

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
ANAHEIM



The  
Call

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

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# April



## Easter Celebrations!

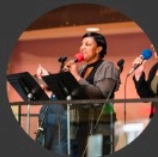
Sunday, April 9th



9:30am  
Breakfast



Bounce House  
for the kids



10:45am  
Worship



Easter Egg  
Hunt

First Congregational Church of Anaheim

## STAFF

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor  
Rev. Emily Raasch—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!"*

## **A Letter from Penny Schibsted**

Today I read some interesting things about Easter. Easter is celebrated on different days different years because it is the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. Did you know that? Well now you do!

It is interesting how the holiday of Easter got started. Celebrations of the spring equinox were already occurring in many cultures, especially ones north of the equator where getting a little more daylight was so desired! Such celebrations were going on long before Jesus was on earth and when Christianity was introduced in these places it worked out to celebrate his resurrection along with the celebrations of Spring.

Pastor Jim and I were fortunate to visit Ireland prior to an International Congregational Fellowship meeting in England back in 2013. There we took a tour with a wonderful guide who explained why celebrations of the spring equinox and summer solstice were so important in Ireland. The growing season for plants was short, and to survive communities needed enough sunshine. The beginning of spring when plants could possibly begin to grow food was a life or death matter. Summer solstice, when daylight is longest, was also cherished and celebrated.

On our tour we went to a place called New Grange; a remarkable large structure built 500 years before the Egyptian pyramids! It was built in such a way that sunlight fills the place for 4 days only, right at the winter solstice! Various sites built around the summer or winter solstice are all over Ireland and show how important sunlight and cycles of nature were to these people. *(Continued on Page 7)*

## **Connect**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

***10:45am on Sundays***

Join us in person or online! You may join worship live at 10:45am on Facebook. Worship is also uploaded to our YouTube channel for you to watch during the week.

### **Connect Online**

**Facebook:** Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

**YouTube:** First Congregational Church of Anaheim

**Instagram:** FCCAnaheim

**Website:** [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org)

### **NorthEast of the Well**

***Every Monday, 6-8pm***

**Dinner:** 6pm, Hall

**Worship:** 6:45pm, Sanctuary

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

***Monday, April 10th***

12:00-1:30pm, \$12 for lunch

### **Easter and Holy Week**

**Maundy Thursday Service:**

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
Griffith House Chapel

**Easter Morning (April 9<sup>th</sup>):**  
9:30am Breakfast & Bounce  
House

10:45am Worship

\*An **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held during Sunday School.

# FCCA Updates & Events

## **Holy Week and Easter!**

### **Maundy Thursday Service:**

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

Griffith House Chapel

### **Easter Morning (Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>):**

9:30-10:30am Breakfast

- *During breakfast, there will be a **bounce house** for the kids to enjoy!*
- *Stop by the flagpole if you would like to help with the flower cross.*

10:45am Worship

*\*An **Easter egg hunt** will be held during Sunday School. Kids are welcome to leave for Sunday School right before the sermon.*



## **65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser for Children's Ministry**

We passed our goal! We raised \$4,080 for our children's ministry! Leading up to the church's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we held a fundraiser called "Put Your Mug on the Mug." Those who participated will be receiving a church mug with their photo on it along with photos of the congregation and the church property. Gifts above \$15 were matched and given to our children's ministry. Thanks to your gifts, we are now offering Sunday School every Sunday! Please keep our ministry in prayer as we continue to watch for and step into God's leading.

## **Sunday School Update: Offered Every Sunday!**

We are excited to offer Sunday School every Sunday! Penny Schibsted, Linda Freud and Jasmine Scott will alternate as leaders. Susan Cannady will continue to assist, and we have two new assistants who will be stepping in once a month: Andrew Donahue and Cindy Hamann! We are so grateful to have a team of people pouring into our kids. ***Children who would like to participate in Sunday School are welcome to leave with the teachers before the sermon. Sunday School is held in the first room of the Griffith House (the couch room).***

# JOG: Just Ordinary Guys Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Andy Falco Jimenez



Andy is an author, broadcaster, former Anaheim police officer, and so much more. Andy has appeared on every major television station as a court-recognized expert in police tactics and police K9 and detection dogs. In 1990, Andy testified as an expert in a narcotics detection case in Los Angeles Federal Court. Since that case, he continues to be sought after in cases of all types involving dogs, such as the excessive use of force, slip and fall cases, and pit-bull fight rings. He has now testified and reviewed cases throughout the United States. He currently hosts two shows and podcasts called the “The Andy Falco Show” and the “Fearless Man.” Come and hear how Christ motivates and inspires Andy.

