

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



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

Vol. 378 No. 4

Published Monthly

April 1, 2026

Holy week
 SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY
 7pm Tenebrae Service
 -Griffith House Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY
 9:30am Free Breakfast
 -Fresh Tamales!
 -Bounce House for the Kids
 10:45am Worship, Sanctuary
 -Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School

“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

A Letter from Pastor Jim



Celebrating Easter Together: A Morning of Unity, Joy, and Hope!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the heart of our faith—a celebration of the risen Christ and the new life we have in Him. This year, we are excited to gather not just as one congregation, but also with a broader community of believers.

We will begin Easter morning with a special complementary **Easter Breakfast at 9:30 a.m.**, provided and shared with two other churches who will join us. Fruit, pastries, ham, home-made tamales, beverages etc., will be served. There's something beautiful about sitting around the table together—sharing food, laughter, and fellowship—as we celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection. It's a reminder that the body of Christ is bigger than any one church, and we are stronger being together in unity.

Our worship will also be meaningful as we come together with a **combined choir featuring El Buen Samaritano and FCCA**. Voices and instruments united in praise will reflect both the diversity and unity of God's kingdom. I am especially looking forward to preaching that morning, with **Spanish translation provided**, so that the message of hope in Christ can be heard clearly and warmly by everyone who gathers.

(Pastor's Letter Continued 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:
fccaooffice@gmail.com

FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
Monday, April 13th
12-1:30 pm (See page 5)

MomCo
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
10:30am-12pm
**Babies welcome, No childcare.*
MomCo exists to nurture the heart and soul of moms.
Registration: \$37, Scholarships available

Women's Lunch
Monday, April 20th
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Bev Aye's Home
Please contact the church at fccaooffice@gmail.com to RSVP and for more info.

Letter Continued... (Cont. from page 2)

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we also invite you to join us for a deeply moving **Maundy Thursday Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.** This service will conclude with a **Tenebrae**, or “service of shadows,” where candles are extinguished one by one as we reflect on the last **seven sayings of Christ from the cross**. It is a powerful and reverent way to remember the depth of Christ's sacrifice and God's love for us. Then on Easter morning, we encourage you to bring your family and **friends** to our joyful **10:45 a.m. Easter Celebration Service**. This will be a time of vibrant worship, resurrection hope, and encouragement for all in attendance.

And for younger families, we haven't forgotten the kids! A bounce house has been ordered. During Sunday School, there will be a fun and festive **Easter Egg Hunt**, adding a special touch of joy and excitement for the children.

This Easter, come be part of something special—a celebration filled with worship, fellowship, reflection, hope and joy! Whether you've been attending for years or are looking for a place to experience Easter in a fresh new way, there is a seat for you at the table. I am looking forward to greeting you at the church door. **Christ is risen—He is risen indeed!**

Pastor Jim



April Birthdays

- 5 David Haas
- 5 Diana Zavala
- 6 Dick Purvis
- 8 Sean Sham
- 10 Eleanor Phillips
- 12 Mike Austin
- 13 Jim Taylor
- 17 Zenaida Reyes
- 20 Leslie Aronis
- 24 Silas Raasch
- 29 Jim Frannea

FCCA Updates

Join us for Holy Week & Easter!

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm, Griffith House Chapel

Our Maundy Thursday service will be a Tenebrae Service. Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The most distinctive aspect of the service is the use of candlelight. Flames are extinguished one by one as Scripture readings are shared to tell the story of Holy Week.

This gradual descent into gloom represents Jesus' increasing sorrow as the events of Passion Week unfolded. After the last verse is read, the last candle is put out, and the room is plunged into darkness.



Easter Morning! April 5th

9:30am - Free Breakfast with Campus Churches

-Includes fresh tamales!

-Bounce House for the kids!

10:45am - Worship in the Sanctuary

-El Buen Samaritano joins us for worship

-Kids' Egg Hunt during Sunday School

MomCo

2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10:30am-12pm, *Babies welcome, no childcare

We are excited to have launched a MomCo group here at the church! MomCo exists to nurture the hearts and souls of mothers and to connect them with a mom community. Moms of children ages 0-18 welcome. We are also very grateful to have a couple of Mentor Moms attending as well.

Women's Lunch

Monday, April 20th; 11:30am-1pm

Location: Bev's Home; RSVP at fccaoffice@gmail.com for more information

Join women from the church for lunch, fellowship, a devotion and always a fun activity.

Mission Corner

We hope you enjoy the following updates from the Panamerican Institute as shared in their March 2026 Spring Newsletter. The Panamerican Institute is a school we support in Tijuana, Mexico that is roughly equivalent to middle school in the United States.

Panamerican Institute

School Founded by the Late Edgar S. Welty in 1962

Spring Newsletter

March 2026

We are excited to let you know some of the wonderful things happening at the Panamerican Institute recently!

