



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

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March

Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2) and lasts the 40 weekdays leading up to Easter. Lent commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert before his adult ministry began.



STAFF

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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

“Sending Aid to Ukraine – Trusting God in the Wilderness”

It's tough to trust in God's faithfulness at times. I received a message from a friend of mine who married Elena, a woman from Ukraine a few years ago. He writes, *“Elena got up this morning to see videos of the city where she lived being shelled, her apartment in the picture and people from her neighborhood dead on the ground. Almost hysterical, it took me a while to calm her down. I couldn't get her away from the computer, she took the day off her work, she continues to look for the victories of her people (there are many), these are the only things holding her together for now.”*

Nobody expected the blitzkrieg/war to last more than a day, but it has lasted 5 days so far and Russia so far is no closer to their goals than day 1. Yes we are hoping/praying that Russia surrenders unconditionally, even Putin's own people are beginning to understand he is mad. Many of the Russian soldiers have already surrendered, they say they did not know they were being sent to Ukraine until they were already there and don't want any part of it.”

These are very difficult times for the people of Ukraine. But it's in the wilderness when the trail is hard to follow that we learn to trust God. Jesus reminds his hearers in Luke 10:27, *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength; and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”* During this Lenten season as a church, we are collecting funds to help refugees fleeing Ukraine into neighboring countries. Send your check to FCCA and mark it “Ukraine.” We will send these funds to a reputable Christian organization currently working with refugees. It is a privilege to help those in need as we try to love our neighbor as our self.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jim

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

Find us on Facebook at “Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim” or on Instagram at “FCCAnaheim.”

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, March 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

**To resume the third Wednesday of April*

Small Groups

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45pm

(March 8th - April 12th)

or

Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15pm

(March 9th - April 13th)

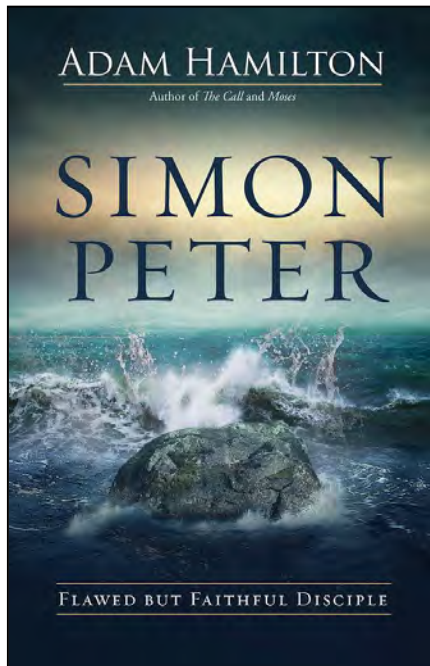
We are starting a 6-week small group study on the disciple, Simon Peter! We hope this will offer a meaningful opportunity to walk closely with Jesus and his disciple leading up to Easter. See the insert for more information.

FCCA News

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday (March 2nd) to Easter Sunday

It was good to begin the Lenten Season with a time of prayer and reflection in the Griffith House Chapel. Lent is the season between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It is 40 days (not counting Sundays) that is observed in remembrance of the 40 days that Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness before the start of his ministry. It is 40 days when the church is invited to fast and prepare for Easter, when we celebrate that Jesus is risen! Some individuals choose to give something up (fast) during the season of Lent. Fasting from something like coffee, dessert, television or social media may serve as a reminder that our life ultimately comes from God. It may also serve as a reminder to take time each day to pray, study the Bible, read a devotional or be intentional about our relationship with God and neighbor in a meaningful way.



Lenten Small Groups

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:45pm (March 8th - April 12th) or

Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15pm (March 9th - April 13th)

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.

FCCA News Continued...

Easter and Holy Week Calendar

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 10th; 10:45am Worship

After worship we will have a cake to celebrate Eleanor Phillips' 100th birthday!

Maundy Thursday Candlelight Service

Thursday, April 14th

7:00pm in the Griffith House Chapel

Easter Morning Worship

Sunday, April 17th; 10:45am Worship

We will have an Easter Breakfast before worship!



Women's Lunch

At the February Women's Lunch, it was moving to hear NorthEast of the Well staff share about their outreach to women who are victims of human trafficking. We provided



NorthEast with 20 small gift bags to take with them when they go out on the streets on Friday evenings. If you would like to support this ministry further, below are ways you may volunteer. Please contact Pastor Emily in the church office if you are interested in getting involved – (714) 776-0960 or fccaoffice@gmail.com.

