**  
**12:00-1:30pm**

### Women's Luncheon

Monday, August 2  
11:30-1:00pm

Watch the enews for more information. To sign up for the enews, visit  
[www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org).

### Flowers for the Altar

If you would like to donate fresh flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please contact us. Susan will purchase and arrange flowers for the altar when donations are provided.

**Single Bouquet: \$20**  
**Two Bouquets: \$35**



# FCCA Updates

## Welcome to our New Members!

It was wonderful to welcome new members into our church family on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We briefly introduced each member during worship and then officially welcomed them into the family! After worship, we greeted the new members during an outdoor reception. Welcome to our church family Gini Castellano, Jennifer McGonigle, Connie Phillips, Jerry E Vanderzyl and Virginia Tressler (Associate Membership), Alissa Williams and Anthony Zak!



## Operation Bless Food Distribution

Drive thru for some free food! The food distribution will now be held once a month. The distribution time frame has been extended since we are no longer meeting every other week. Setup starts at 3:30pm and food will be distributed between 4:30 and 6:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, call or email the church office — we would love to get you connected.

**July Distribution: Wednesday, July 21st from 4:30-6:30pm.**

## Montessori Academy of Anaheim Graduation Ceremony

The Montessori Academy of Anaheim had their annual graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. The kids have been working hard and did a great job! Each classroom presented songs and dances, and students from the oldest classroom led the program. The oldest students shared the Pledge of Allegiance, sang the National Anthem and introduced each performance. Pastor Emily passed out the diplomas for the graduating Kindergarteners and Pastor Jim shared a closing prayer. Pastor Emily has enjoyed being with the two older classrooms for Bible lessons and worship songs every Thursday morning.



## JOG Men's Luncheon

### Featuring Guest Speaker, Gerry Morrow



Gerry is the owner of Strategic Management, a consulting firm committed to taking companies to the next level of performance. Gerry has served over 40 years in senior management positions working for and with companies like Foremost-McKesson, the Sunbeam Corporation, and Dun and Bradstreet. He partners with CEOs, Presidents and Boards to help recapture market share, strengthen company culture and increase corporate profitability. Gerry also volunteers his time as a Trusted Advisor for CBMC. Through its Trusted Advisors, CBMC is building a network of companies that desire to build better companies the biblical way.

**When: Monday, July 12th 2021**

12:00 pm - 1:30pm

**Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim**

515 North State College Blvd Anaheim, Ca 92806

(Located one block south of La Palma on the west side of State  
College in the city of Anaheim)

**Cost: \$12**

Plan on enjoying another delicious meal prepared especially,

By: Culinary Chef Jose Ramon Chavez.

Please RSVP via email at [chuck@penningtons-inc.com](mailto:chuck@penningtons-inc.com) or

Call Chuck at 714-350-8983 or Mike Austin at 714-425-2649

# JOG



Of Orange County

Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month

# Missions Corner

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches highlighted two of the missions we support in the June *Congregationalist* magazine. Here are the most recent updates from Christ to the Villages in Nigeria and the Congregational Church of Myanmar.

## CHRIST TO THE VILLAGES, NIGERIA

Pastor Matthew Oladele asks that you pray for wisdom for the leadership of this ministry, safety from all danger and political instability, provision to meet the needs of the mission, divine grace, direction, and divine provisions. Please pray for our faithful staff and that churches will grow in the Lord and all good works. Give thanks to God for the work He is using Christ to the Villages to perform in Nigeria and for all our partners and supporters, God's blessings on them.

The mission has several needs: ♦ A high lumen portable projector that can be used during daytime presentations ♦ Laptop computers ♦ Restroom for Alpha Elementary School Shao ♦ Restroom for Omega High School Shao ♦ Missionary children sponsors ♦ An off-road vehicle (the present one is wearing out and much is being spent on maintenance)



Pastor Matthew, pictured on the left and above with his wife, began a cashew farm to create sustainable income for Christ to the Villages. How much have the cashew trees grown? Well, they are about as tall as Pastor Matthew — 6' 1"!

