



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

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## February

### Updates and Events

First Congregational Church of Anaheim

See inside for more  
information about our  
upcoming events!

- Women's Lunch
- JOG: Just Ordinary Guys Lunch
- Operation Bless Food Distribution
- Annual Church Meeting
- Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
- Lent Small Group Study



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subscribe to our weekly enews



## STAFF

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



## **“Seeking the Kingdom First”**

Pastor Emily Miller-Todd

Recently, Pastor Jim started a sermon series about finding balance in our lives and in our faith. I spent a couple of Sundays at home with COVID, joining worship through Facebook Live (a blessing I now personally appreciate!). One Saturday evening while I was sick, I found myself struggling to sleep, excited about the changes ahead as an engaged person and also worried about how God might help provide in the midst of these changes. It was a blessing to wake up Sunday morning, watch church on Facebook Live and hear Pastor Jim reminding us all that God loves us and cares for our needs.

Pastor Jim read from Matthew 6: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”* Matthew 6:31-33.

Hearing these words reminded me that as much as I always worry, God consistently provides. I remember first moving to California, unsure where I would live as an intern finishing seminary. (Continued on pg. 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 at “FCCAnaheim.”

### **Women’s Lunch**

Monday, February 7th  
11:30-1:00pm  
McKenzie Hall

### **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

Monday, February 14th  
12:00-1:30pm

Join the guys for music, comedy and a speaker the 2nd Monday of every month. Each month, a different speaker shares how they have encountered Christ in their life.

Cost: \$12

*First-time visitors are free of charge.*

### **Operation Bless Food Distribution**

Wednesday, February 16th  
4:30-6:30pm

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

### **FCCA Annual Church Meeting**

Sunday, February 27th

*Meeting to follow worship*

Please plan to stay, receive reports from council members and vote on council members and a budget for the next 12 months.



# FCCA News

## Women's Lunch

***Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00pm***

Staff from NorthEast of the Well's ministry will join us to share about their Friday evening outreach to women. NorthEast has been learning about human trafficking for a couple of years now, and their goal on Friday evenings is to bless and show care to women where they are. They take simple gift bags to give away when they go. Our goal is to provide 20 gift bags for NorthEast to take with them after our luncheon. If you would like to contribute financially to the gift bags, anything helps! You may give during worship or online and mark your offering "NorthEast" so that we know to direct your gift towards this project.

## Operation Bless Food Distribution

***Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm***

\*Volunteers are welcome to arrive at 3:30pm to begin sorting food.

The Nath family brought fresh produce for the distribution in January! Thanks to their generosity, we were able to enjoy and share red grapefruit, pomelos, tangelos and oranges.



## FCCA Annual Congregational Meeting

***Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> following worship***

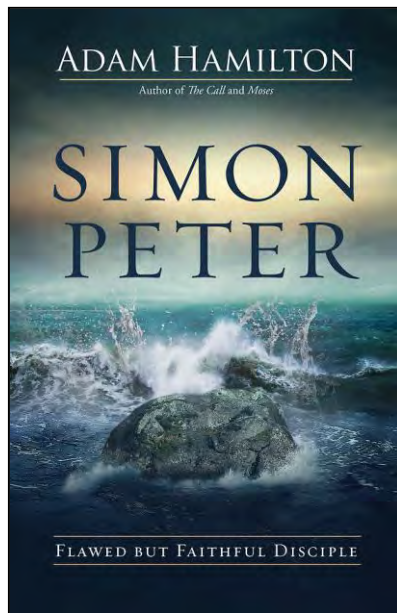
We typically host an annual congregational meeting for the church to vote on new council members and a budget for the upcoming year. We also share reports with the congregation from each council member and committee chair. Last year, we did not host the annual meeting due to the chaos of the pandemic. We are looking forward to meeting at the end of this month. Please join us as we reset and plan for the next 12 months in the life of our church.

# FCCA News Continued...

## Ash Wednesday Prayer Service

*Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-10:00am in Griffith House Chapel*

Come begin the Lenten Season with a time of prayer and reflection. Ash Wednesday begins a 40 day journey walking with Jesus through his ministry, toward the cross and ultimately toward the celebration of His resurrection.



## Lenten Small Groups

*Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45pm (March 8<sup>th</sup> - April 12<sup>th</sup>)*

*or Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15pm (March 9<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>)*

We are starting a 6-week small group study on the disciple, Simon Peter! We hope this will offer a meaningful opportunity to walk closely with Jesus and his disciple leading up to Easter.

**Study Description:** "Simon Peter – an ordinary fisherman who heard an extraordinary call. He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and

fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today." *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton

**Cost:** \$14 for a book; (Kindle versions are currently \$9.30)

*Please do not let cost deter you, the church is happy to help.*

## Property Updates

We thank Jim Taylor and Robert Siow for finishing and installing a new door for the Griffith House! Jim Taylor also worked with Fernando Diaz to build a new short wall around the playground beside McKenzie Hall.



