



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

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January

Happy NEW YEAR
2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd—Associate Pastor
Susan Fraker—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!"

Reflections on the Past Year

The beginning of each New Year is an interesting and pivotal time. My guess is most of us in one way or another take stock of our lives, reflect upon the past year, and give some consideration to the upcoming year.

The older I get, the more I realize that each New Year is a precious gift from God. Time is one of our greatest gifts. It is not something we earn or create; it is simply God's gift to us. All of life is a gift from God including our health, our relationships, our abilities and talents, our church, our jobs, and our financial resources. This idea of all of life being a gift from God gets to the heart of our faith. God gives us all of these gifts and we are to live in gratitude for the gifts God gives us. It's good to pray, "Lord, how can I best utilize all the gifts you have given me?"

James in his letter to the early church writes: *"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing right."* (James 2:8) How important it is to use the gifts God gives us to help others.

In spite of the pandemic much was accomplished this past year. Here are some of the highlights.....

- Celebrating Eleanor Phillips 99th birthday by paying off the mortgage
- Sinking a well in the Philippines
- Providing groceries to hundreds of families
- Welcoming new members into the church family
- Purchasing and installing a new sound system
- Developing new worship leaders
- Adding more hours to our handyman and custodial staff
- Celebrating 40 years of ministry with our loving congregation
- Hosting 60 weddings at our church
- Watching our JOG (Just Ordinary Guys) ministry grow. We served 93 people at our last meeting.
- Seeing the Women's Group help people in practical ways

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am, Sundays

In Person and on Facebook Live

Encouragement for Today

Pastor Jim, Pastor Emily and friends share short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week on Facebook and Instagram.

Church Social Media Pages

Find us on Facebook at "Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim" or on Instagram under "FCCAnaheim."

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, January 10th

12:00-1:30pm

Guest Speaker, Mark Ayres
\$12, First Time Visitors Free

Operation Bless Food Distribution

Wednesday, January 19th

4:30-6:30pm

*Drive thru for free food from the Food Bank!
Volunteers may arrive at 3:30pm to begin sorting food.

Women's Lunch

Monday, February 7th

11:30-1:00pm

McKenzie Hall

FCCA News

JOG Christmas Special Luncheon

Cece Leyton shared her testimony at the JOG Luncheon with 93 people in attendance. Cece highlighted how Jesus transformed her life, taking away her drive for success and reorienting her priorities back toward the precious relationships in her life. As her own faith grew and developed, she shared about the opportunities God has given her to share her faith with her family, including her brother in jail, and with people she has had the privilege to work with in the fashion industry. The luncheon was wonderful from the beginning to the end with a traditional Christmas meal, good comedy and touching Christmas music.



Grateful for all of you this Christmas and Holiday Season

Thanks to your hard work and donations this year, we were able to host a wonderful Thanksgiving meal on the lawn, we contributed \$1,145 to Mission Ministries Philippines, we enjoyed warm fellowship at the Women's Christmas Lunch, we decorated a Grandma's House of Hope location complete with a live tree, we hosted a meaningful JOG Christmas luncheon (described above), we held a small reflective prayer service in the Griffith House Chapel, and we were able to distribute wooden toys handmade by Carson Davis to the younger kids in the Montessori Academy of Anaheim. It takes a village! Thank you to each one of you for your presence, love, gifts and talents.



Next Operation Bless Food Distribution

Wednesday, January 19th from 4:30-6:30pm (Volunteers may arrive at 3:30pm)

JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Mark Ayres



Mark Ayres was born in Dinuba, CA in 1952. Two weeks after graduating from Glendora High School he enlisted in the US Marine Corp. After tours in Japan and the Philippines, he went to college and became the college pastor at Duarte Fellowship Church. This was followed by three years at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. After graduating with a Master of Divinity he took a position at World Vision.

He and his wife have lived in Southeast Asia since 2008. They lived in Vietnam for five years working with the underground church, helping to install water purification systems in the Mekong Delta. From 2013 to 2020 they lived in Northern Thailand and Myanmar. They are currently preparing to return to Southeast Asia in early 2022.