**When: Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

12:00pm – 1:30pm

**Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim**

515 North State College Blvd.; Anaheim, Ca 92806

**Cost: \$12**

Enjoy the music of singer and guitar player Bob Goodrich, as well as the humor from Normandy Veteran, Jack Gutman, and football coach, Tom Meiss. We have an excellent meal planned, and tables are always filled with good fellowship.

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: An Update From Linda Freud, Mission Chair

Last month I highlighted one of our oldest supported international missions, Mission Ministries Philippines. This month I will highlight one of our newest supported local missions, Grandma's House of Hope.

Grandma's House of Hope has offered essential housing, food and support to thousands of children, adults and families in Orange County over the last 18 years. In 2004, Je'net Kreitner's strong faith led her to open up her own home to provide



emergency shelter for women experiencing trauma and abuse. Since then, the mission has continually expanded programs to bring even deeper healing to the community and to empower the invisible populations of Orange County. In 2022 they housed 291 participants in the Rescued and Restored housing program, provided 319,000 meals to hungry children and families in their Nana's Kidz program, and supported 50 at risk children each month with after school enrichment in their Hope Works! program.

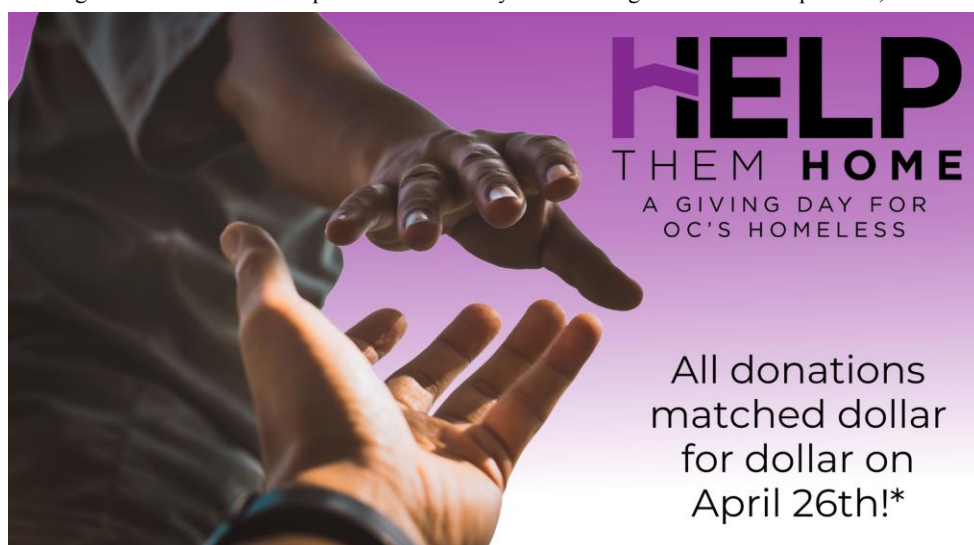
The last three years of the COVID pandemic and its aftermath have been devastating for individuals and families in the community. These years have also been financially challenging for Grandma's House of Hope, as community needs have grown while available funding sources have diminished. As a result, **Grandma's House of Hope Board has made the heart-wrenching decision to scale back their programming due to budgetary constraints. They will concentrate their resources on the Rescued and Restored Housing Program, which is their largest program. This requires pausing both Nana's Kidz Hunger Prevention Program and Hope Works! Education and Enrichment Program.**

As they move forward, they will work to renew existing funding, cultivate new sources of funding, strengthen their staff and Board, nurture new community partnerships and build a strong foundation for the future. They hope to restart the Nana's Kidz Program in the future, though they don't have a specific timeline mapped out at this point. This is a big change, but the Board is deeply committed to Grandma's House of Hope and its mission. They are optimistic for the future and thank everyone for continued support as they work through this difficult transition.

