

# The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



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

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## April Events

**Women’s Lunch**

**JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

**Small Group Study**

**Choir Rehearsals**

**Easter Celebration**



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“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

# Anticipating Easter - Rev. Emily Raasch



Thank you all for your prayers and support during my pregnancy. It is hard to believe that the due date is rapidly approaching! Imagining our son's presence in the world provides comfort as we also face the anxieties that come with delivery and new parenthood. Jesus reminded the disciples of this time in a woman's life as he prepared the disciples for his death and resurrection:

*<sup>19b</sup> [Jesus] said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? <sup>20</sup> Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. <sup>21</sup> A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. <sup>22</sup> So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. John 16:19b-22*

The joy of Easter comes with the grief of the cross. In our church small group study, we have spent time contemplating the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. It is gut-wrenching to consider the rejection and torture Jesus faced. It reminds me that sin is a powerful force that works against life. Sure, we may not witness or take part in physical torture in our daily lives here in America.

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## Connect

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

**Sunday School for Kids**  
Sunday School meets in the Griffith House during worship. Kids may go to Sunday School with the teachers before the message.

**Small Groups**  
**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**  
"24 Hours That Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton  
A 7-Week Study  
Meeting Thru April 2nd

### **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](http://www.fcca.org)

**FCCA email**  
[fccaoice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoice@gmail.com)

**FCCA Office Phone**  
714-776-0960

**JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**  
**Monday, April 14, 2025**  
12-1:30 p.m. (see page 4)

**Women's Lunch**  
**Monday, April 7, 2025**  
11:30 a.m. (see page 4)

**Easter Choir Rehearsals**  
**Sundays, 9 a.m.**  
Church Office  
If you love to sing, join the Easter choir!





# He is Risen!

## Celebrate Easter with Us!

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Maundy Thursday, April 17

Join us in the Griffith House Chapel at 7:30 p.m.  
as we share in Communion.



## Easter Sunday, April 20th

9:30—10:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Bounce House for the Kids

10:45am

Worship Service

Easter Egg Hunt

(Children will be excused before the message)

**We look forward to having breakfast and worship alongside other congregations that share our property each Sunday!**

# J.O.G. Just Ordinary Guys

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## Heaven's Heart Is Second Chances

You're invited to come hear Jason Dearing, our guest J.O.G. speaker for April. He will tell his story of grace and redemption beginning at the tender age of ten when he dreamt of becoming a major league baseball player. Proverbs 16:9 became a life verse early in life.

"In his heart a man plans his course but the Lord determines his steps."

Life-saving surgeries and poor choices mark his life-long transformation of a sinful nature to a man after God's own heart.

Join the guys & gals of JOG for lunch, comedy, music and a unique speaker the second Monday of every month. Speakers share how their personal relationship with Jesus has changed their lives. Each month is different! We invite you to **come and check it out.**

Monday, April 14, 2025

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

McKenzie Hall

Cost: \$12, First-time Visitors: Free

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## April Women's Luncheon

Monday, April 7th

11:30 a.m.

Bev Aye's Home

Women's luncheons are a wonderful way to get to know women from the church! They often include a devotional and some group activities as well as simple time catching up and enjoying each other's company.

RSVP to receive Bev's address at [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) or 714-776-0960





# Missions Corner

Your Mission Board met at the beginning of March to discuss two important issues. One was the “One Great Hour of Sharing” campaign for California Fire Relief. Your generous donations totaled \$1,217. We rounded that up to \$1,300 and sent it off to the National Association.



Second was to review and discuss the facts and figures that

Mike Villa Real shared with all of us one Sunday after he returned from his trip to the Philippines. He had asked Dr. Chona Domingo, the director, what was the greatest need of Mission Ministries Philippines. She



shared that the dream of MMP is to help 2,000 children to become fluent readers with 2,000 reading books, training and coaching for teachers, and a reading center at each school. This included the MMP supported schools and some public schools. We looked at the possibility of only helping the MMP supported schools which would be 1,000 students. The costs for that is \$8,000 for reading books, \$450 for teacher training, \$2,160 for on-going coaching of the teachers, and \$360 for a reading center in each school. This totaled \$10,970 which we realized is not something that can happen all at once, but that it can be a long term goal. Those of you who met Chona when she visited us two years ago, know she is a woman of great faith and believes

that God will provide. She is an amazing person who runs this mission with a team of only five. Mike was so impressed with their dedication and devotion.