When: Monday, January 10th, 2022

12:00pm - 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 or
Call Chuck at 714-350-8983 or Mike Austin at 714-425-2649

JOG



Of Orange County

Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions Corner

Grandma's House of Hope: Home for Christmas

We adopted a Grandma's House of Hope location for Christmas. Women donated Christmas decorations for the home at the Women's Christmas Luncheon. Linda Freud, Carol Peterson, Pastor Emily and Ricky then decorated the home we were assigned on Wednesday, December 8th, complete with a live tree. We had initially been assigned a small women's home, but the women in the house felt the Christmas spirit early and had already decorated. We were reassigned a men's home that is part of Grandma's House of Hope (a Grandpa's House). It was nice to have help as soon as we arrived! One man picked the tree up out of the bed of the truck and carried it into the house and another jumped to help Carol clear space to decorate in the kitchen. The men seemed to appreciate the Christmas décor. Thank you to all who donated!



Grandma's House of Hope exists to empower the invisible populations of Orange County. One of their programs is Rescued & Restored Housing through which they provide safe, confidential, emergency and transitional shelter/housing for those who are experiencing homelessness and in need of trauma informed care and support.

Missions Corner Continued...

As you read these recent updates from three missions we support, think of how Christ-like the lives of these missionaries are. They serve those far less fortunate than we can hardly imagine.

They serve humbly as Jesus teaches us to do.

"The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

From Rev. Elvis Sa Do of the Congregational Church of Myanmar

The political unrest is still on-going but the number of Covid cases has been down. Despite many challenges, my wife and our relief team were able to visit the most needy mission families. We shared rice, cooking oil, potatoes, onions, and a small sum of money. We thank God for the people who have been praying for our Mission!

From Rev. Matthew Oladele of Christ to the Villages, Nigeria

The work of Christ to the Villages continues to focus on the daily activities of the three mission schools (Alpha Nursery and Primary Schools and Omega College) and evangelism, visitation and care for the needy. Village outreach gives us joy as it also gladdens the hearts of the villagers. Both young and old are blessed by the word of God that we take to them each time we visit, plus the little material gifts we share.

From Andrew and Karen Bush in Jerusalem

One of the precious people we are honored to have in the East Jerusalem International Church congregation is Sabah, whose name means morning. Sabah is blind and has less than 10 percent of her hearing. She lives alone on the top of the Mount of Olives. On Sundays, using her cane, she walks up the little alley from her home to the street. There we find her patiently waiting for us to pick her up for church. During worship service, she always asks when the offering will occur so she can put in her shekels. She likes to have someone sit next to her during worship. As Karen leads singing, I sometimes have the honor to do so. Sabah is from a Muslim family, but many years ago began to follow Jesus. She is one of the humble people in Jerusalem who is dear to the heart of Jesus. This is the joy of serving here - knowing the sincere brothers and sisters who love the Lord.

Linda Freud, Missions Chair



January Birthdays

- 1-Jan Salend Krishna
3-Jan Rachel Rolnicki
5-Jan Noah Torres
11-Jan Greg Ramsay
13-Jan Francisco Morales
18-Jan Connie Phillips
21-Jan Dennis Johnson
24-Jan Jeffrey Williams
25-Jan Andrew Ramsay
27-Jan Kim Collier

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 Letter Continued...)

Here are some photos from the year highlighting the deep well project, Eleanor's 99th birthday (the day we paid off the mortgage!), church fellowship and service to our neighbors.



I want to thank so many of you for giving your time, talent and finances to our church this past year! Due to the generosity of so many much good was accomplished. Within the next few weeks you will receive a letter regarding your financial contributions during this past year for tax purposes. We will also ask you to consider your commitment to our church for 2022 in terms of time, talent and finances. 2021 was a wonderful year in the life of our church and I am looking forward to 2022.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jim

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