- **Contribute baked goods** (NE sees 40-50 women per week)
- **Volunteer to place stickers with emergency phone numbers on soaps or makeup remover wipes** (these are given to hotels and motels in high traffic areas)
- **Connect with Pastor Emily to participate in a training.** NorthEast of the Well would be happy to teach a training class at our church if there are women who would like to learn more about human trafficking.

JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Deborah Pauly



Deborah is a summa cum laude graduate from Southern Illinois University. For more than a decade, she has been a popular speaker known for her honesty and for her common-sense approach to current issues. She was a candidate appearing on the June 2016 ballot for California State Assembly, District 68, after having concluded her second 4-year term as councilwoman for the city of Villa Park. Deborah lives her life shaped by the living Word of the Lord. *"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"* Hebrews 4:12.

When: Monday, March 14th, 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 Alex, owner of Party Pasta.

Please RSVP via email at 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 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions Corner

One of our local missions, Grandma's House of Hope, has sent out a plea for help. One of their programs is called NANA'S KIDZ. Since 2007, this program has been providing healthy meals to children and families living in motels, low-income housing or experiencing homelessness, on weekends and during school breaks. Many kids rely heavily on school cafeterias for their primary source of nutritional food, therefore they struggle on non-school days. This is a critical need as children, particularly teens, are likely to hide their hunger rather than face public embarrassment. Since COVID-19, the need has skyrocketed. They now find their pantry bare and basic food items are needed. Your Mission Board will have a box outside the sanctuary starting March 6th to collect donations throughout the month of March. Please bring whatever you can to help us fill the box and help replenish the NANA'S KIDZ pantry.



Nana's Kidz Urgent Food Drive

More than 20 percent of children living in Orange County – roughly **153,490 kids** – **are living in households that are considered “food insecure.”** 49% are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school meals. Many times, these children go to bed or to school hungry. Our Nana’s Kidz Food Distribution program helps lift that burden for 3,500 children each year.

Most Needed Items

****NO GLASS – Single Serving microwavable options are preferred****

Mac and Cheese Cups
Canned meat (tuna, chicken)
Cup of Soup/Noodles
1lb bag or box of pasta
Canned Pasta Sauce

Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Box Multi-pack Oatmeal Packets
Meals-in-One (Soup, Chili, canned pasta meal)
Snacks (granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks)



March Birthdays

2-Mar Linda Freud
3-Mar Samuil Stanev
11-Mar Patty Todd
11-Mar Doug Ramsey
12-Mar Rishon Krishna
12-Mar Kevin Rapp
13-Mar Jim Weddell
24-Mar La Nona Hoke
25-Mar Rick Sudik
26-Mar Noel Hummel
28-Mar Rachel Haas
30-Mar Bev Aye

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.

We held our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday, February 27th. Below is a section of the report shared by our Moderator, Cheryl Cook.

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear Church Family,

It has been a challenging two years...I am so thankful for the talented members that were able to get us up and on Facebook so we could watch from home [during COVID]...As soon as we were able we started having services outside, and this allowed us to at least see one another. Eventually we were able to have services inside again while seated 6 feet apart and wearing our masks... The generosity of the members and those who were watching online gave us the ability to "keep the doors open" so to speak. Along with the assistance we were able to apply for, we stayed the course. And through all of this we were able to pay off our mortgage and keep the lights on...

I want to make sure that you all know that I have my personal hero in Mike Villa-Real, as he stepped up and took over for me as the moderator of the Church Council this year when I was not able. He has a full-time job, runs the sound system, and assists with the weddings among many other ways that he lends his talents to the church.

Now on a personal note to all of you, you have been my strength and prayer warriors for the last year as I have been fighting my battle with breast cancer. All of the phone calls, cards of well wishes and prayers have given me the strength that has kept me going. To have a church family that loves on one another the way that we do is so amazing and my mere words can never express my undying gratitude for all of you. I have complete faith that with the support of the church and God walking through this battle with me that I will win. I have held tight to Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* As you are reading this I will have had my PET Scan on the 22nd and will be waiting for the results on March 2nd to tell me that I am cancer free. (At our Annual Meeting, Cheryl announced that she is cancer free!)

In closing to each member of the council that volunteers their time, and does so much work behind the scenes, you have my deepest heartfelt gratitude. And to all of you who do so much that I can't even begin to list, I love you for your generosity and for the love that you show to one another. You are all shining examples of what makes the church a church.

Thank you and God bless you all, Cheryl Cook

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

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