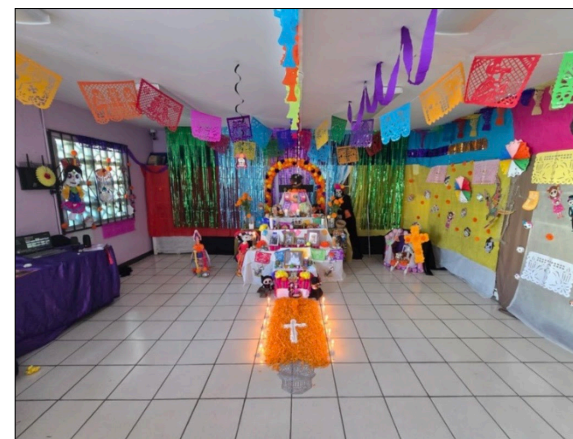
It has been a good academic year!

This school year has been marked by significant athletic achievements, strategic community partnerships, and a notable increase in student enrollment, reflecting the school's growing reputation as a supportive and high-achieving educational environment in Tijuana, Mexico.

2025-2026 School Highlights

Fostering Cultural Identity

The Panamerican Institute incorporates projects and activities that foster cultural identity and creativity. For instance, students participated in a traditional Day of the Dead contest where they crafted altars for cultural icons and beloved pets. These activities are enriched by guest judges from the community, providing students with professional recognition for their creative efforts.



Excellence in Athletics and Extracurricular Competition

This academic year, students demonstrated exceptional talent and sportsmanship in regional competitions, including a first-place victory in the 1500-meter dash at the school district track meet. Beyond track and field, students represented the school in a municipal chess tournament against over 200 other schools and participated in a district-level oratory contest. These opportunities are vital for building student confidence and encouraging them to trust in their diverse talents.

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Mission Corner Continued

(Cont. from Pg. 3)

Strategic Community and University Partnerships

The institution is actively strengthening its operational foundation through a new collaboration with the Autonomous University of Baja California, which brings university interns to lead history and literature workshops. Furthermore, the school has successfully applied for inclusion in state and municipal civil society catalogs, which will provide access to grants and service discounts. These professional ties, including membership in the “Unidos por Tijuana” group, ensure the school has the resources and advocacy needed to thrive.



A Commitment to Inclusive and Safe Education

The Panamerican Institute has become a vital “safe space” for the community, welcoming students who have experienced bullying, abuse, or learning disabilities at other institutions. Principal Berenice Benitez Garcia proactively seeks specialized training in these areas, such as attending the “Voices Against Bullying” forum, to

ensure the staff is equipped to support these vulnerable students. This atmosphere of care and affection allows students to overcome personal challenges and succeed academically.

Sustainable Growth and Enrollment Success

The school’s mission is resonating deeply with local families, as evidenced by the enrollment of 14 new students since October 2025 based on parent recommendations. Looking ahead, the first-year class for the 2026-2027 school year is



already at full capacity with 31 students and a standing wait list. This growth validates the hard work of the teaching staff and the continued necessity of the school’s presence in the region.

Thank you for your support! Your gifts make it possible for us to offer quality education and an encouraging environment for our students.

How to Support Our Students

- Sponsor a PAI student (\$35/month)
- Donate a school uniform (\$40 for school’s shoes, \$45 for P.E. class uniform, \$85 for a school uniform set)
- Donate bus fares for students: \$70 for 1 student for 1 month

Send your donation to: Panamerican Institute; 780 Dennery Rd. Suite 303-289; San Diego, CA 92154

(You may also mark your offering or online gift to the church “Panamerican Institute.”)

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)

Guest Speaker: Luke

Join us in welcoming Luke, a physician who wrote two books of the Bible over two-thousand years ago.

Luke wrote "Luke" and "Acts of the Apostles" to narrate the life of Jesus and the early church, and to recount his days traveling with the Apostle Paul.

This presentation of "Luke" is brought to us courtesy of Mark Price Ministries. Mark is a gifted storyteller and has performed at the Vatican. In the 1970's, Mark owned an ad agency that played a key role in saving Chrysler from bankruptcy.



When: Monday, April 13th

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Where: McKenzie Hall

Cost: \$12

Enjoy the music, as well as the humor from the football coach, Tom Meiss. We will have an excellent meal planned with tables always filled with good fellowship.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com

Missionary Visit: Andrew & Karen Bush

On Sunday, March 8th, Andrew Bush spoke during worship and on Monday, March 9th he shared at the JOG luncheon. The church has supported Andrew and Karen Bush for decades as they ministered in the Philippines and in Palestine. Through their time in Palestine, getting to know the people and the culture, they developed a deep love for the people. Their heart for Jesus and for others is contagious. We encourage you to listen online if you missed their sharing. Both Sunday, March 8th worship and the Monday, March 9th JOG luncheon are available to watch on the church Facebook (search “Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim”) and on the church YouTube (search “First Congregational Church of Anaheim”).