*(Missions' Corner Continued...)* One way you can offer support for Grandma's House of Hope is through a special fund-raising drive on April 26<sup>th</sup>. All donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$35,000 on this date. The flyer that we received is included below. I recommend you go to their website located at [grandmashouseofhope.org](http://grandmashouseofhope.org) and click on Help Them Home – 4/26 to donate, if possible, to this valuable mission. Your Mission Board will also be making a donation from FCCA on this date.

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40*

A huge thanks to A Little Help Foundation! They are matching all donations \*up to \$35,000!



## April 26th!

Grandma's House of Hope—in collaboration with 25 other nonprofits—is part of a movement to help our unhoused neighbors have a home. In order for this 24-hour online fundraiser to succeed, we need your help.

Every dollar of our \$80,000 goal will directly support the mission to empower the invisible populations of Orange County!

- 1) Become a champion:** Set-up your own campaign page and ask friends and family to contribute to the cause. Email [ctosello@grandmashouseofhope.org](mailto:ctosello@grandmashouseofhope.org) and we will walk you through the quick process.
- 2) Become a matching sponsor:** If your business would like to talk to us about getting their name out to our 10,000 supporters, email [ctosello@grandmashouseofhope.org](mailto:ctosello@grandmashouseofhope.org).
- 3) Pledge a donation now or set a reminder** in your calendar to donate on April 26th.



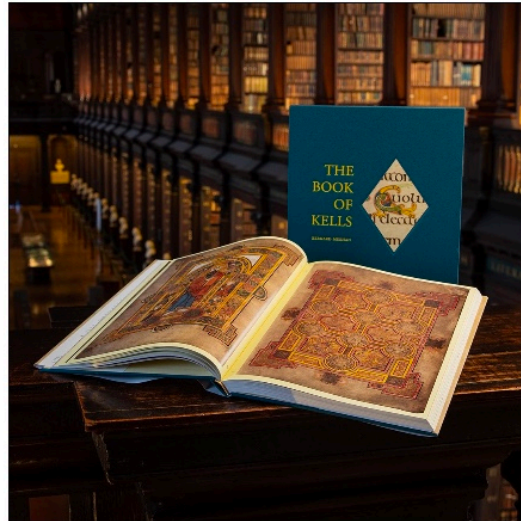
## April Birthdays

- 5-Apr David Haas
- 5-Apr Diana Zavala
- 6-Apr Dick Purvis
- 8-Apr Sean Sham
- 10-Apr Eleanor Phillips
- 12-Apr Mike Austin
- 13-Apr Jim Taylor
- 16-Apr Rev. Sandy Freud
- 17-Apr Zenaida Reyes
- 20-Apr Leslie Nelis
- 29-Apr Jim Frannea

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).

### *A Letter from Penny Schibsted Continued...*

On our Ireland tour we also heard about and were able to actually see the Book of Kells at Trinity College in Dublin. The Book of Kells is an illuminated manuscript of the four gospels of the Christian New Testament that dates back to 800 AD. The illustrations are beautiful and were likely very meaningful to the masses of people who couldn't read but who could understand a good story with pictures. The pictures made use of light and growing plants while also telling the gospel.



Easter is a celebration of new life, of hope after darkness and death. In our Christian faith we celebrate Christ's resurrection and the new life He can create within us. We have a faith that claims Creator God not only set in motion amazing physical life, but also restores spiritual life. We can invite the spirit of Jesus within and allow God to renew us! We can celebrate this life!

So enjoy the beautiful Spring we are having here in Southern California and come to church on Easter Sunday, April 9th, to enjoy a good breakfast starting at 9:30am and a worship service at 10:45am. Children will have Sunday School complete with an Easter Egg Hunt and a bounce house too.

Happy Easter!  
Penny Schibsted

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.  
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