



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

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December 1, 2022

## December



Merry Christmas,  
FCCA!

See Christmas Calendar, Pg. 3

### 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)  
Sandy Costa—Montessori Director

#### IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
December Calendar	2
FCCA News	3
JOG Flyer	4
Missions' Corner	5
Birthdays	7



## *The Joy of Fellowship*

On Sunday, November 20, songs of Thanksgiving filled our sanctuary as United New Life and Unlimited Church joined us for a combined Thanksgiving Service.

As a united congregation we added our voices in declaring the goodness of God in song and words of testimony. Bishop Taisi gave the opening prayer, a combined praise team including our own Tyler,

Craig, Emily and Raffia led us in song and Pastor Fred gave a well received sermon. It was an inspirational worship service as people shared, with gratitude, the good things happening in their lives. Special thanks to Isy, Shalend, Mike, and Jim who set up the sound and video.

Following the service we ate a delicious Thanksgiving meal prepared by many volunteers in our church and by United New Life Church. Special thanks to Penny and Susan for coordinating the feast, Cheryl and Dave Cook and Scott for cooking three of the turkeys that morning, Jeffrey and Fernando



for setting up the tents, Dennis, Stephana, Carol, Nancy, Gini, Lois, Liza, Bob, Zenaida, Donald, Maria, Linda and John who helped in a variety of ways. (Continued on Page 7)

## **Connect**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

*10:45am on Sundays*

### **NorthEast of the Well**

*Every Monday, 6-8pm*

Dinner and Worship, Hall

### **Free Movie Night**

*Friday, December 2nd*

6pm Mickey's Christmas Carol

6:30pm Polar Express

*The church will provide free popcorn and hot chocolate.*

### **Women's Lunch**

*Monday, December 5th*

11:30-1:00pm in the Library

### **Christmas Concert**

*Sunday, December 11th*

10:45am Worship

Featuring: Isy Martin, Jr. & Raffia Thomas

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

*Monday, December 12th*

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

Featured Speaker: Gil Gazanian

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight**

*Saturday, December 24th*

7:30pm in the Sanctuary

### **Christmas Morning Worship**

*Sunday, December 25th*

10:45am Worship

# FCCA News & Events

## *Celebrate Christmas at FCCA!*

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### **Christmas Decorating**

Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>; 10:00am-12:00pm

*\*The church will provide a pizza lunch for volunteers.*

### **Family Christmas Movie Night**

Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

McKenzie Hall

#### ***Featured Films:***

**6:00pm:** Mickey's Christmas Carol

**6:30pm:** The Polar Express

*The church will provide free popcorn and hot chocolate. Family & friends welcome!*



### **Christmas Worship with Isy Martin, Jr. and Raffia Thomas!**

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>; 10:45am Worship

*Join us for a morning of worship filled with favorite Christmas carols.*

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>; 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

*Pastor Jim will share a short Christmas meditation, Raffia Thomas will lead us in worship and Pastor Emily will share some carols on the violin.*

### **Christmas Morning Worship**

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>; 10:45am Worship

# JOG Luncheon

## Featuring Guest Speaker, Gil Gazanian



Gil recently retired after a 31-year career as a Title Rep for Chicago Title. He had a firsthand account of the Great Recession of 2008 where he witnessed the collapse of the real estate market. Gil has been married for over 44 years and has three kids. He is very active at the Lake Avenue Church where he heads up a men's study group. Gil also served 17 years with Door of Hope, a nonprofit that reaches out to homeless families in the Pasadena area. His last position with the organization was as the Board Chairman.

**When: Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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 will have an excellent meal planned with tables 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