*The Christ to the Villages Mission ministers to hundreds of persons in the remote villages of central Nigeria. Rev. Solomon Oladele, founder of the mission, was born into an animist family. A group of Missionaries preaching the Gospel message convinced Solomon to become a Christian. Persecuted by both his family and Muslim leaders, he continued in the faith and later answered the Lord's call into full-time ministry. Upon his*



## ***Missions Corner Continued...***

*death, his son, Matthew, became the mission's director. The Mission has 15 village churches which they care for and preaching stations. Seven congregations meet in churches erected with the help of the mission while others meet under the trees.*

## **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MAYANMAR**

From Rev. Sa Do: Due to the political crisis in Myanmar, the Congregational Church of Myanmar Mission has been faced with many unspeakable difficulties which include finances, safety for the workers and mission property, as well as safety for the Grace Children. We are living under the military ruling of martial law. Due to daily demonstrations in Yangon, no one has been able to go outside for work since February. Our small church is a safeguard for some mission



families who have no safety and no food. We are feeding 25-30 members daily. As Myanmar Mission efforts are being served by indigenous missionaries, most are from Chin State. Over 30 Missionaries have gone back to their native land for security reasons. Our Okkan Pastor and his family also moved to a safer place for a while.

The mission needs relief efforts, sponsorship of Grace children, and five mission workers' support. Please pray for our mission families and needs.

*Grace Children's Ministry provides free education and care for needy and orphan children with the Ministry including Gospel Outreach programs, Sunday School and Summer gospel activities. CCM has pre-Primary School with two full-time teachers and two part-time teachers. CCM also has the Grace Children's Home in Yangon where the children attend government schools but the Church provides food and clothing, welfare and care.*

More news can be seen on our website <[www.ccomygracechildrensministry.org](http://www.ccomygracechildrensministry.org)>.





## July Birthdays

- 3 Cynthia Montes
- 8 John Michael Morookian
- 9 Katherine Nguyen
- 9 Christina Ramsay  
Raquel (Rodriguez)
- 12 Wangsness
- 11 Carolyn-Ann Alba
- 11 Carson Parker
- 12 Terri DiCamillo
- 13 Tanya Santos
- 15 Jim Schibsted
- 17 Raul Caicedo
- 19 Jerry VanderZyl
- 21 Jennifer Brunson
- 21 Sophia Morookian
- 22 Teresa Davies
- 22 Christina Alba
- 23 Ramina Swanson
- 24 Ray Craig
- 25 Henry Honaker
- 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 [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com).

(*'Being a Christian and Being a Patriotic Citizen' Continued...*)

The stated values of our country, when lived out in ways that match our higher faith values, are worth doing! So being a community member who looks out for the wellbeing of our neighbors is worth doing. Being a person of justice that seeks to understand the situations of those less fortunate and mistreated is worth doing. Living with a sense of freedom while also being responsible to not hurt others is worth doing. Being humble and caring enough to listen to others about their life experiences and even their different opinions is worth doing. Being informed, even when it has become more difficult to discern between sensationalist opinions and reliable news is worth doing. Honoring what God has created and working to let this amazing place still be habitable to future generations is worth doing. Exercising our faith, believing that God can use us and work all things out for good is also worth doing!

Not too long ago I was listening to a public radio station and heard a man named Eric Liu who started something called Citizen University which attempts to help people become better citizens and wrote a book called Become America; Civic Sermons on Love, Responsibility and Democracy. I thought it was very interesting, bought his book and read portions of it. Liu tells about a community group he and his wife helped get started that made up a pledge which goes, "I pledge to be an active American. To show up for others, To govern myself, To help govern my community. I commit myself to my country's creed: To cherish liberty as a responsibility. I pledge to serve and to push my country: When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be set right. Wherever my ancestors and I were born, I claim America And I pledge to live like a citizen."

In reading this I thought, "This is the type of patriotism that could coexist with living out one's faith in God and Christ." As you celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July I encourage you to consider what it means to be a good citizen of this country and pray God will help all of us learn to be good citizens of heaven while here on earth.

Happy 4th of July!  
Penny Schibsted



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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