




# October



**SMALL GROUPS**

JOIN US THIS MONTH AROUND THE TABLE!  
STUDYING: "JOHN: GOSPEL OF LIGHT AND LIFE"

## 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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## **God is Good**

I had the privilege of marrying Rick Raasch on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> here on our beautiful church property. The week after, we enjoyed a relaxing and cozy honeymoon at Yosemite National Park. As we drove through the rain and through trees recently burned by fires, Rick and I talked about the way that God had beautifully orchestrated our celebration. We did our best to plan, but it felt like something beyond our power was at work in the way it all came together.

The two weekends prior to our wedding had been painfully hot or rainy, and we braced for an unpleasant day. Rick and I were shocked when the wedding day was a pleasant, sunny day—probably resting around 80 degrees. As family and friends showed up from many places and seasons of life, I teared up with love and gratitude as I watched them sit down under the trees to celebrate the new life Rick and I were starting together. One of the flower girls told her dad she was scared. I told my dad the same thing. He told me like he has many times before that all would be just fine. He told me that I was walking towards a good man, and he would be right there by my side. He took my arm, and we walked with tears of gratitude together down the aisle.

During the ceremony, Pastor Jim shared the history that brought me to this church, and he shared the story of how Rick and I met, how we got engaged and what we appreciate about each other. A friend I have known for over a decade from the Pomona Congregational Church read scripture that Rick and I each chose for the day. Raffia and Tyler blew everyone away with fabulous dinner music, and Rick and I shared first dances with each other and with our parents. We heard speeches from the Matron of Honor and the Best Man that reminded us we are seen and loved. Earlier in the night, friends let us know that they had a surprise getaway car that would be waiting for us after our sparkler exit. It was an adorable convertible with a “Just Married” sign at the bumper. A highlight of the evening was simply watching as family and friends enjoyed themselves over dinner and on the dance floor. We felt love for each other, love for our community and love from our community. Our hearts and minds turned to God.

Even the honeymoon came together better than we anticipated. Air quality reports the weeks before the wedding looked terrible at Yosemite due to recent fires. Thankfully, the air was clearing the week before the wedding. *(Continued on Page 7)*

## **Connect**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

10:45am on Sundays

*In Person and on Facebook Live*

### **NorthEast of the Well**

**Every Monday, 6-8pm**

Dinner and Worship, Hall

### **Small Groups**

*Groups will meet October 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>  
through November 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>*

**Wednesdays at 6:00pm**

**Or Thursdays at 6:30pm**

Groups will study “John: The Gospel of Light and Life” by Adam Hamilton.

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

Featured Speaker:

Felipe Covarrubias

**Monday, October 10th**

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

### **Women's Lunch**

Monday, October 24th

11:30-1:00pm in the Library

### **Encouragement for Today**

We post short encouraging videos on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

### **Receive our weekly E-news**

Sign up at [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org) or fill out a visitor card in person

# FCCA Updates & Events

## Small Groups Starting this Month!

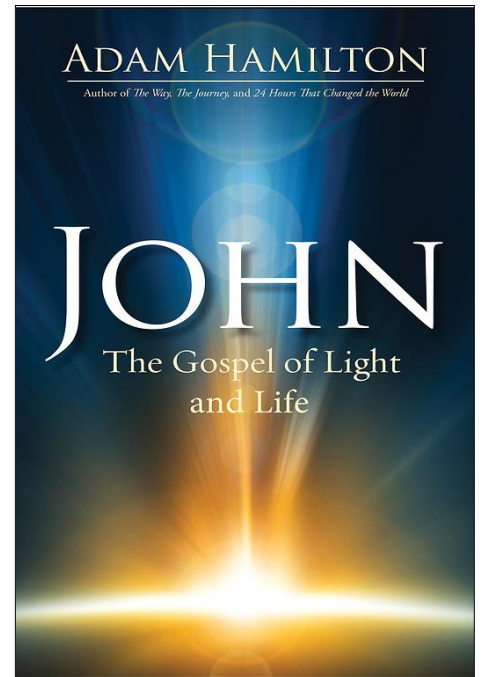
*Choose between two group options! Groups will meet October 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> through November 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>. Groups are offered in person & via Zoom.*

**Wednesdays at 6:00pm facilitated by Pastor Jim**

**Thursdays at 6:30pm facilitated by Pastor Emily**

This fall, small groups are studying “John: The Gospel of Light and Life” by Adam Hamilton. Contact the church office if you would like to connect with a group!