# Just Ordinary Guys

Featuring Guest Speaker, John Blandford



John was born in Baltimore in 1964. After graduating from the University Maryland and watching one too many Rose Bowls, he moved to San Diego with a couple of friends from college. He moved to the South Bay in the late '90s and currently lives in Redondo Beach. He got married in 2006 and has a 14-year-old daughter. He started following Christ in 2001 after experiencing a radical 'Damascus Road' type of experience. He later interrupted his business career by working in ministry for about six years and served as a part-time youth pastor for 17 years. He is amazed by and

eternally grateful for the grace of God. John completely relates with the guy in the gospel of Mark who said "I do believe, Lord, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

**When: Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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



Of Orange County

**Just Ordinary Guys**

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



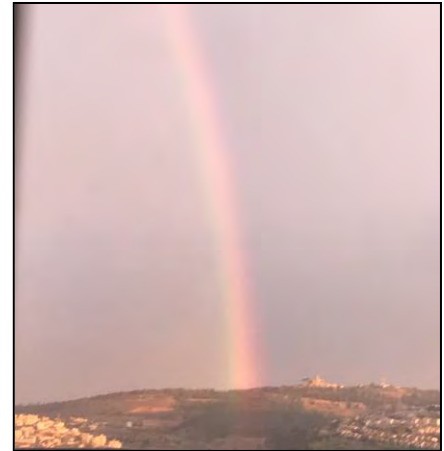
# Missions Corner

*We would love to welcome some new members to serve on our Missions Board! If you are interested, please call our Missions Chair, Linda Freud, at (714) 482-6980.*

*Below, we hope you enjoy a section of our most recent newsletter from Andrew and Karen Bush.*

## Dear Friends -

Greetings from Bethlehem! ***"May the God of hope..."*** This truly describes our God! The Lord lifts our hearts with the expectation of good things to come in this world and the next. Jesus said, **"I have come that you might have life..."** (Photo: a picture taken of a rainbow over Jerusalem.)



**We begin this new year with renewed hope.** Families of the East Jerusalem International Church are regathering from their international travels during the holidays. This fresh start also brings some new members to the church family. We are looking forward to meeting Temu Kemendi's wife and children. Temu, who is from Tanzania, has been trying to obtain visas for his family to enter Israel since last summer. They finally received them! Our goal as a church is to be an oasis of spiritual encouragement for those living or visiting Jerusalem, such as Temu and his family.

International Christians enjoy the freedom of being exempt from much of the inter-communal tensions here. Local Palestinian Christians do not have that privilege. The son of the president of Bethlehem Bible College and his friend were attacked recently by religious extremists in the center of Jerusalem as they were on their way home from university. As a result of such experiences, which regularly occur, Christians, who are only about 1% of the population, continue to emigrate to nations that offer a more positive and prosperous way of life. Christians in the Holy Land need prayer and encouragement.

Today I met with a group of Palestinian and international Christians and three rabbis to discuss and pray about the persecution Christians are experiencing, especially in Jerusalem. The outcome was a decision to double our efforts to meet to build bridges of understanding, and to speak to the Israeli government about this wherever there are open doors.



## February Birthdays

1-Feb Rolf Rolnicki  
6-Feb Aidan von Grabow  
7-Feb Ronda Rolnicki  
8-Feb Twana Marderos  
12-Feb Laura Doeschot  
13-Feb Carson Davis  
15-Feb Alpana Krishna  
16-Feb David Rider  
17-Feb Lori Rider  
18-Feb Bill Wilson  
18-Feb Miranda Brunson  
20-Feb Christian Galindo  
22-Feb Candace Vallarta  
22-Feb Joana Rodriguez

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).

**("Seeking the Kingdom" Continued...)** I had very little money and it was impossible to pay for rent at the time. Pastor Jim had faith God would provide, and I leaned on his faith and my own. Coming to Anaheim felt right. I temporarily stayed with Pastor Jim and Penny while other options were considered. My first Sunday at the church, Jim Taylor approached Pastor Jim and mentioned that he had a neighbor with an open room. Her granddaughter had recently moved out, and her daughters were hoping for another person to move in. Within the week, I had a home. It was a blessing to enjoy the warmth of Ruth's home and presence as I began my life in California. When it came time for the situation to change, the church had more flexibility financially and God provided another unique living situation that fit my means. Each step, I have seen God's hand at work, guiding and providing. Sometimes it is obvious when God has provided, and other times it takes patience to look back and see that in fact God was there.

I can see God's hand continually providing for the needs of this church. It was a blessing to have fresh produce brought over by the Nath family for the food distribution in January. Salend Krishna and Mike Villa-Real have continued working to improve and expand our abilities for Sunday morning worship online. Jim Taylor, Fernando Diaz and Robert Siow finished a new door for the Griffith House and replaced parts of the short wall around the playground beside the hall this month. God continues to provide for our needs, and God continues to help us look outward for ways to bless our local and international neighbors.

As our Annual Church Meeting approaches, we will be looking at the past year and planning for the year ahead. This can be exciting and stressful as life continues to change for our church, just like it changes for our personal lives. May we collectively find comfort and inspiration in the scripture from Matthew: *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* Pray with us this month as we celebrate all that God has provided and as we plan for the year ahead. May we seek first God's Kingdom.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Emily



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