We looked at donations that were contributed by you for Mike’s trip. He took a check for \$1,632. How he distributed this money was included in the Annual Mission Report that you received in February. But more money designated for MMP has been received since his trip, which totals \$1,115. The mission board will add \$500 so that \$1,615 can be sent to MMP as a starting point for their ultimate goal. Throughout this year of 2025 we will ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help. Any donation of any amount at any time can be made with MMP written in the memo line or on the offering envelope. We, like Chona, have great faith that God can do great things.

Lastly, I am sharing some pictures and info about another one of our supported missions, “Christ to the Villages” in Nigeria. This is the mission run by Rev. Matthew Oladele, who has visited our church in the past.

Faithfully yours,

*Linda Freud and the Mission Board*



## *Christ to the Villages Mission*

**NACCC Mission Partner Spotlight  
March 2025**

Visit [www.christtothevillages.org](http://www.christtothevillages.org) to learn more!



Christ to the Villages ministers in rural and urban Nigeria by planting and strengthening churches and caring for the needy.



They reach hundreds of children through two elementary schools, a high school, and a college, where they focus on developing the potential, academic excellence, and spiritual formation of their students through Christ.

In celebration of Christmas, Christ to the Villages leads Christmas caroling for their school children, a children's Christmas party, and the distribution of Christmas packages to those in need - reaching hundreds of individuals.



Through their ministrations, they provide outreach to children, widows, and those in need, offering food, clothing, and medical care.





# Anticipating Easter - Rev. Emily Raasch (cont. from p.2)

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However, our thoughts and actions when led by jealousy, pride, hatred, or other costly sins cause very real pain and disconnect in relationship. The risen life of Jesus leads us to rejoice at the incredible love, power and forgiveness that God offers us even when we are at our worst. Jesus' risen life leads us into a different way of being human—a way in which we confess of our sins, take up our own cross at times and choose love, whether it is easy or challenging. To choose the love of God is to choose the way of life.

As we anticipate the new life coming in our home, I hope to be at church through Easter Sunday. However, baby boy may have other plans. Once Baby Raasch is born, I will be taking four months away for maternity leave. I am grateful for this time to focus on meeting our baby's needs and bonding with him. I also look forward to returning to work at the end of leave. It is a privilege to serve and to know you all.

I want to thank those who will be filling in for me while I am away. Thank you to Jim Weddell, Bev Aye, Tyler Robinson, Cindy Hamann, Susan Fraker, Marilyn Keyte (a friend of Pastor Jim's), Jeanine McCaffrey, and I'm sure others who will step in for various needs. It is a blessing to be able to take time for my family, and I thank God for each person making this possible.

I look forward to celebrating the life of our son and the risen life of His Son very soon!  
*Pastor Emily*

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## Flowers for Easter

If you would like to make a donation for Easter flowers for the property in honor of or in memory of loved ones, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or email the office at [fcceaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcceaoffice@gmail.com).

We will plant flowers to decorate the new trellis on the property and will plant impatiens near the church office. Suggested Donation: \$15. Please include the names of those you wish to honor or remember in your email to the church.



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## 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 Aronis
29-Apr	Jim Frannea
30-Apr	Linda Taylor

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## Staff

Dr. Jim Schibsted — Senior Pastor  
Rev. Emily Raasch — Associate Pastor  
Susan Fraker — Office Assistant  
Tyler Robinson — Music Director  
Angella Kisson — Accountant  
Linda Freud — Missions  
Chuck Pennington — J.O.G. (Just Ordinary Guys)  
Sandya Costa — Montessori Director

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM  
515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806  
Phone 714-776-0960 email [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com)  
Check us out on the web at [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org)

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