

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM
515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806
Phone 714-776-0960 email fccaooffice@gmail.com
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The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



“To Discover and Grow in God’s Grace and Love”

Vol. 378 No. 5

Published Monthly

May 1, 2025



May Events

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

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JOG Luncheon



Featuring Guest Speaker, Travis Parsons

“I am about my Father’s business.”

Meet Travis Parsons, the son of Sam Parsons. Seven years ago, we enjoyed a full house to listen as Sam shared his amazing life story just days before he succumbed to pancreatic cancer. Beautifully, Travis has followed in his dad’s footsteps keeping the “Good News Ministries” alive and well. Travis is the worship leader at Calvary Chapel Old Towne Orange and active in many outreach ministries. Be blessed by joining us to hear Travis’s music and testimony.



When: Monday, May 12th , 2025
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 First time visitors: Free

Enjoy the music, as well as the humor from football coach, Tom Meiss. There will be an excellent meal and good fellowship. **Please RSVP** via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or call Chuck at 714-350-8983

Mission Corner (cont. from page 3)

If life becomes unlivable, they leave. In the last year, two hundred Christian families left Bethelhem. We conveyed that if the Christian community collapses entirely, it will be chaos in Palestinian society. So, we are doing what we can to raise awareness of the Palestinian Christian plight.

We are in a ministry phase called ‘itinerant missionaries’ in missions’ lingo. We have a home in Pennsylvania near family, but we are more than fully engaged in our mission in Israel/Palestine, the Philippines, and the US.

Also, whether in the States or overseas, our snail mail newsletters will always be sent from within the US. Our last newsletter from Jerusalem was in June because the price of one Israeli airmail stamp to the US has increased to \$4.00!

Thank you for your partnership in the Lord's work and our call to make Christ's servanthood known to all. Your love and faithfulness have sustained us. With love always-

Andrew and Karen

Mission Corner

This month for the Mission Corner, I am sharing the most recent newsletter from Rev. Andrew and Karen Bush and their mission in the Middle East, received right before Easter. This is my first opportunity to include it in The Call. Some recent updates and information about the ongoing conflict in Gaza, and how it even affects Christians in the area, are included. I think you will find it quite interesting. We need to continue to pray for this conflict to be resolved.

Linda Freud and the Missions Board

They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' John 12:13

Dear Friends,
Palm Sunday is a good time to praise the Lord this coming Sunday. Despite the difficulties of our times, there are successes along the way.



Our work in the Middle East is multifaceted. We continue to pastor the online congregation of the East Jerusalem International Church, lead their weekly international online service, offer administrative help to the church, and more. (We receive no financial reimbursement from the church.) Our online congregation comprises people with some linkage to the church or Bethlehem Bible College. During the war, this has been important support to those who struggled to have hope for a better day. We pray together every Saturday.

We are trying to stand with the six-hundred Christians in Gaza who remain sheltered in the two historic churches. It has been a blessing to be a conduit of help to Gazan friends we know, such as Shady and Ghada Najar, who have escaped that catastrophe. The way out has been closed for months now. We are so glad our friends got out when they could. Many churches are surprised to learn that there are Christians in Gaza.

Then, in the Palestinian Territories, we continue to help lead people into a deeper understanding of peacemaking, encourage the local Christians by walking by their side, and more. We will travel to Bethlehem in May to lead a two-week training course.

In the States, we continue to speak widely and often. On Thursday, April 3, Karen and I visited Speaker of the House Mike Johnson’s office in the Capitol Building to confer with his staff about the distress of the Palestinian Christians. Even though Palestinian Christians comprise only 1% of the population on the West Bank, they have a much more significant role than that would convey. Through churches, hospitals, schools, NGOs, and businesses, Palestinian Christians employ almost one-third of the people on the West Bank.

(Cont. on page 6)



Celebrating Easter and Maundy Thursday in Photos



A Joyful Easter Celebration to Remember!



