



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

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## February

### February Church Events

- New Member Class
- Women's Lunch
- JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
- Small Group Study Begins
- Annual Congregational Meeting



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# **“The Body of Christ”**

A Letter by Pastor Emily

Recently, I preached a sermon from a passage in 1 Corinthians 12 about the diverse gifts God has given each of us.

1 Corinthians 12:12, and 17-27 read:

*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...*

*<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

*<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

*<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

As I look at the February calendar, I realize that the month ahead represents how much the Body of Christ here at FCCA matters. Pastor Jim and I look forward to meeting with individuals who are interested in joining the church after worship on Sunday, February 2nd. This New Member’s Class will be a wonderful opportunity to talk about what it means to be part of a Congregational church and to have meaningful conversation about our faith journeys and participation in this church family.

(Continued on Pg. 7)

## **Connect**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

***10:45am on Sundays***

### **Sunday School**

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

### **Connect Online**

**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)

### **New Member Class**

***Sunday, February 2nd***

Those interested in joining the church will meet in the office following worship for a meeting and a light lunch.

### **Women’s Lunch**

***Monday, February 17th***

11:30am at Gini’s House  
More Information on Pg. 3

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

***Sunday, February 23rd***

Following Worship  
in the Library

# FCCA Updates & Events

## **NEW MEMBER CLASS & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

*New Member Class: Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>*

A meeting will be held in the church office after worship. Those attending will talk about what it means to be a Congregational church, and we will open time for sharing our faith journeys.

*New Member Sunday: Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>*

During worship, new members will officially be welcomed into the church family.

## **WOMEN'S LUNCH**

*Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am-1pm*

Gini Castellano's Home: 422 N. Redrock St.; Anaheim, CA 92807

Please RSVP to the church office at [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

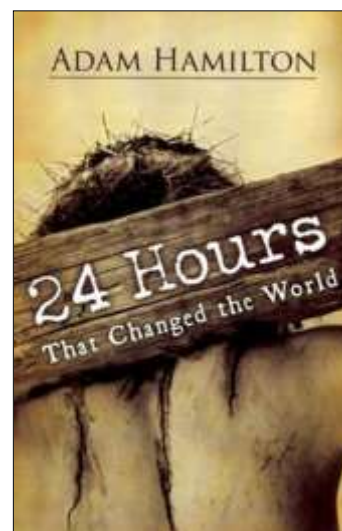
**"24 Hours That Changed the World," A Study by Adam Hamilton**

*"No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, Hamilton will help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death like never before. He retraces the day that changed human history in his usual straightforward yet easy, conversational style that speaks to both long-time Christians and those who are simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion."*

***This 7-week study will begin on Wednesday, February 19th.***

Group will meet from 6:30-8pm in the church office and via Zoom.

**RSVP** to the church office at [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.



## **SUPPORT FOR FIRE RELIEF**

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) is collecting funds to assist relief efforts for those affected by the fires in Southern California. The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) will first see if there are needs within the Congregational churches in the area and then will direct further funding to organizations that are involved in relief efforts. We are now collecting funds as a church to be sent on to the NACCC. You are welcome to give online or during worship. Please be sure to designate your gift "Fire Relief." So far, we have raised \$795.

## **UNLIMITED CHURCH FIRE RELIEF DONATION DROP OFF**

On Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, Unlimited Church organized a donation drop off here on the church property for items that would be delivered to evacuation shelters and fire stations. They received an incredible amount of donated items! It was encouraging to see the community response. The photo was taken around 7pm on the church property after a full day of deliveries.



## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

***Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>; Following Worship in the Library***

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, an annual report will be provided by the Church Council as well as a copy of the proposed budget. Church members will vote on the budget and on council members nominated to begin new terms. All are welcome to attend, and official members may vote.

## **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

In January, it was an honor to celebrate the life of Jack Gutman, one of JOG's long-time comedians. The Celebration of Life was a beautiful service full of meaningful stories about how Jack touched lives. Jack not only saved lives as a medic in WWII, present at Normandy—he also saved lives after the war through his book, “One Veteran’s Journey to Heal the Wounds of War.” Jack touched lives wherever he went—from his presence with family and friends to the conversations and prayers he shared with customers during his time working at Walmart. One of the highlights of the service was a video created by Eric Vogelvang that powerfully portrayed Jack’s life and legacy. Jack’s daughter, Paula Shaw, shared with us the following message that the family received from Eric following the service: *To the Gutman family, to be honest, this was the best memorial service I’ve ever attended. The laughter, love, stories, and songs between family, friends, and strangers is a testament to how your dad actually touched lives. This is a legacy worth pursuing for every life, and my hope is that a little piece of Jack will dwell in all of us to make this side of life a better place to live. All my best to you.* JOG is being revamped and will resume in March! We look forward to sharing more soon.



