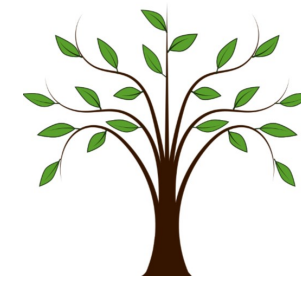


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The
 Call

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

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February

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

Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964



GUEST SPEAKER

MARK PRICE

Come and hear a thought-provoking theatrical presentation of Simon Peter during worship on Sunday, February 11th. Then, join the JOG luncheon on Monday, February 12th to hear Mark's presentation of Thomas.

STAFF

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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 Rev. Emily Raasch—Associate Pastor
 Susan Fraker—Office Assistant
 Tyler Robinson—Music Director
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 Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
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"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

“A Different Kind of Valentine’s Day”

An Article by Pastor Emily

Easter is already around the corner! Wednesday, February 14th is not only Valentine’s Day, it is also Ash Wednesday this year. We have the unique invitation to celebrate the people we love *and* to be mindful of our human condition before God on the same day. There might be some interesting dinner conversations this Valentine’s Day!

Ash Wednesday has often been connected with the Catholic Church, but is celebrated by many Protestant Christians as well. Although we do not hold Ash Wednesday services, I like to be aware of the day. It is the first day of the season of Lent—the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that lead us to Easter Sunday. Ash Wednesday is a day that reminds us of our mortality and invites us to repent and turn to God. If you walked into an Ash Wednesday service, you might hear the priest or pastor say words like: “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return,” or “Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

Ash Wednesday encourages individuals to begin the season of Lent in a posture of prayer and reflection—to be mindful of the ways that we have been disconnected from God, others and even ourselves. Ash Wednesday reminds us to seek God, our heavenly source of life, renewal and redemption. The ashes that some receive in the shape of the cross on their forehead are also a reminder that the way of love is not always a path of comfort and self-preservation. As followers of Christ, we are asked to take up our own crosses as well—to walk in love and truth even when it is not the path of least resistance.

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

Special Guest: Mark Price

Sunday, February 11

& Monday, February 12th

Come hear Mark Price offer a theatrical presentation of the Apostle Peter on Sunday and of the Apostle Thomas at the JOG: Just Ordinary Guys luncheon on Monday.

Small Groups:

Jesus the Provocative Teacher

Join us for a 6-week study on the teachings of Jesus that will lead us to Easter.

Study dates:

February 14– March 20
6:30pm in person or via Zoom

Meridian Worship

Wednesday, February 21

2pm in the Activity Room

All are welcome to come and greet residents who attend.



February Birthdays

- 1-Feb Rolf Rolnicki
- 7-Feb Ronda Rolnicki
- 8-Feb Twana Marderos
- 12-Feb Laura Doeschot
- 13-Feb Carson Davis
- 14-Feb Luis Zavala
- 16-Feb David Rider
- 17-Feb Lori Rider
- 18-Feb Miranda Brunson

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.

(Pastor’s Article Continued)

You may want to take some time to consider how you would like to mark the 40 days of Lent. Some people choose to fast and pray, remembering the 40 days that Jesus fasted and prayed in the wilderness. Those 40 days remind us of the 40 years that the Israelites spent in the desert after they were freed from slavery in Egypt and before they entered the Promised Land. During the 40 years in the wilderness, the Israelites continuously turned from God. They were impatient and they struggled to trust God. Jesus, as he relives temptations in the wilderness, spends his 40 days in perfect communion with God. After his 40 days of fasting and prayer, Jesus begins his ministry spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God. God not only promises a renewed creation in the future, God is breaking into the midst of life now through the gift of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

How do you want to mark the season of Lent? If you choose to fast, it can take on many forms. Some people choose to refrain from eating certain foods or to give up a distracting activity. The point is not to deprive ourselves, but to remember that God is our ultimate source of life and our first love. To say “no” in one area can help us remember to devote time and awareness to saying “yes” to God and paying attention to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (If you choose to give up dessert, you may want to make that Valentine’s dinner a little earlier this year.)

As a church, we invite any interested to join us in a 6-week small group study that is focused particularly on the teachings of Jesus. We will be using the curriculum, “Jesus the Provocative Teacher” by Bill Donahue. I look forward to the discussions that will arise as Jesus provokes each of us internally in unique and formative ways.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Emily