Pastor Jim Schibsted

This Easter our church had the honor of hosting a truly special celebration that brought together multiple congregations in a beautiful display of unity, joy, and faith. With hearts filled with gratitude, friends and families from various churches joined together for heartfelt worship and fellowship as we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus and the new life he offers.

The morning began with an Easter breakfast which did not disappoint! Thanks to the willing hands of volunteers, we enjoyed an incredible spread of homemade tamales, ham sliders, fresh fruit and pastries. Fellowship around the table was marked with animated conversation delicious food. For the children, the Easter festivities were filled with bright smiles, laughter and energy! The Easter egg hunt and bounce house were huge hits.

In the sanctuary, wonderful worship was experienced as we were led by gifted musicians and singers from many cultures. Each group brought its own style and passion, lifting spirits high and filling the sanctuary with powerful praise. The heartfelt sermon of hope by Pastor Samuel with translation by Pastor Susana reflected the spirit of inclusion and unity that defined the day. It was moving to see people from so many backgrounds together as one family in the body of Christ.

(Cont. on page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for Kids
Children are welcome to leave with the teachers before the sermon, and meet in the first room of the Griffith House. .

Staff

Dr. Jim Schibsted — Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Raasch — Assoc. Pastor
Susan Fraker — Office Assistant
Tyler Robinson — Music Director
Angella Kissoon — Accountant
Linda Freud — Missions
Chuck Pennington — J.O.G.
Sandy Costa — Montessori Dir.

Other Ways to Connect

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

FCCA email:
fccaoffice@gmail.com

FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
Monday, May 12, 2025
12-1:30 p.m. (see page 6)

JUST FOR FUN!



Moses

A	E	T	N	E	M	D	N	A	M	O	C	L
E	B	U	R	N	I	N	G	P	I	L	L	A
A	O	R	P	N	S	L	S	M	A	N	N	A
L	E	E	T	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	N	M
T	L	L	T	D	M	S	V	R	A	A	R	D
N	N	I	P	P	O	E	X	O	D	U	S	I
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E	R	H	R	R	E	R	A	D	M	O	S	A
V	O	S	O	S	R	I	O	R	Y	T	L	E
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P	E	L	D	F	F	O	R	T	Y	O	I	T
X	T	G	B	F	S	D	E	S	E	R	T	E

TABLETS
PLAGUES
HANNA
PROPHET
FREEDOM
PHAROAH
PROMISE
FORTY
PILLAR
IDOLS
LEADER
STAFF
COVENANT
ROD
BUSH
COMMANDMENT
DESERT
ISRAELITE
EXODUS
BURNING

A Joyful Easter Celebration to Remember! (cont. from page 1)

I am so grateful our facilities are used to create a sacred space for faith, joy and fellowship as together we worship the Risen Christ. I want to offer my deepest gratitude to every volunteer who made this day a reality; those who set up, decorated, cooked, cleaned, sang, prayed, worked the audio visual, led worship, translated, hid eggs and supervised children. Because of you this truly was an Easter celebration to remember!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jim

Welcome Dr. George Wood

Welcome to Dr. George Wood, who will be speaking on Sunday mornings while Pastors Jim and Emily are away. Dr. George Wood has been a pastor and/or missionary for over 55 years. Like Caleb in the Old Testament, however, he still feels young and is ready to go wherever God leads and do whatever the Lord would have him do.

May 18 Come and See Jesus Selected texts
May 25 Trusting Jesus Proverbs 3:5-6
June 1 Fixing Your Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:1-2



Birthdays

3-May Diego Zavala
3-May Daniel Hoke
5-May Carlos Luquez
9-May LaneII O'Neill
11-May Dawn Hoffmann
14-May Cheryl Cook
15-May Rick Raasch
15-May Jayden Krishna
23-May Isy Martin
25-May Eliza Samson
26-May Maggie Santos
29-May Gini Castellano
29-May Jasmine Williams

Welcome *Our Newest* Birthday