**Book Cost by Option:** Paperback: \$13, Large Print: \$15



## October Women's Lunch (Harvest Theme)

**Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1:00pm**

Every other month, women from the church gather for a lunch in the library. Our focus changes slightly each month, but our hope is to enjoy rich fellowship together. Our time often includes ice-breaker questions, devotions, prayer and games. Sometimes our time includes a project for a local mission or for members of our congregation.



Occasionally we also invite guests from the community to share with us about their outreach or ministries. Watch the e-news for more details about our October luncheon! We hope to see you there.

## Pastor Emily and Rick Raasch are Married!

On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Emily and Rick will be celebrating their marriage with the church family after worship! They had a beautiful ceremony under the trees here on our property on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. They look forward to sharing photos and updates on Sunday during worship! Thank you all for prayers and support in so many different ways. God is good!



# JOG Luncheon

**Featuring Guest Speaker, Felipe Covarrubias**



Felipe grew up in a family of nine kids, and his parents divorced when he was just 8 years old. In 1993 after graduating High School, he planned to attend college and play football until he found out his high school sweetheart was pregnant. He struggled for years to find his purpose in life until he gave his life to Christ in 2014.

Felipe gradually found stability in life and grew to own his own company. God found a way to re-mold Felipe, and his relationship with God led him to the senior position of the Living Well Pregnancy Center in Orange, Ca. He has been part of this ministry for 4 years now. Felipe continues to learn how to differentiate between leading a secular business and directing God's ministry. Come hear Felipe share about his journey with Christ!

**When: Monday, October 10<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, and our 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

On August 7<sup>th</sup> our FCCA Mission Board had the privilege and pleasure of allocating \$5,230.00 to support these following ministries and missionaries:

- *Mission Ministries Philippines, Dr. Chonabelle Domingo, Director*
- *Mission Ministries Middle East, Rev. Andrew and Karen Bush*
- *NACCC Christ to the Villages, Nigeria, Rev. Matthew Oladele*
- *NACCC Panamerican Institute, Mexico, Laura Ramirez, Director*
- *NACCC Congregational Church of Myanmar, Rev. Elvis Sa Do*
- *NACCC Congregational Mission of Jardin America, Argentina, Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker*
- *CRU in the Middle East*
- *The Macedonia Outreach, Greece, Pantelis and Roula Sideropoulos*
- *Grandma's House of Hope*
- *Convoy of Hope for UKRAINE*
- *Northeast of the Well*
- *World Revival Conference in Uganda (through Pastor Jim)*
- *NACCC One Great Hour of Sharing fund for Kentucky flood relief*

We praise God for blessing our church and mission board with the finances to be able to help support these wonderful local and international missions. If your heart leads you to contribute to missions, please mark your check MISSIONS or write the name of a particular mission or a specific project. Our deepest thanks to all of you who have given financially and prayerfully to the Lord's mission work around the world.

Thank you for sharing your blessings!

Linda Freud, Missions' Chair

*\*On the next page, see an article posted by Convoy of Hope regarding Kentucky flood relief. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing for Kentucky flood relief were directed towards efforts by Convoy of Hope.*

## Missions' Corner Continued...

**Thank you to all who supported Kentucky flood relief! Your gifts went to Convoy of Hope via the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Below is an article posted by Convoy of Hope:**

***Photo:** Homes are flooded by Lost Creek, Kentucky, on Thursday, July 28, 2022. Heavy rains have caused flash flooding and mudslides as storms pound parts of central Appalachia. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear says it's some of the worst flooding in state history. (Ryan C. Hermens/Lexington Herald-Leader via AP)*