Of Orange County  
Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month



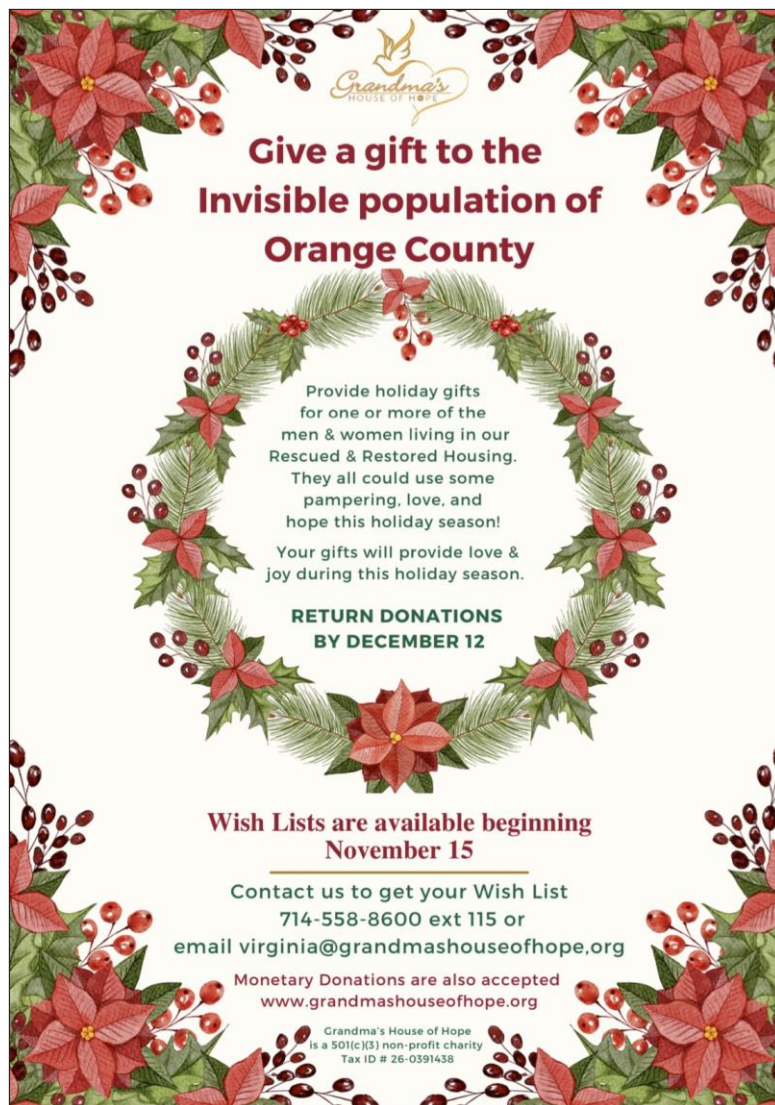
# Missions' Corner

## Christmas Giving Opportunities

### *Grandma's House of Hope & the Panamerican Institute*

If you would like to support Grandma's House of Hope or the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, see the flyers below. Both are fabulous organizations that the church has supported for years.

## Grandma's House of Hope Giving Opportunity



### A Little About Grandma's House of Hope...

Grandma's House of Hope works to empower the invisible populations of Orange County.

GHH provides housing for over 100 individuals to help them re-stabilize and get a new start. Many have disabilities or are victims of crime and trauma. There are 10 houses filled with residents, numerous in our own surrounding neighborhoods. One way you might give this season is to provide a holiday gift for one or more of the men & women living in their Rescued & Restored Housing. Wish lists are available, and donations are due by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Email

[virginia@grandmashouseofhope.org](mailto:virginia@grandmashouseofhope.org) or call (714) 558-8600 ext 115 for wish list information.



## Panamerican Institute Giving Opportunity

A flyer for the Panamerican Institute's Christmas Food Baskets program. The flyer has a dark green background with gold holly leaves and red berries. At the top left is a small circular logo with a globe. The main text is in white and gold. It includes the school's name, founding information, and a list of items in the baskets. There are three photos: a family holding a sign, a person holding a \$60 sign, and a person standing in front of a whiteboard. The bottom section provides contact information for donations.

**PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE**  
SCHOOL FOUNDED BY THE LATE EDGAR S. WELTY IN 1962  
CALIFORNIA USA TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION NUMBER: C0513871  
Christmas 2022

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

*Continuing our Tradition for the 51st consecutive year.*



Support our students' families during the Holidays. Each basket contains:  
Pinto beans, rice, wheat flour, sugar, salt, canned tuna and vegetables, margarine, cereal, cooking oil, tomato sauce, cookies, pastas, gelatin, jelly, toilet paper, soap, tooth brushes and paste.

Send your tax-deductible donation to  
**Panamerican Institute**  
P. O. Box 433872  
San Ysidro, CA 92143  
or online at [www.paischool.org](http://www.paischool.org)  
**Laura Ramirez, President**  
[Laura.Ramirez@paischool.org](mailto:Laura.Ramirez@paischool.org)  
[PanamericanInstitute@hotmail.com](mailto:PanamericanInstitute@hotmail.com)

### *Christmas Food Baskets:*

*\$60 helps feed a family through the Christmas break. Students typically receive food from the school Monday-Friday.*

*Christmas break can be hard on families without daily help from the school. Each year, the Panamerican Institute collects funds to share Christmas food baskets with school families.*

### *Send gifts to:*

*Panamerican Institute*

*P.O. Box 433872*

*San Ysidro, CA 92143*

*or give online at*

*[www.paischool.org](http://www.paischool.org)*

**A Little About the Panamerican Institute...**The Panamerican Institute is a school in Tijuana that was begun by a Congregational pastor and is now run by individuals from Tijuana, many of whom graduated from the school themselves. Pastor Emily currently serves on the Board of Directors. The school provides quality education for students that are equivalent to middle school age in the U.S. Students are from low-income families, and the school not only educates the students but feeds them on school days. Many graduates have gone on to higher education after leaving PAI. We are proud to continue to support PAI's wonderful work to serve students in Tijuana.





## December Birthdays

1-Dec Joshua Williams  
4-Dec Maria Doyle  
14-Dec David Hoke  
17-Dec Ryan Rolnicki  
19-Dec Natalie Garis  
20-Dec Maria Caicedo  
21-Dec Bruce Edwards  
23-Dec Vito Di Camillo  
25-Dec Schvounder Robinson  
27-Dec Craig Rowe  
27-Dec Cindy Ramsey  
28-Dec Stephana Williams

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or [fcgaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcgaoffice@gmail.com).

*(The Joy of Fellowship continued...)*

There was plenty of room outside during the feast as we enjoyed warm fellowship and beautiful weather. It was good to see people enjoying one another's company and to see children running around and having fun jumping in the bounce house.



There are many other opportunities to experience the joy of fellowship in the next few weeks. **Christmas decorating** is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st from 10am - noon, a **free movie night for the entire family** is scheduled on Friday, December 2nd at 6pm and a **Women's Christmas lunch** will be held on Monday, December 5th at 11:30am. Enjoy a **Christmas Concert** during our 10:45am worship service on Sunday, December 11th, with Raffia Thomas and Isy Martin Jr. We will join together singing our favorite Christmas carols. My good friend Gil Gazanian will share about his spiritual journey at our next **JOG meeting** on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at noon. He has an inspiring story to tell. Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is scheduled for 7:30pm in the Sanctuary and on **Christmas Day** we will worship at 10:45am. We continue to collect funds for **Grandma's House of Hope** or the **Panamerican Institute** in Tijuana which services underprivileged and marginalized people in our community and in Mexico.

I am looking forward to this Advent season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

## 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)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ANAHEIM, CA  
PERMIT # 323

«First » «Last»  
Or Current Resident  
«Address»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches – Since 1956

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