# **Missions' Corner: Andrew & Karen Bush**

## **An Excerpt From January and February 2025 Updates**

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"*  
*Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*  
*Revelation 21.5*

Dear Friends,

Greetings! As we begin this new year, we thank God for signs of new life by God's grace.

After months of praying for a ceasefire with our online East Jerusalem International Church congregation, we can finally give thanks that a ceasefire has been achieved. The images of Gazan families celebrating and the relief of the families of hostages are such a blessing. At long last the Gazan Christian families sheltering in the two large historic churches can return to their homes, even if they are no longer standing. I pray that these dear children (pictured) whom I met in the Jabalya refugee camp a few years ago in Gaza are still alive. That community has been obliterated.



Through Gaza, the infant Jesus, with Mary and Joseph, traveled to Egypt. We pray that Jesus will pass through again to bind up every wound and sorrow, to open every captive's door. But as an elderly Welsh pastor in our congregations says, we must "pray and pray on" for the true peace of God to deepen and transform both Palestine and Israel. We will do our part to help build a lasting peace. On February 2 and 3 in Washington, D.C. we will discuss fostering holistic peace in the Middle East in coordination with the National Prayer Breakfast. *(Continued on Next Page)*

**(Missions' Corner: Andrew & Karen Bush, Continued...)**

The next six months are so full of ministry that our challenge is to decide what not to take on. For a few highlights, we will be leading our on-site peace training in Bethlehem in May, making a presentation at a conference in Amsterdam in June celebrating the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Anabaptist movement, and participating in a peace conference in London in July.

Last year was one of the most difficult in our 46 years of ministry in view of the Gaza war and the crisis our Jerusalem congregation faced. Thank you for standing with us in prayer. Your financial support not only sustained us, but its effect reached far to help Filipino pastors, assist the East Jerusalem International Church to get on its feet, and more. Now, let us work to bring the life of Christ Jesus to our world in 2025!

With love and gratitude in Christ -  
Andrew and Karen

Andrew and Karen Bush have served internationally for 37 years. They are career missionaries, serving the church in the Philippines, the United States, and Israel/Palestine. They seek to make the love of Christ Jesus known through servanthood in the way of the cross. Matthew 16.24



Donations may be mailed to:

Mission Ministries

PO 11210

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

*(Checks may be written to 'Mission Ministries' and noted for 'Bush')*

Online donations:

Tithe.ly [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1233456](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1233456) look for Mission Ministries, Costa Mesa, CA and in the drop-down menu select 'Andrew and Karen Bush'



## February Birthdays

- 1-Feb Rolf Rolnicki
- 7-Feb Ronda Rolnicki
- 8-Feb Twana Marderos
- 12-Feb Laura Doeschot
- 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 [fccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccoffice@gmail.com).

*(Pastor's Letter Continued...)*

I have been aware in the last month how grateful I am to be part of the Congregational tradition and the value the tradition places on the life of the individual as well as the collective participation in the Body. Congregational churches believe Jesus Christ is the head of the church and highly value three main tenants: faith, freedom and fellowship.

**Faith:** We are united around our faith in Jesus.

**Freedom:** Each local church is autonomous, governing itself as the church prays for God's guidance. Individuals are encouraged to work out their faith in Jesus in a personal way. The church keeps faith conversation centered around Jesus and the scriptures as individuals are given the respect and freedom to think for themselves and to "work out their own salvation" as scripture encourages each of us to do.

**Fellowship:** While Congregational churches are autonomous churches, they strongly believe in maintaining relationship with the Body of Christ beyond the local church. Therefore, our church is part of a national and an international association of churches, and we value the relationships we have with other churches outside of the Congregational Way as well.

On Sunday, February 23rd, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting after worship. All are welcome to attend, and members of the church will vote on a proposed budget and on nominated Council Members. The compiled Council Report for the meeting always reminds me how many people it takes for us to operate as a church.

We really do operate as the Body of Christ. My husband, Rick, and I have often marveled at the proportion of church members who are not only consistently present but also volunteer on a regular basis to make church events possible. Many of you help with lunches (women's lunch and JOG), fellowship hour, Sunday School, worship needs (sound, video, projector, music), greeting, facilities projects, rides for individuals and so much more. You also check in on one another and genuinely care. Each of you are deeply appreciated. I continue to pray that God guide each of us as individuals and collectively as a church.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Emily

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960