**August 1, 2022 | 4:53 p.m.**

*Flooding in St. Louis and Kentucky last week caused billions of dollars in damage and changed thousands of lives forever. On July 26, St. Louis faced its largest rainfall event in the area since 1874. More than 12 inches of rain fell across St. Charles county, and two people lost their lives. Roughly 48 hours later, deadly floods in Eastern Kentucky left tight-knit communities devastated. Rescue crews worked through more rain on Sunday to restore power and water – and recover bodies. The death toll sits at 30 as of Monday afternoon.*

*President Joe Biden ordered federal aid on July 29 to assist with recovery efforts in Kentucky. This aid comes amid severe flooding, landslides, and mudslides in 13 counties. Convoy of Hope is among those delivering hope and supplies to these Appalachian and Missouri communities.*

*Teams from Convoy left on Sunday with several loads of supplies for people in affected areas. So far, teams have delivered more than 122,000 pounds of product and served more than 6,000 individuals in Kentucky. According to the state's governor, Andy Beshear, the primary need is drinking water. This is something Convoy has prioritized for distribution.*

*Convoy also continues to work in St. Louis, having distributed more than 9,000 pounds of supplies. Teams will continue to serve the region through partnership with state emergency management. Convoy will also provide resources for several Multi-Agency Resource Centers (MARC).*

*Additionally, Convoy of Hope has identified strategic partners in flood-affected areas. These partners will assist with distribution and keep track of the situation...Your support helps people in desperate situations caused by floods. We thank you for your generosity. ([Flooding in Kentucky & St. Louis Calls For Response | Convoy of Hope](#))*





## October Birthdays

1-Oct Helen Hummel  
3-Oct Camila Zavala  
5-Oct Daniel Ahl  
6-Oct Virginia Tressler  
9-Oct Jessy Luquez  
9-Oct Robbie Robinson  
16-Oct Rudy Marderos  
17-Oct Pastor Emily Raasch  
19-Oct Amanda Pacillas  
21-Oct Dany Zavala  
23-Oct Nancy Clark  
24-Oct Pam Evans  
24-Oct Jon Ryan Hill  
26-Oct Justyn Gonzales  
29-Oct David Hill  
30-Oct Penny Schibsted  
30-Oct Lucas Rider

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

(*"God is Good" Continued...*) Fresh rainfall on the Sunday and Monday following the wedding left the air clear and beautiful. When we arrived at our lodge, the surrounding area had been directly hit by the fires. We were grateful that the lodge had been protected, that we didn't lose our deposit, and we were able to enjoy beautiful weather in the park! Driving through the gorgeous trees in the rain, we paused to soak in the many blessings we felt we were receiving from God. Timing continued to work for our good in ways we did not imagine!

Thanking God for the beautiful moment in time came alongside noticing how God has quietly been there in our disappointing moments as well. Rick and I reflected on times when we had felt grief, loneliness and hopelessness. God was in those moments as much as God has been in the beautiful beginning of our marriage. There seem to be different ways in different times that we recognize God's hand at work. I deeply believe that God works all things together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28 reads, *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."* Sometimes, working for our good might mean we have the blessing of a beautiful moment in time that brings pure joy. Other times, working for our good may mean that God is working in difficult or unfortunate circumstances to develop depth, compassion and character quietly within us.

I had a verse from the book of Ruth read at our wedding. Ruth 1:16b reads: *"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."* Ruth's words show a love that is loyal and that is willing to be vulnerable through the ups and the downs of life. In this verse, Ruth is choosing to move with her mother-in-law to a foreign land after they are both widowed. It is a sad moment, but it is also a beautiful moment of love and commitment to another. Ruth walks forward into the risky unknown, and the presence of God is seen as life continues to unfold. Ruth has a quiet strength and faith that inspires me. Qualities that I hope to embrace in my future with Rick. I pray that God will continue to walk with us as we step forward into this new journey with love, loyalty and faith.

Rick and I are excited to celebrate our milestone and this time of joy with you all on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> after worship. We are blessed to share each moment of life—the ups and the downs—with this church family. God is in it all, and it is a gift to walk with each of you as we watch together for signs of Him.

With all our love and gratitude,  
Emily Raasch

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